

WHEELING ARTICLES

MARCH 24, 1988

JANUARY 11, 1990



Students Brent Habrynk, left, and Steve Pope, assist Trustee Judy Abruscato.

Daily Herald Photos/Jon Kirn

Students see government in action on local level

Student government leaders from two junior high schools in Wheeling got a chance to see real government in action Monday when they visited the village hall.

Each year, seventh- and eighth-graders from Holmes Junior High and St. Joseph the Worker School visit the village. The students spent the morning visiting the various departments at village hall, meeting the village staff members.

After a pizza lunch, the students went over to the Pavilion Senior Center and the Wheeling Tower Senior Housing Complex for a tour of each.

Before the board meeting, students from Holmes presented appreciation awards to Dave Kowal, village administrative assistant, who organized the day's activities, and to Village Manager Thomas Markus, who visited the school and talked to the students about government.

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Ben Watkins and Village Manager Thomas Markus consider their next move.



See Bill Rogers and student Sara Uhrk share a laugh.

HERALD 3-26-88
Towns to insure airport commissioners

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials agreed this week to cover personal liability insurance for Palwaukee Airport commissioners.

The commission was surprised last month to learn that its insurance through the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA) had lapsed, due to agency policy changes. The airport itself is still insured, but the commissioners are not.

IRMA, a self-insurance pool of area municipalities, recently changed its rules to exclude coverage of airports. Decisions related to the airport made by the commission, or officials in either of the two towns, which jointly own the airport, are not covered by the IRMA policy. The commission's recommendations must be approved by both the Wheeling village board and the Prospect Heights City Council.

Officials have asked IRMA to reconsider its position, and are also looking for other companies to pick up the insurance. Commissioner Carey Chickerneo, who represents Prospect Heights, said he thinks there is a chance IRMA may change its policy.

Wheeling Village Manager Thomas M. Markus said he expects the commission will be insured by a

company other than IRMA. "That's our best hope," he said.

Until a carrier can be found, Wheeling and Prospect Heights will each cover any liability for their representatives on the commission, "but any costs would be eventually be reimbursed by the operating costs of the airport," Markus said.

Commissioner William Rogers said the haggling back and forth with IRMA is frustrating to him, both as a commissioner and as a village trustee.

"We don't need that kind of indecision," he said.

THE WEEK AHEAD

HERALD 3-27-88
'Brainstorming' focus on buses

Wheeling residents who have suggestions or questions about suburban bus service are invited to a "brainstorming session" with the village board and representatives from Nortran bus service Monday night.

Chris Romano, operations planner for Nortran, said that the agency is putting together its 1989 bus service program and is looking for suggestions from Wheeling residents.

Interested residents may attend the Wheeling village board committee of the whole meeting at 8 p.m. Monday. The meeting will be held at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling.

Nortran currently services the Wheeling area with two routes, the 234 and the 690. The 234 runs up Route 83 to Dundee Road, and goes to the train stations in Mount Prospect and Des Plaines. The 690 connects with the 234 at Buffalo Grove Road and Dundee, and also services the Arlington Heights train station.

"We were going to do a survey of

The top meeting

Who: The Wheeling village board committee of the whole

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

When: 8 p.m. Monday

Wheeling residents," Romano said. "It wasn't possible so instead, we're doing this. It will be brief. It's just a brainstorming session."

Romano and Robert M. Gerhold, Wheeling's Nortran trustee, will be on hand to answer questions and take suggestions about transportation planning, not just for Wheeling, but for the Northwest suburbs. All service requests will be considered for inclusion in Nortran's program.

Wheeling is a member of the North Suburban Mass Transit District, which oversees the Nortran bus system. Nortran is the only bus carrier that services the Wheeling area.

HERALD 3-27-88
No senior preference on park trips

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Park District officials say they will not honor a Pavilion Senior Center policy giving center members first dibs on trips sponsored by the district.

Park District Commissioner Jim Gallagher said board members were surprised when they read newspaper articles stating that senior center members would be given preferential treatment. Several residents who are opposed to the membership

fee also complained to the park board at a recent meeting.

"We never gave permission for that," Gallagher said. "Our policy is first come, first served, and that has not changed. We don't want the village telling us what our policies are."

Until recently, membership was not required at the Pavilion. The village board, at the recommendation of senior center Director Barbara Hansen, agreed last month to charge \$8 per year for membership. One privilege of membership is being al-

lowed to sign up for various programs before non-members.

According to a memo from park district manager Karop T. Bavougi-an to the park board, "Pavilion members will not have preferred registration for trips." Bavougi-an said the park district is also reducing the time its staff spends at the Pavilion in order to expand other programs.

Village Manager Thomas M. Markus said Hansen had checked with the park district before instituting the policy. However, Gallagher

said "nobody came to the park board about it. We were upset, because someone was making policy without checking with the board first."

Hansen said she had expected preferred sign-ups for Pavilion members. She refused to comment further on the park district's decision, saying she had not been notified of it yet.

Although the policy has been approved, it is still not in place. The fee will be waived for those who can't afford it, and those standards for financial hardship are still being refined, Markus said.

WHEELING

HERALD 3-28-88
Seniors want stickers

A few Wheeling residents, primarily senior citizens, think they will get the short end if the village replaces vehicle stickers with a utility tax. The stickers, which must be purchased every year, are normally \$10. But senior citizens can get up to two stickers per year for \$3 each.

Firefighters may get raises, contract talks

BY KERR WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling firefighters should receive retroactive raises and start contract negotiations again soon, if the village accepts a letter from the Illinois Labor Relations Board granting them legal amnesty.

The village agreed to give the raises and begin negotiating again, as long as the labor board agreed that doing so would not jeopardize the village's legal appeal of a ILRB decision about the Wheeling Firefighters Association.

Brian Reynolds, ILRB executive director, said his office had sent a

letter agreeing to that condition Thursday.

Talks broke down when the village refused the union's request to include lieutenants in the bargaining unit. The village appealed an Illinois Labor Relations Board ruling in the union's favor.

While that case remains tied up in circuit court, negotiations have been at a standstill. The village's offer was contingent upon the labor board agreement because officials did not want their offer to destroy their court case. Because the village has not offered to negotiate with the lieutenants, labor board officials say the offer will not affect the case.

"Essentially, they wanted to be

sure that we won't use this contract as grounds for making them forfeit their appeal," Reynolds said. "A letter has been sent stating that we agree not to use this against the village."

Village Manager Thomas M. Markus said he had not yet received the letter from Reynolds, but it would be subject to review by the village attorney. "Assuming it's the kind of sign-off we're looking for," Markus said, "We'll start negotiating as soon as we can agree on the time and place."

Assuming the ILRB's response is accepted, the village will negotiate with just the rank-and-file fire-

fighters, and not the lieutenants.

Bart Burns, Wheeling Firefighters Association president, said that the village's offer was approved by all of the union members, despite the fact that it did not recognize lieutenants as part of the union.

The village offered the retroactive raises, which will pay the average firefighter-paramedic \$4,300 in back wages, and bring the average salary up from \$30,247 to \$33,188. While the lieutenants will get raises, the offer to negotiate was not extended to them, underscoring the village's position that lieutenants are supervisors and therefore cannot be part of the labor union.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

• "There are also some seniors who don't drive at all. The village says this is a trade for vehicle stickers. Those who don't drive get not a penny in trade." — Pat Walsdorf, president of the Wheeling chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons, commenting on a village plan to replace vehicle stickers with a utility tax.

Wheeling is featured on suburban directory

If you've received your copy of the National Suburban Directory already, you've probably noticed what's featured on the cover: Wheeling.

More precisely, "Wheeling Through the Years," our community history book, published last fall by the Wheeling Historical Society. Along with the cover illustration, there is information inside of the phone book identifying the old Union Hotel (today's Billy & Company Restaurant), and crediting the historical society.

"Wheeling Through the Years" is a 240-page paperback featuring a narrative history of our village. It contains 150 illustrations, photographs, and "from the horse's mouth" (actually the early settler's mouths) accounts of the history of Wheeling. The historical society reports that sales have now topped the 600 mark, and are still moving.

Occasionally, the historical society will receive some new, old information — stories or statistics that could have been included in the book, but didn't surface until after publication. In step with election and our recent primary are some early Wheeling precinct notes:

"Democratic Committeeman Eugenia Chapman feels that the first four precincts were set up at the same time, one in each quadrant of the six mile square township. Prior to its organization in 1850, the territory was politically known as Wheeling Precinct; it encompassed parts of Maine and Northfield townships as well as the area now known as Wheeling Township."

The present polling place of the Community Church in Wheeling is the original church of days gone by. Voting used to be done at the Wilcox's Tavern, located at the junction of Milwaukee Avenue and the Des Plaines River.

As the population has grown, so have the number of precincts, with the number now up to 134. The original Precinct Number 1 has shrunk down in size so that it now contains only about twelve blocks. Precinct Number 131, which is located a little bit east of the river, also votes at the chamber park Community Church. The church, built in 1865, is now the regular meeting place of the Wheeling Historical Society.

In other "New-Old" news, the

Lisa Schab



Wheeling

historical society reports Dorothy Flentge's memories of people coming to Wheeling for their summer vacation. For those of us who live here, and annually flee to Wisconsin or California or points abroad for our summer days of leave, this comes as a bit of a surprise.

But Flentge remembers when Dr. Ian Taylor's Veterinary Hospital on Milwaukee Avenue was the Grew (Graves) home, and had cottages on the property behind where the gas station now stands. Apparently folks also headed Wheeling way around the Fourth of July to set up campsites by the river. Fathers could easily commute to the city while their families enjoyed a few pleasant summer days or weeks of river life. (Pleasant unless flooded.)

Gert Trunda tells that the homes on Meadow Lane in Wheeling also started out their lives as summer cottages, and the Ceil Sharkey residence on Strong Avenue had the same beginning. The Sharkey front hall, in fact, was featured in Better Homes and Gardens magazine one year (1950?).

And, as you're driving down Milwaukee Avenue on the next fine spring day, look out of the car window for a minute and try to picture that main thoroughfare as a two-lane road. It was 1916 when Milwaukee was first paved from Niles to Dundee Road, and in 1923 it was completed.

The paving brought additional and welcome business to the taverns and restaurants along the way, but also spoiled some of the "small town charm." It brought with it some new traffic problems too. (Who was it that said, "the more things change, the more they stay the same?")

"The problem is not therefore, to suppress change, which cannot be done, but to manage it." Alvin Toffler.

HERALD 3-28-88

Wheeling seniors object to village's proposed utility tax

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Some Wheeling residents, primarily senior citizens, think they will get the short end if the village replaces vehicle stickers with a utility tax.

The stickers, which must be purchased every year, are normally \$10. But senior citizens can get up to two stickers per year for \$3 each.

The tax would be added to gas, electric and telephone bills for all buildings in the village, both residences and businesses. Like the vehicle stickers, the new tax would pay for street repairs.

Assistant Village Manager Robert W. Fialkowski said the utility tax will be a much more efficient way to collect money than vehicle stickers. About 15 percent of the \$208,263 generated by the sale of stickers in

1987 was spent to collect it.

Also, the stickers were a source of numerous complaints to the village. Residents who were ticketed for not having a sticker, or not renewing on time, often became irate.

Now, however, another group is getting upset. At last week's board meeting, one senior citizen, Joseph Volk, challenged the board to put the proposed tax to referendum before instituting it.

Pat Walsdorf, president of the Wheeling chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), said she estimated that the tax will cost her \$54 more annually than her \$3 vehicle sticker.

"There are also some seniors who don't drive at all," Walsdorf said. "The village says this is a trade for vehicle stickers. Those who don't drive get not a penny in trade."

"We recognize no tax system is en-

tirely equitable to everyone," Village Manager Thomas M. Markus said. "But you can't just look at existing rates, because the rates would have to go up," if the new tax is not implemented.

According to the proposed utility tax, the average cost per household would be about \$14 annually. Markus said the tax "shifts the burden to commercial industrial users, and away from residential."

Wheeling seeks spring cleaning volunteers

The Village of Wheeling is looking for some help with its spring cleaning.

The village will sponsor its ninth annual "Up with Wheeling" clean-up and beautification campaign on May 7. Residents, businesses, industries and community service organizations are urged to work together to pick up and beautify public properties throughout the village. All participants should meet be-

hind the Municipal Complex Fire Station, 255 W. Dundee Road, at 8:30 a.m., in work clothes and work gloves. Immediately following the clean-up activities, at noon, the village will serve a complimentary picnic lunch behind the Municipal Complex for all participants.

Participants can sign up with the Community Development Department at 459-2620.

Assistant village manager to replace Markus

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Assistant Wheeling Village Manager Robert W. Fialkowski will take over as acting village manager if no one is hired to replace Thomas M. Markus by the time he leaves April 30.

Wheeling has begun a search for a new village manager. Markus is leaving the \$62,000 post to start a new job in Minnesota, his home state.

Fialkowski, meanwhile, is interested in the permanent job and it appears others are interested in him.

"I hope that Bob would apply," said Village President Sheila H.

Schultz. "He has the qualifications. Of course, he'd go through the same interview process as everyone else."

Markus has been manager for eight years. The village board is advertising the position in two professional journals, the International City Managers Association newsletter and the Illinois City Management Association newsletter. Applications will be accepted until April 15. The salary range offered is \$55,000 to \$60,000 plus benefits.

"We hope to have a decision by May 1, but the time is going quickly," Schultz said.

Village Administrative Assistant David Kowal said the village

received several applications before the advertisements were published, apparently generated by news of Markus' resignation.

Markus would not comment on his preference for a successor, but did note, "It's always been my philosophy to have an assistant who can step in at any time."

Fialkowski has said he would like to take Markus' place permanently. He has worked for the village as assistant manager for more than seven years, and as director of finance for the past year and a half.

Once the applications are in, Schultz said, the village board will screen resumes, interview candidates and then vote on whom to hire.

Eying a new job

Assistant Wheeling Village Manager Robert W. Fialkowski will take over as acting village manager if no one is hired to replace Thomas M. Markus by the time he leaves April 30. Wheeling has begun a search for a new village manager. Markus is leaving the \$62,000 post to start a new job in Minnesota, his home state. Fialkowski, meanwhile, is interested in the permanent job and it appears others are interested in him. "I hope that Bob would apply," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz.

Questionable pact

A Wheeling tavern may be in danger of losing its liquor license because of a questionable management agreement. Owners of Hein's Pub and Liquor Store Inc., 141 S. Milwaukee Avenue, are scheduled to appear before the Wheeling Liquor Control Commission because police suspect that the management agreement is an attempt to sell or lease the pub to the managers. The agreement stipulates that the managers, Richard and Joseph Adornetto, must maintain the liquor license and pay the taxes on the property. The brothers also are required to pay owner Ida Hein \$3,200 per month for the right to manage the establishment, said police department attorney Steven Handler.

HERALD 3-30-88

Tavern may lose liquor license

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling tavern may be in danger of losing its liquor license because of a questionable management agreement.

The owners of Hein's Pub and Liquor Store Inc., 141 S. Milwaukee Avenue, are in hearings before the Wheeling Liquor Control Commission because police suspect that the management agreement is an attempt to sell or lease the pub to the managers.

Rickey J. Ament, attorney for owner Ida M. Hein, said he did not draft the agreement and asked that the hearing be delayed until Monday.

"This was intended as a manage-

ment agreement," Ament said. He requested the chance to meet with village staff to review the case and said that Hein would run the tavern in the meantime.

The agreement stipulates that the managers, Richard and Joseph Adornetto, must maintain the liquor license and pay the taxes on the property. The brothers also are required to pay Hein \$3,200 per month for the right to manage the establishment, said police department attorney Steven Handler.

"There is no prohibition against hiring a manager," Handler said. "But it is my concern that this is not a management contract, but an attempt to sell or lease. Liquor licenses are not transferable. It is

solely the applicant's license."

Village President and Liquor Commissioner Sheila Schultz said the commission has the authority to impose a fine, suspend or even revoke the tavern's liquor license.

Wheeling village code prohibits transfer or sale of a liquor establishment and the license that goes with it, without permission from the liquor commission.

Police tracked the alleged violation when Adornetto was stopped and charged with improper lane usage and driving with a suspended license on March 17. Chief of Police Michael Haeger would not elaborate, but Handler said Adornetto apparently talked with the officer about the management agreement.

HERALD 3-30-88

Wheeling residents hit bus service

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

About a dozen Wheeling residents, mostly senior citizens, told a representative from Nortran bus service that Wheeling needs more public transportation.

Chris Romano, operations planner for Nortran, said plans for 1989 service are in the works, and residents' comments are welcome.

Residents complained about bus

connections.

"No matter where I'm coming from, I miss the 234 by five minutes," said one resident. "Sometimes they can call ahead, but usually the phones on the buses don't work."

Romano said that Route 234, which starts at Milwaukee Avenue and Strong Avenue in Wheeling and goes to Randhurst Shopping Center, then down to Des Plaines and the Mount Prospect Chicago and North Western train station, would be ad-

justed in August.

Nortran currently has two routes through Wheeling, the 234 and the 690, which is a north-south route from Buffalo Grove to Arlington Heights down Arlington Heights Road. Romano also told the residents that Route 270, which runs from Jefferson Park to Golf Mill shopping center, then up to Glenbrook Hospital on Milwaukee Avenue, will be extended further north into Wheeling.

Another resident, Pat Walsdorf, said she would like to see more service on streets between Lake-Cook and Dundee roads, within the village.

"The routes that run through Wheeling spend a very small amount of time here," Walsdorf said. "Also, some of them duplicate the local senior citizen buses. You have a core that is over-served, and a perimeter that is totally ignored. We'd like more service."

\$14 million in street, sewer improvements eyed

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials have outlined \$14 million worth of street, sewer and sidewalk improvements they want to do in the next five years.

The plan calls for more than \$5 million in improvements the first year, fiscal 1988-1989. The five-year capital improvement program, which is revised annually, projects a total expenditure of \$14,733,785.

The village Capital Improvement Program, however, is "a planning tool, and not a budget," according to Village Administrative Assistant David Kowal.

Kowal said that comparing this

year's projections with last year's is impossible, because many of the projects expected to be completed in 1988 have been carried over to the 1989 program.

Cost to the village is also difficult to project, because county, state and federal governments will foot part of the bill for some of the improvements. Also, a new method of financing will be introduced this year for certain projects.

Special Service Area financing, which levies a tax on the properties that directly benefit from an improvement, is planned for two projects.

"This type of funding has always been an alternative," Kowal said,

but has never been used.

This type of funding is different from special assessment, which requires a court hearing to determine the cost to each property owner. In a special service area, all the property is taxed at the same rate, which is based on the equalized assessed valuation.

Kowal said that a special service area may be set up to pay for a \$300,000 water main extension, from Harmony Village east to Milwaukee Avenue north to Manchester. Design of the project is scheduled for 1991, construction should begin in 1992.

Another special service area in the five year plan is for a sanitary sewer extension on Milwaukee Avenue

from Manchester Drive to 1,300 feet south of that intersection. The \$173,000 project will also begin in 1991.

Kowal noted that unlike a special assessment, payments for a special service area improvement are included on the general local property tax bills, and are the property owner can deduct the payments from his federal income tax return, making them an advantage over a special assessments, which are not deductible.

Kowal said both projects are being planned for 1991-1992 so that they will coordinate with the state's plans to widen Milwaukee Avenue.

HERALD 4-1-88

Police department hiring 2 officers

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Police Department is looking for a few good men. Or women.

The Wheeling Fire and Police Commission will be reviewing applicants for the two vacancies on the force this Saturday.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said the department has "an active list," generated by testing applicants.

Before potential officers can even be considered for the police acade-

my, they go through a series of tests, "designed to get those who are most interested, and most qualified," Haeger said.

Potential officers apply through a consortium of five or six towns sponsored by the Northwest Municipal Conference.

The Wheeling Police Department then holds an orientation meeting, after which some of the applicants decide police work is not for them.

"We encourage families, girl friends, wives, to attend the orientation with the applicant," he said. "Sometimes, after hearing what po-

lice work entails, they decide they don't want to do it."

Haeger said rotating shifts, working weekends and holidays, the physical requirements and the prospect of a 13-week stint at police academy are not for everyone.

Applicants must be between 21 and 35 years old. After orientation, would-be officers take a physical agility test. Those who pass go on to take a written test and, finally, an oral exam.

Those who pass are reviewed by the Fire and Police Commission. The latest batch of would-be officers' files will be considered Saturday.

"We have approval to hire two officers," Haeger said. "If they find two qualified applicants, they'll hire them."

New recruits spend their first 13 weeks at Police Academy, then come back to Wheeling to spend the next 13 weeks working side-by-side with a field training officer, for on-the-street training. New officers are considered "on probation" for the first two years on the street.

"We hope to find two people," Haeger said. "Because we want to send them to the police academy April 11."

Vandals spur resident to form Watch

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling resident Ed Dzierzynski is fighting back. Tired of vandals driving on his lawn and knocking over trash cans, Dzierzynski has started a campaign to set up a Neighborhood Watch in Dunhurst West.

Neighborhood Watch, a program where residents watch for and report suspicious activity in their neighborhood, has become increasingly popular in recent years. Until now, only town house and condomini-

nium complexes in Wheeling have had one. This is the first time a single-family neighborhood has formed a watch group.

"I don't think most people realize that they could have a Neighborhood Watch," Wheeling Crime Prevention Officer Barbara Kobishop said. She said that the program leads to a "sizeable decrease in property crimes."

Dzierzynski said he read about the program in the newspaper, and thought it could help. "There's nothing to lose and a lot to gain," he noted.

Kobishop said Dzierzynski has

been "a one-man campaign. I fed him information, kind of nursed him along. It's really Ed's baby all the way."

Dzierzynski's enthusiasm evidently paid off. At the initial meeting, more than 50 residents attended. Dzierzynski visited 92 of his neighbors and said 84 families were interested.

"People were very interested. Vandalism is a real problem," he said. "Last week, somebody trashed the neighborhood. They knocked over garbage cans and spread trash all over. I think that helped me, ac-

tually, because people were real upset."

Dzierzynski, a teacher in Mount Prospect Elementary District 57, said he hopes the Neighborhood Watch will also be a way of "keeping an eye on the kids. They are our most precious commodity."

"The people act as extra eyes and ears for the police, because we can't be everywhere at once," Kobishop explained. However, she said, most residents are apathetic until they become a victim.

Dunhurst has not had a significant crime problem, Kobishop said.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

"I've got 12 men. It doesn't make sense to put half of them out pouring sidewalk." — Wheeling Street Superintendent Robert Issleb commenting on a village plan to pay an outside contractor up to \$41,250 for 3,000 feet of new sidewalk on Strong Street between Wolf Road and Milwaukee Avenue. The work would cost \$26,400 if done by village employees.

Wheeling may set up employee counseling

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The village of Wheeling is considering spending \$5,000 to set up an "employee assistance program" which would provide counseling to employees whose personal problems are interfering with their work.

The village board is expected to approve the expenditure Monday night.

Village Manager Thomas M. Markus said he initiated the program last fall by asking a staff committee to review the idea.

After interviewing six companies that provide such a service, a staff committee is recommending that the board hire Vasquez Management Consultants of Wadsworth, Ill.

In a memo recommending the program, Personnel Officer Susan Musick noted that an employee assistance program is designed to handle problems, such as alcohol or drug dependency, marital or family problems, emotional, financial and even legal problems. Musick, in a memo recommending the program, noted

that such a program would improve employee productivity and improve morale.

The counseling would be available to Wheeling's 160 employees and their immediate families.

"We're a service oriented organization, thus, we are employee oriented," Markus said. "It is essential to deal with employee problems. The employees have to deal with them, so they won't impact productivity."

Vasquez provides programs for various public groups, including the cities of Des Plaines, Glenview and Winnetka, Maine Township High School District 207, Wheeling Elementary School District 21 and Mount Prospect District 214.

Employee treatment would be strictly confidential, and would be limited to six sessions per person. If more treatment is needed, the company provides referral to another agency. Vasquez does not receive compensation for those referrals.

Markus said funding for the program would be included in next year's budget, for fiscal 1989-90, but would be implemented right away.

Pilot follows her dream sky high

Esther E. Noffke first dreamed of flying when she was a child and Amelia Earhart was a national heroine. Now an accomplished pilot and administrator for Priester Aviation Service, Noffke will be awarded the Pal-Waukee Airport Pilots Association "Distinguished Service Award" this month.

Noffke has been at Pal-Waukee from the very beginning. She was a student pilot when she started training in the World War II Women's Airforce Service Pilots. In 1945, she worked with George Priester to develop Elmhurst Airport, and later moved to Pal-Waukee after Priester purchased it in 1953.

In 1987, the airport was purchased by the village of Wheeling and city of Prospect Heights. Noffke was in-



Esther E. Noffke

involved in the original study for the purchase and was a driving force in its eventual success.

"I think the purchase is a very,

very good thing. Absolutely. To see two communities work together, to do what is necessary to run it, is something to behold," Noffke said. "It really is an accomplishment."

Since she got her pilot's license in 1943, she has worked in various areas of aviation. She taught flying for a while, then got involved in administration and management of the airport. She still flies, "but very little, just enough to keep my ratings." She currently works at Priester Aviation, and attends Pal-Waukee Airport Commission meetings and other government meetings.

"Esther Noffke epitomizes this award and aviation," PAPA President Barry Dainas said. "Without Esther, Pal-Waukee just wouldn't be

the same as it is today."

Noffke said she is "excited" about the award, which will be presented to her at the May 11 PAPA meeting. "It's an honor," she said. "I've been working in aviation for a long time, but I've never received an award like this."

Noffke was the first woman in Illinois to hold an Airline Transport Pilot Certificate. She also holds several other flight ratings.

The award will be presented at the next PAPA general meeting, at 7:30 p.m. May 11, at the Days Inn (formerly Pal-Waukee Motor Inn), on Milwaukee Avenue in Wheeling.

Members, families, guests and the general public are invited to the meeting.

SUBURBAN REPORT

Wheeling annexes 7.5 acres

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees have agreed to annex 7.5 acres of land on the south side of the village, at the request of property owners in that area.

The village board unanimously approved the request Monday night.

Five lots owned by four different owners are included in the package that will become part of the village. The property is located at the south end of Jackson Drive, on the north side of Hintz Road.

A warehouse self-storage facility is currently under construction on one parcel. The old Wheeling

Township garage, which is currently used as an auto repair shop, is also in the newly annexed area. Single-family homes occupy the remaining parcels.

Former Village Manager Thomas M. Markus, in a memo to the village board, urged officials to annex the property because it is surrounded on three sides by the village. He also noted that "storm water drainage patterns in that area would be interrupted by municipal jurisdiction if another municipality annexed the property... another jurisdiction in this area would only complicate the ultimate resolution of the storm water problems in the area."

The annexation removes the

land from the jurisdiction of the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District. However, through a contract between Wheeling's municipal fire department and the rural fire district, the area has been served by the municipal department. The annexation will not change service in the area, but land owners will now pay taxes to Wheeling for fire protection and other services.

Wheeling Village Attorney James Rhodes said the land owners wanted to be part of a municipality in order to receive certain services, such as local police protection. Until it was annexed, the area was served by Cook County Sheriff's Police.

SUBURBAN REPORT

Village to pour 3,000 feet of new sidewalk

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling will get 3,000 feet of new sidewalk on Strong Street this year, according to plans released by the village this week.

The new walk will be built along both sides of Strong Street between Wolf Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said engineering for the new walk is underway. This year's operations and maintenance budget includes \$41,250 for the sidewalk.

The walk will be constructed by an outside contractor, according to Wheeling Street Superintendent Robert Issleb.

"If we do that sidewalk in house, I've got to pull my crews off daily maintenance," Issleb explained. "That means I've got a street cleaning machine or a sewer cleaning machine just sitting. I can't do that."

Issleb said Strong Street was chosen for sidewalks because "of the Senior Center, and Holy Family Medical Center. It's a main thoroughfare. There are no sidewalks there, so you have school children and residents walking along the curb. A lot of people use

it. There's also a bus stop at Strong and Milwaukee."

The cost of having the work done by an outside contractor costs more but is considered more efficient. According to figures in this year's capital improvement program schedule, the work would cost \$26,400 if done by village employees.

"I've got 12 men," Issleb said. "It doesn't make sense to put half of them out pouring sidewalk."

Village public works employees do, however, work on sidewalk replacement. Issleb said the village tears out and replaces a total of about 250 to 300 feet of sidewalk all over the village each year.

"We repair spots we come across, or residents will call us," he said. The village pays for 100 percent of the cost of sidewalk replacement, but driveway aprons are the responsibility of homeowners.

During fiscal 1987-1988, about 2,200 feet of new sidewalks were installed on sections of Dundee Road and Wheeling Avenue. According to the capital improvement program, almost 20,000 feet of sidewalk will be installed in the next five years.

Thursday, March 31, 1988

Wheeling will support most requests for funds

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Local welfare agencies seeking money from Wheeling officials got strong support this week. The village board recommended that \$81,150 be included in this year's budget for social services. All but one of the six agencies requesting village funding got a favorable recommendation from the village board.

The board agreed to fund Omni Youth Services, Salvation Army, Horizon Children's Center, Shelter Inc. and Northwest Service Coordinators. "A Safe Place," emergency care shelter for battered women and children, had requested \$1,500 in village funds, but was denied because trustees said it is located in Waukegan, and rarely served residents of Wheeling.

The recommendations, which will be formally approved with the rest of the 1988-89 budget, represent an increase over last year, when only Omni and Shelter Inc. received a total of \$60,400 from the village.

Most of the trustees felt the increases were warranted, except Trustee William Rogers, who was absent but sent a letter to the board.

"Why don't clients of these agencies do more to pay for service?" Rogers asked in his memo, read by Trustee Elizabeth Hartman. "Each year, caseloads increase, state and federal aid decreases."

Rogers complained that the burden of supporting the agencies was shifted to local governments, and the agencies, rather than cut back, continued to "find new social ills to cure."

Village President Sheila Schultz said she disagreed with Rogers' recommendation to not increase funding.

"You have to see the cost to society if kids aren't taken care of," Schultz said. "I have a difficult time getting excited about a new street plan if we can't have a good place for people, too. If it's not, having an attractive village doesn't mean as much."

The largest portion of this year's social service budget went to Omni, who requested and received \$58,250. Trustees said Omni Youth Services does work with runaways and juvenile delinquents that would otherwise have to be done by the village police department.

Harry Wells, executive director of Omni, said that Omni is supported by other municipalities, four townships, the United Way, school districts and state grants. Private donations and client fees and insurance also support the agency.

Wheeling Township, which contributed \$110,000 to Omni in 1987, is the largest single supporter of Omni, which has a \$1.5 million projected budget for fiscal 1988.

"It's important to remember that only funds donated from local sources are used in each service area," Wells said. "Funds from Elia Township are used for service there, and funds from Wheeling are used in Wheeling."

The board also recommended that Salvation Army and Shelter Inc. receive the full amounts of their requests, \$5,000 and \$4,400 respectively.

Horizon Children's Center, a subsidized day care center, was granted \$12,500, of the \$25,000 it had requested. The board recommended \$1,000 for Northwest Service Coordination, which sets up shared housing for senior citizens. The agency had hoped for \$2,500.

Herald 4-6-88

Firm may continue to manage Pal-Waukee

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The firm that managed Pal-Waukee Airport until a permanent manager was hired last year may stay on the payroll for another year, earning \$1,000 a month as consultants, pending approval from Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials.

Wheeling officials want Airport Corporation of America to work with manager Fred Stewart, helping him manage the airport and handle accounting. Stewart, who was hired in December 1987, said he will wel-

come the assistance.

The agreement was recommended by the Pal-Waukee Airport Commission and must be approved by the Prospect Heights City Council and the Wheeling village board.

Prospect Heights officials, however, tabled the matter at Monday's city council meeting. Pal-Waukee Commissioner Carey L. Chickerno of Prospect Heights said he was not in favor of a contract that included a retainer fee.

"With retainers, you either pay too much or you're not getting what you need," he said. "I'd rather see a con-

tract set up on a fee basis," rather than a set amount each month, Chickerno said. The council tabled the matter on his recommendation.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights jointly hired ACA to help them with the buyout of Pal-Waukee Airport in 1986. The New Jersey-based firm then continued to manage the airport until Stewart was hired about a year later.

At that time, the two towns set up a contract with ACA to assist in managing the airport.

Stewart asked the board Monday night for another extension of the

ACA contract to "provide background and continuity," Stewart added that John Kennedy of ACA has knowledge about the background of the airport and how management, particularly the accounting aspect, had been handled in the past.

"He knows about the lease agreements at the airport," Stewart said.

"I have a tremendous amount of confidence in John Kennedy," Chickerno said. "I've lobbied strongly to maintain a relationship between his firm and the airport. But I wouldn't spend my money on a retainer fee unless someone can explain to me the benefits."

Herald 4-1-88

Wheeling puts liquor store's fate on hold

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Liquor Control Commission will delay a judgment on the fate of Hein's Pub and Liquor Store to April 25, when police are expected to have finished a background investigation of the pub's managers.

Hein's Pub is in jeopardy of losing its liquor license over a management agreement that village officials suspect constitutes an illegal transfer of the liquor license from the pub owner to its managers.

Police are required to check the backgrounds of all managers of liquor establishments. Liquor licenses cannot be transferred to another

holder without the approval of the liquor commission.

The commission is expected to decide April 25 if the pub and liquor store at 141 S. Milwaukee Ave., has violated the Wheeling liquor code.

Hein's has been managed since March 1 by Richard and Joseph Adornetto. The management agreement stipulates that the brothers collect all revenue, then give a portion, \$3,200 a month, to owner Ida M. Hein. The agreement was drafted by attorney Gary Weintraub, a former Wheeling village attorney.

Hein says the village's interpretation of the agreement is "all a misunderstanding."

"But the board will do what they

have to do," she said. "I'm hoping they'll give me a fair shake."

Weintraub said a revised management agreement was submitted to the liquor commission Monday. Under it, all revenues go directly to Hein, who will pay the managers.

"The result is close to the same," Weintraub said.

Liquor Commissioner and Village President Sheila Schultz questioned Weintraub Monday about the original agreement. Weintraub said the agreement was a "standard form, which I have used for several nursing homes."

If Hein's is found guilty of the violation, the commission could revoke or suspend the liquor license.

Change in sign code regulates billboards

BY LINDA MAIZELS
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's sign code has been changed so billboards will be subject to the same size regulations as most other signs.

In the old wording of the code, billboards were prohibited but in a conflicting statement, also were to be subject to a varying process for determining possible dimensions. The amendments will take this inconsistency out of the code, said village attorney James A. Rhodes.

Each sign used to be reviewed individually and the size determined according to varying standards, said Tom Fennell, Wheeling building official.

Now billboards, which will be defined only as "off-premises freestanding signs," will have to conform to the existing rules for on-premise freestanding signs.

An on-premise sign can be no taller than 24 feet in height, no larger than 100 square feet or be any more than 10 feet from the business' property line.

"We can now regulate the signs whether the sign is on the premises or off the premises," Rhodes said.

The new code will go into effect as soon as it has been published in pamphlet form, Rhodes said. The new code will not affect signs already in existence, he said.

Herald 4-8-88

Groups asked to help clean up village

Wheeling's scout troops, community groups, residents and business leaders are asked to help clean up the community on "Up With Wheeling Day." The annual spring cleanup will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. May 7.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

• "But the board will do what they have to do. I'm hoping they'll give me a fair shake." — Ida M. Hein, owner of Hein's Pub and Liquor Store at 141 S. Milwaukee Ave., commenting on a decision by the Wheeling Liquor Control Commission to delay a judgement on the pub's fate until April 25, when police are expected to have finished a background investigation of the pub's managers.

Herald 4-3-88

Pavilion fee may be waived

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Low-income Wheeling senior citizens will be allowed to join the Pavilion Senior Center without paying a membership fee, if the village board approves a policy recommended by the senior center director.

An \$8 membership fee, \$10 for non-residents, was approved a few months ago, but has been waiting for a specific membership policy that includes standards for waiving membership fees.

The proposed policy suggests waiving the fee for people with income below \$6,969; or couples whose joint income is below

\$9,048, the same guidelines used by the federal Food Commodities Program. The fee will be required after May 1.

The board will review a policy for the senior center this Monday. Membership will be required for Pavilion programs, but will not be required to use social services offered at the center.

Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said the policy will outline not only benefits for members, but also general policies of the center including use of the building by outside groups.

According to the policy, groups not affiliated with the center or the village may not use the center, except for "educational forums."

"We're not running a meeting hall," Klitzke said. "It's not for outside groups unless it's an educational thing."

Village Trustee Judy Abruscato was the one trustee who voted against the membership fee when it was approved by the board in February. Since then Klitzke and Senior Center Director Barb Hansen have been hammering out a policy governing the center.

Abruscato said Thursday she was still opposed to the policy, and still gets calls from senior citizens who are unhappy about it.

"They are not happy with the things that go on there," she said.

Abruscato said the fee was "a non-necessary tax."

PUBLIC SPEAKING

• "With retainers you either pay too much or you're not getting what you need. I'd rather see a contract set up on a fee basis." — Pal-Waukee Commissioner Carey L. Chickerno of Prospect Heights commenting on a commission recommendation that Airport Corporation of America stay on the payroll for another year, earning \$1,000 a month as consultants. Wheeling and Prospect Heights must vote on the agreement.

Harold 4-11-88

O'Hare head speaks to pilots group

Pal-Waukee Airport Pilots Association will hold its next general meeting at 7:30 p.m. on May 11 at the Pal-Waukee Motor Inn, 1090 S. Milwaukee Avenue in Wheeling.

The speaker will be Arthur T. Hill III, area manager at the O'Hare International Airport control tower.

Hill is presently working as an administrator with the Great Lakes Regional Office Facility for the air traffic towers in the states of Illinois, North Dakota and South Dakota.

He has been with the Federal Aviation Administration for 22 years and has been a controller at Indianapolis Center, O'Hare Airport and Detroit Metro. He was also a training specialist in Detroit, and an area supervisor at the Dayton Tower.

Hill will discuss Chicago approaches and departures, and answer questions.

The Pilots Association will also present its first annual distinguished service award. This award is given annually to the person or persons who have made a significant contribution to the Pal-Waukee Airport community in recent years. A safety program will also be presented.

PROSPECT HEIGHTS

Harold 4-13-88

Late rent draws ire

Prospect Heights and Wheeling are considering dumping Priester Aviation as "managing agent" at Pal-Waukee Municipal Airport because the firm was late in paying \$111,000 in rent. The new owners sent a letter to Priester Aviation — the former owner of the airport — warning that they may cancel the leases the company holds on a number of airport hangars and buildings. Priester leases 11 hangars and five other buildings from the towns and in turn leases out some of those hangars to corporate and private customers. Wheeling Trustee William Rogers said Priester Aviation was up to six weeks late in paying rent on some of the buildings earlier this year. Prospect Heights Administrator Robert R. Kiely said the late rent totalled at least \$111,000.

Harold 4-9-88

New recruit is chosen for police work

By Keri Wyatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A new officer will join the Wheeling Police Department this week, if he passes the physical tests scheduled for Wednesday morning.

At a hearing held Saturday, the Police and Fire Commission selected the new recruit, as yet unidentified, from four candidates.

Two new police officers are part of the 1988-89 budget, which has not been formally approved by the village board. However, because the new officer must spend his first 13 weeks on duty at the Police Academy in Chicago, Police Chief Michael Haeger asked the board to allow him to hire the new officers before the fiscal year actually starts on May 1. The next training session at the academy is July 11.

Police Chief Michael Haeger said the department has a "lengthy list" of eligible candidates, but "we ran out of time. We received authorization for the two new positions late in March."

Other qualified applicants will be sent for polygraph and psychological testing, and "we hope to have upwards of four to six ready for the school in July," Haeger said.

The new hires are the first part of an attempt to beef up the police force. This year, a total of four new patrol officers and three community service officers are expected to join the force.

"We have 42 right now," Haeger said. "I would hope that by September or October, we will be at our full complement of 47. Unfortunately, they won't be on the street unless we get an applicant with previous experience."

Saturday's hearing was part of a long selection process, Haeger said. Prospective officers go through a battery of written and oral tests. A background check and polygraph test are also required.

The final test is measures physical agility, and is expected to be conducted this week. If the candidate passes, he will be sworn in Friday.

Starting salary for a police officer is currently \$24,596. On May 1, the start of the new fiscal year, that will increase to \$25,836.

After 13 weeks of training at the police academy, the new recruits will come back to Wheeling and spend the next 13 weeks working on the street with a more experienced officer before going "solo."

Harold 4-9-88

Firm's trailer out to collect scrap aluminum

By Keri Wyatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

While many public officials are talking about the suburbs' garbage problems, the private sector is carrying out some practical solutions.

Wheeling residents can recycle aluminum by dropping it at a trailer operated by Reynolds Aluminum in the parking lot of K mart, 780 W.

Dundee Road.

While the trailer has previously been open during mornings, the schedule recently was changed to provide afternoon drop-off hours. Residents can deliver cans, scrap aluminum and foil at the trailer from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

In addition to helping conserve resources and clean up the environ-

ment, people who recycle can get a little cash for their efforts. Reynolds currently pays 35 cents for each pound of aluminum for deliveries that weigh up to 50 pounds. Larger amounts bring higher prices per pound, up to 42 cents.

A pound of aluminum is roughly equal to about 25 to 27 cans.

Patrick J. Madison, area business manager for Reynolds Aluminum

Recycling Co., said that the company is expanding its efforts.

"We are paying our highest prices ever," he said. "The value of aluminum is high right now. It's basically due to supply and demand. Tight supply has pushed the price up."

Although Reynolds has been in the recycling business for 20 years, the company's operation in Wheeling opened about 18 months ago.

Lack of parking at Wheeling Post Office snarls traffic

By Keri Wyatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Traffic at the Wheeling Post Office is causing problems on Dundee Road, and Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger has asked Wheeling's postmaster to remedy the problem.

A letter from Haeger to Wheeling Postmaster Wayne C. Van Heirsele, states "the parking problems within the lot have begun to cause problems

in the street," because cars cannot get into the crowded lot.

While police are supposed to enforce parking regulations in the lot, they do not ticket cars that park on the street, because it would be "unfair" since "there is insufficient space available," Haeger's letter says.

If police did issue tickets, Haeger said, traffic would probably circle around the lot and back onto Dundee

Road, and "increase the danger to motorists both attempting to get into the post office and passing by the post office on Dundee Road."

Van Heirsele said Monday that he is aware of the problem, but had to get permission from higher-ups in the Post Office before taking action. He said he was expecting a post office official from the district headquarters to visit the Wheeling post office that afternoon.

"I'm not sitting on it," Van Heir-

sele said. "I just don't have the authority to do anything, because I can't negotiate. The district people have to decide what we're going to do." He noted that he had not yet responded to Haeger's letter.

The post office is located at 250 W. Dundee Road, directly across the street from the village hall, and the police department.

Haeger said Monday that he became aware of the traffic problem

through "personal observation," and officers who saw the problems. Statistics on accidents near the post office were not available.

In his letter, dated April 4, Haeger suggested that "a simple solution is increasing the size of the lot," but Van Heirsele said the post office does not own any more land for additional parking.

"We'd have to purchase or rent land somewhere around here," he said. "We're working on it."

Harold 4-12-88

Herald 4-13-88

Fire departments to be in exercise

BY LINDA MAIZELS
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Thirteen Northwest suburban fire departments will participate in a "mass casualty" exercise April 22 conducted by member fire departments.

The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) is an alliance of the majority of the fire departments in northern Illinois. The departments are able to call MABAS if they need assistance in a case where the situation is too large for one department to handle, said Deputy Chief George Lechner. Other departments in their division are then contacted for help, he said.

The division members participating in the drill are Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Des Plaines, Elk Grove Village, Elk Grove Township, Prospect Heights, Roselle and Wheeling.

"When any community is stricken, they contact MABAS control and tell them a certain elevation, which goes from one-alarm to five-alarm," Lechner said. "Each alarm brings in more outside equipment and manpower."

Lechner said the exercise tests the division's capacity to transport large numbers of patients. In the drill, participants will simulate what would happen if a large stadium in Texas collapsed.

If the damage were too much for Texas to handle alone, divisions would be called out all over the country to transport casualties to proper treatment facilities.

Herald 4-13-88

Airport owners may oust Priester

BY DAN ROZEK
and KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Prospect Heights and Wheeling are considering dumping Priester Aviation as "managing agent" at Pal-Waukee Municipal Airport because the firm was late in paying \$111,000 in rent.

The new owners sent a letter to Priester Aviation — the former owner of the airport — warning that they may cancel the leases the company holds on a number of airport hangars and buildings.

Priester leases 11 hangars and five other buildings from the towns and in turn leases out some of those hangars to corporate and private customers.

Wheeling Trustee William Rogers said Priester Aviation was up to six weeks late in paying rent on some of the buildings earlier this year. Prospect Heights Administrator Robert R. Kiely said the late rent totalled at least \$111,000.

Priester caught up with its payments earlier this month after the towns — which bought the airport in December 1986 — revealed they might terminate the leases on the

buildings for which payments were late.

Priester Aviation officials blamed the delay on "internal problems," Kiely and Rogers said. Charles Priester, president of the firm, could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Rogers said Priester originally handled the leasing when the towns first acquired the airport "because at the time, we didn't have the staff to handle the leasing. Now that we do, we may not need Priester anymore."

If the towns cancel the leases, airport manager Fred E. Stewart could handle the leases directly for the towns, Kiely said, mostly eliminating Priester's role as a middleman. Priester would continue to provide some services, including selling fuel, at the airport, he said.

"We'd make more money because we'd basically be getting rid of the managing agent," Kiely said.

"There comes a time when we have to stand on our own two feet," Rogers agreed.

Rogers added that terminating Priester's leases "would be a detriment to negotiations" with a group of investors planning to buy Priester Aviation.

Herald 4-13-88

Trustee: Policy makes center 'private club'

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Parts of the membership policy for the Wheeling Pavilion Senior Center makes the center seem like "a private club," says Trustee James Whittington.

Whittington, who had voted in favor of imposing an \$8 membership fee back in February, questioned the policy outlining the benefits of that membership. Whittington said Tuesday he is still in favor of the policy, but said he "wanted to be cautious, so we don't create something that is not intended."

The policy, written at the board's

request by Senior Center Director Barbara Hansen, outlines which services and programs at the center would be available to all senior citizens, and which would be exclusively for members.

Generally, social services and educational forums would be open to all, but classes and activities would be considered "benefits of membership," according to the new policy.

Hansen said the new membership registration would include information about who to contact in an emergency, and the name of the seniors' physician.

One of the other "membership

benefits" in the policy is registration for special events hosted by organizations, such as parties and luncheons. For example, the Rotary has hosted parties at the center before. Whittington challenged the intent of the clause.

"Does the Rotary Club say they want to put on a party for senior citizens, or do they say they want to have a party for members of the Pavilion?" Whittington asked.

"Well, I suppose they want to do it for the seniors," Hansen said. "I suppose it could be up to the group sponsoring the event."

Whittington said that the policy

should offer sponsoring organizations a choice.

"You have to be very careful, or this is going to seem like a private club," he said. "An outside organization gives something, thinking it's for one group but it's really for another. It should not be listed as a benefit of membership."

Hansen urged that non-members not be allowed to participate in regular Pavilion activities, because it would "destroy the concept of membership."

The board is scheduled to vote on the new policy at its next regular meeting, April 18. If approved, the new policy will go into effect May 1.

Herald 4-14-88

Officer, family battle in court

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling police officer and an Arlington Heights family, testifying in a \$10 million brutality lawsuit, offered different versions in federal court Wednesday of the night police came to arrest the father.

Gerald and Anita Plambeck and their three daughters, all of Arlington Heights, have charged Wheeling police officers John Stone, Thomas Lorenz and William Stutzman with assaulting the family as the officers were trying to arrest Gerald Plambeck on Oct. 11, 1983.

U.S. District Court Judge Hubert Will said he expects testimony in the case to finish today and said the jury may reach a verdict this afternoon.

The suit, filed in 1985, claims

the Plambecks' civil rights were violated during the alleged attack and afterward when battery complaints were lodged against the family.

The family members were acquitted of the battery complaints in September 1984, but then filed the federal suit against the police officers.

Officers Stutzman and Stone allegedly were driving an unmarked car and were dressed in plain clothes when they arrived at the family's house to arrest Plambeck for an alleged unpaid car repair bill from Buffalo Grove Mobil.

In tearful testimony, Shari and Cindy Plambeck said Stutzman came into their house, pushed their mother out of the way and attacked their father. Both said they did not know Stutzman was a police officer.

Stutzman, however, testified he

had shown his badge and a photo identification card to the Plambecks. He said that Plambeck started the struggle and then hit Stutzman, who hit Plambeck back.

"I did hit him, somewhere in the upper body," Stutzman said. "I felt I was losing control of the situation, and I was trying to subdue him."

Lorenz responded to Stone's call for assistance. He reportedly arrived as Stone and Stutzman were trying to handcuff Plambeck in the driveway and other members of the family were trying to prevent it.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger has been firm in his support of the officers in the almost three years the case has taken to get to court.

"Just because someone files a lawsuit doesn't mean you take them (the officers) off the street," he said.

Construction on shop center still idled; awaits court action

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Plans to develop Wheeling's downtown have been stalled for the past four months in court, and village officials say they still do not know when construction of a proposed shopping center will begin.

The project is awaiting a court ruling on the legality of a special tax district being used to finance the project.

The area, at the northwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, is slated for a \$8.9 million shopping center, to be funded through tax-increment financing (TIF). TIF districts are set up to improve an area, and any incremental increases in property taxes generated by the upgrade are used to repay loans for the project.

However, several business owners in the targeted area have resisted the village's efforts to purchase their land. Attorneys for property owners in the area who are fighting condemnation proceedings challenged the village in Cook County Circuit Court last September.

In December, property owners who don't want their shops replaced by the new shopping center charged

that tax-increment financing was unconstitutional. The court ruled against the business owners, upholding the state law which allows tax-increment financing.

Undaunted, the attorneys for several businesses are attempting to prove that the village did not conduct a survey properly to determine that the area is truly "dilapidated," which is one of the criteria for a TIF district.

The village has been working to purchase property for the redevelopment project since 1986. Once all the property is acquired, the village will sell all of the land to a developer, Vantage Companies Inc. of Arlington Heights.

Village officials say they are confident that the court will rule in their favor, and the project will move ahead soon.

Village attorney James Rhodes said the issue to be decided by the court is, "Do we meet the criteria to be a TIF district? We've already had oral arguments, and we are awaiting a ruling. When we win, and we will win, we'll set a trail date (for condemnation) and be done."

Rhodes said he expects a ruling "any day now."

"We expect to finish acquiring the

property this summer," he said.

The village has already bought eight parcels, and has condemned six more. Condemnation proceedings have been delayed, to wait for the court decision on the district's legality.

Dunkin Donuts, Wheeling Auto Parts, Tien Tsin Restaurant, a house next door to Tien Tsin, Dreiske's Florist and one vacant lot have been condemned.

Rhodes said that construction timetables haven't been set up yet.

"Site work will begin once all the property is acquired," he said.

The Crossroads redevelopment area, where the shopping center will go, is only part of a larger TIF district created by the village in 1985. The Crossroads is just at the northwest corner of Milwaukee and Dundee, but the entire district extends from Manchester Drive north to Strong Street on both sides of Milwaukee Avenue and on both sides of Dundee Road from the Des Plaines River west to First Street.

The shopping center, to be called Village Square, would be built around the Sportmart store at the

Luncheon to honor Markus

The Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry will honor secretaries and say farewell to Village Manager Tom Markus at a luncheon Tuesday in Vivian Lee's Resaturant. Chamber members Dr. Charles Milofsky and Linda Folsom will present a program entitled, "How To Eat Ice Cream Together: A Gourmet Approach for Secretaries and Bosses." For reservations call the chamber at 541-0170.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

• "Just because someone files a lawsuit doesn't mean you take them (the officers) off the street." — Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger commenting on a \$10 million brutality lawsuit filed by Gerald and Anita Plambeck of Arlington Heights against Wheeling police officers John Stone, Thomas Lorenz and William Stutzman.

SUBURBAN REPORT

City may hire airport consultant

BY DAN ROZEK
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Prospect Heights committee is recommending the city retain a New Jersey consulting firm to handle some special projects at Pal-Waukee Municipal Airport.

Wheeling officials have already said they want to retain the services of Airport Corporation of America, first hired in 1986 to help manage their acquisition of the airport.

The towns do not want to continue their current contract with ACA, because it is too expensive, paying ACA an hourly fee for services it performed. Instead, the Pal-Waukee Airport Commission

recommends ACA be hired for a \$1,000 monthly retainer.

Since contracting with ACA, the towns have hired a full-time manager to run the airport.

The towns want to renegotiate a modified, less expensive contract that will allow them to use the firm for special projects and assist airport Manager Fred E. Stewart in projects that Stewart is too pressed to handle now.

"We'd be using ACA to supplement (Stewart's) services," Prospect Heights Administrator Robert R. Kiely said. "As time goes by, we'll need those services less and less."

Kiely said ACA President John Kennedy is highly skilled, particu-

larly in dealing with federal grants and grant applications.

"It's probably in our best interests to keep him on a retainer," Kiely said. "He knows the airport business."

Second Ward Alderman Warren Sunde said he was uncomfortable with paying ACA a flat retainer. While he preferred paying the company a fee based on the projects done by the firm, he said he probably would support hiring ACA.

First Ward Alderman Charles T. VanderVennet and Second Ward Alderman Charles A. Lutzow, favored paying the flat monthly fee.

The full city council must approve the new contract with ACA.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

• "We've already had oral arguments, and we are awaiting a ruling. When we win, and we will win, we'll set a trial date (for condemnation) and be done." — Wheeling Village Attorney James Rhodes commenting on an \$8.9 million shopping center planned for the northwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road. A court must decide if the special tax-increment financing (TIF) is legal for this project.

Towns eye contract with airport firm

BY DAN ROZEK
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Prospect Heights committee is recommending the city retain a New Jersey consulting firm to handle some special projects at Pal-Waukee Municipal Airport.

Wheeling officials have already said they want to retain the services of Airport Corporation of America, first hired in 1986 to help manage their acquisition of the airport.

The towns do not want to continue their current contract with ACA, be-

cause it is too expensive, paying ACA an hourly fee for services it performed. Instead, the Pal-Waukee Airport Commission recommends ACA be hired for a \$1,000 monthly retainer.

Since contracting with ACA, the towns have hired a full-time manager to run the airport.

The towns want to renegotiate a modified, less expensive contract that will allow them to use the firm for special projects and assist airport Manager Fred E. Stewart in projects that Stewart is too pressed to handle now.

"We'd be using ACA to supplement (Stewart's) services," Prospect Heights Administrator Robert R. Kiely said. "As time goes by, we'll need those services less and less."

Kiely said ACA President John Kennedy is highly skilled, particularly in dealing with federal grants and grant applications.

"It's probably in our best interests to keep him on a retainer," Kiely said. "He knows the airport business."

Second Ward Alderman Warren Sunde said he was uncomfortable with paying ACA a flat retainer.

While he preferred paying the company a fee based on the projects done by the firm, he said he probably would support hiring ACA.

First Ward Alderman Charles T. VanderVennet and Second Ward Alderman Charles A. Lutzow, favored paying the flat monthly fee.

The full city council must approve the new contract with ACA, which would replace the previous, open-ended agreement the airport owners voted to cancel earlier this month.

Wheeling already has approved the new agreement with ACA.

Oakton, NWMC building to be scaled down

BY STUART R. PADDOCK III
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Oakton Community College officials are being forced to scale down the proposed building for the Northwest Municipal Conference, after bids came in at \$1 million.

OCC had agreed to put up the building on its Des Plaines campus, and had \$878,000 budgeted for the controversial project. OCC would then rent 89 percent of it to the conference for 30 years.

However, the \$1 million bid is forcing Oakton to change construction of the two-story building so that it will no longer be able to support a third floor in the future, saving \$100,000, said David Hilquist, vice president of business and finance.

Original plans called for a two-story, 8,000-square-foot building in which the college would have had use of 11 percent of the space. The rest would be rented to the Northwest Municipal Conference, a quasi-governmental association of 31 North and Northwest suburbs and seven townships.

Construction was to be fully paid by the college with the municipal conference paying rent for 30 years.

But to replace the third floor, the community college board is considering adding a full basement at about \$25,000, Hilquist said.

The recent cutbacks aren't the only changes the building design has undergone in the past few months.

The Illinois Community College Board told OCC earlier this year that a full 50 percent of the building must be used for "direct educational purposes" or the board won't allow the college to build it.

Illinois Community College board Director David Pierce said that concern over the Northwest Municipal Conference's future liquidity also prompted the board to demand \$439,000 up front from the Northwest Municipal Conference for their half of the construction cost.

The college subsequently redesigned two classrooms and the library, enlarging their portion. The municipal conference will borrow the money and use their half of the building as collateral, said William

Grams, executive director of the Northwest Municipal Conference.

These changes are expected to delay completion of the project until Dec. 1, Hilquist said.

The setbacks have given fuel to dissenters of the project. OCC board member Joan Hall said changing the space allotments so OCC has 50 percent is like trying to "make the shoe fit the foot."

"I don't feel that it is a wise use of the taxpayers' money," she said. "What we are doing is building a palace for Grams."

The Northwest Municipal Conference board is comprised of representatives from 38 towns and townships to address regional issues. The 38 members support the conference in the form of yearly dues.

Grams said the new building will give the conference twice the space it now has in the Mount Prospect Library.

"We can have two employees per office instead of the three we now have, plus storage space," Grams said of the new building. He called the new financial arrangement a

"hybrid" between leasing and vested interest, but said it will actually save the conference money.

"At \$7.50 a square foot, the price is right," he said, adding that current market prices for leased space is running between \$6 a square foot for a school to \$17 for commercial property.

Grams estimated the conference will pay about \$30,000 a year compared with the \$6,000 it currently pays to the Mount Prospect library. He defended the increase, saying fixed payments over 30 years is cheaper than commercial rents.

"We won't have to buy land either," he added. He also said costs for shared areas of the building will be split with the college.

Hall, however, said Oakton has unused space now, and if it really needed more room it should add onto existing college buildings.

Oakton President Thomas TenHoeve, a supporter of the project, said the proximity of the Northwest Municipal Conference will give the college the potential to train an additional 1,000 municipal employees.

One word standing in way of negotiations

BY LINDA MAIZELS
Daily Herald Staff Writer

An agreement between Wheeling firefighters and the village must have one word removed before the two parties can begin negotiations with the full approval of the Illinois State Labor Relations Board.

The minor word change will clear the way for talks to begin again, even though other legal disputes remain unresolved.

Last spring, the ILRB ruled that the firefighters should have their lieutenants involved in all collective

bargaining, after the village refused to recognize lieutenants as part of the union. Negotiations broke down when the village appealed the labor board ruling. That case is still pending in court.

The village plans to offer retroactive raises extending back two years to the firefighters, including the lieutenants. However, the village has only offered to resume negotiations with the rank-and-file firefighters.

Though the controversy over the lieutenants goes on, both parties want to continue contract negotiations.

"If everything works out the way it should," said Jim Baird, attorney for the village in this case, "They (the firefighters) will be getting some back pay."

In order to be sure that resuming negotiations with the union would not negate the village's legal appeal, the village asked the ILRB for its approval, Village Manager Thomas M. Markus said. The village wanted assurance from the ILRB that its case would still stand.

ILRB Director Brian Reynolds said there was a problem with the wording of the negotiation agree-

ment. The way it was written, the ILRB's approval would have meant approval of the entire agreement, rather than just an okay to begin negotiations again, he said.

Reynolds said he is expecting to receive a revised letter, after which the ILRB can affirm the village's right to safe bargaining.

The firefighters will be eligible to receive two checks, one for each year of frozen salaries. The total of \$4,300, will bring the average salary to \$33,188 from \$30,247, village Personnel Director Sue Musick.

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Wheeling spraying to protect trees

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In order to protect its maple trees, the village of Wheeling is spraying all parkway trees sprayed to remove a parasite called the Cottony Maple Scale.

The village experienced another outbreak of the Cottony Maple Scale last year, and in order to prevent further damage, the village board has approved a \$13,000 tree-spraying program for 1988-1989.

All infected trees should be sprayed, said Bob Gray, operations

and maintenance director. The village started spraying all parkway trees last week with a dormant oil, at a cost of \$7,000, and spraying is expected to be complete this week.

However, the program was slightly delayed because of high winds. "It's just a 2 to 3 percent oil solution," Gray said. "But with the high winds, the oil was getting on people's houses and cars. It will wash off with soapy water."

The contractor, Hendricksen The Care of Trees, offered the service to residents who want trees on their

private property sprayed. The cost is \$25 per tree on private property. Gray said residents who want their trees sprayed should contact Hendricksen's at 394-4220.

"There was some misinformation that they weren't doing anymore private trees," Gray said. "Actually, people can get their name on a list, and it will depend on whether the foliage is out yet. Once the leaves are out on the tree, you can't spray it."

The cottony scale is a small bug that lives on sap from the branches. If untreated, trees can lose limbs and eventually die. The parasite

feeds only on soft maple trees and some other softwood trees, Gray said.

The scale leaves a white bumpy residue on the trees that "looks like popcorn balls on the branches," he said. "It also causes the sap to drip out of the tree, which makes a gooey mess."

More information is available from the village's operations and maintenance department at 459-2624. Other questions regarding trees should be directed to the Morton Arboretum, 968-0074.

SUBURBAN REPORT

HERALD 4-19-88
Construction may start early

BY KERI WYATT
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

A construction project planned to make the intersection of Northgate Parkway and Dundee Road in Wheeling safer could begin next week, earlier than originally planned, if traffic lights are installed to the north at Northgate and Lake-Cook Road.

Work on the \$1.3 million project was slated to begin May 1 but now is expected to start April 25, a spokesman for the contractor, Eric Bolander Construction Co., said.

However, Village Engineer James Edmond said the village has asked the state and the construction company to wait until

the temporary traffic lights are installed. The lights are part of a joint project between the Cook County Highway Department, Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

Northgate Parkway intersects Dundee Road about 265 feet east of Boehmer Road. The project will realign Boehmer and Northgate to connect at an angle across Dundee Road. The intersection has been called hazardous for semi-trailer truck drivers turning onto Dundee Road from Northgate.

It will be necessary to close Northgate Parkway at a bridge over the Wheeling Drainage Ditch, just north of Dundee, Edmond said.



"We've asked that they coordinate the two projects," he said. "If the signals aren't in by next Monday, we hope that the road closing will be postponed."

PUBLIC SPEAKING

"I'm very pleased and very excited. I've spent a lot of years at Wheeling High School." — James R. Whittington, director of student activities for Northwest Suburban High School District 214, commenting on his appointment as associate principal at Wheeling High School. Whittington graduated from Wheeling High School and has been both a teacher and administrator at the school.

HERALD 4-21-88
PUBLIC SPEAKING

"We've asked that they coordinate the two projects. If the signals aren't in by next Monday, we hope that the road closing will be postponed." — Wheeling Village Engineer James Edmond commenting on the \$1.3 million road work planned for the intersection of Northgate Parkway and Dundee Road in Wheeling.

HERALD 4-20-88
Despite objections, mall plans proceed

BY KERI WYATT
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Another strip shopping center will be built in Wheeling, despite residents' protests that it will add traffic to their neighborhood.

The center will include a drive-through bank facility, in a separate building. The bank and shopping center will be located at the southwest corner of Hintz and Wheeling Roads, near the Ridgefield subdivision.

Wheeling residents said they are concerned one of the center's three exits, the one onto Weeping Willow Drive, will increase traffic to their neighborhood, and encourage drivers to cut through the center's parking lot to avoid a traffic light at Wheeling and Hintz roads.

The village board approved the plans earlier this week after receiving a unanimous recommendation

for approval from the plan commission. The panel approved the center last month, despite objections from residents who attended that meeting.

Community Development Director Michael Klitzke, in a memo, indicated that the village has received a petition signed by residents in 86 percent of the units of the Ridgefield Lane multi-family development and 70 percent of those the Ridgefield single-family development objecting to any exit or entrance onto Weeping Willow Drive.

In an attempt to address traffic concerns, the driveway on Weeping Willow be used for entrance into the center only. Klitzke said closing off the driveway entirely would force drivers on Weeping Willow Drive who wanted to enter the center to make two left turns, which was deemed more dangerous.



Klitzke said the residents "weren't objecting to the center itself, just that driveway. We feel that having an 'entrance only' restriction at that driveway will meet their concerns. The alternative to having that driveway will actually generate more traffic through the neighborhood," he said. Residents from Ridgefield Lane would cut through to Willowbrook Drive and go out on Hintz, Klitzke said.

Construction is expected to begin this summer. A temporary bank facility will be put up immediately for use until construction of the permanent facility is finished.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

HERALD 4-22-88
Residents asked to help clean up

Wheeling's scout troops, community groups, residents and business leaders are asked to help clean up the community on "Up With Wheeling Day." The annual spring cleanup will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. May 7, starting behind the Municipal Complex Fire Station, 255 W. Dundee Road. A complimentary picnic lunch will be served after the morning's work. For information, phone 459-2620.

and dinner.
 HERALD 4-21-88
\$52,500 paid in brutality case

BY KERI WYATT
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

The village of Wheeling will pay an Arlington Heights family \$52,500 to settle a lawsuit against three Wheeling police officers.

The settlement ends a dispute that began five years ago when Wheeling police tried to arrest Gerald Plambeck on a warrant for an unpaid bill and ended up in a fight with Plambeck, his wife and three daughters.

An initial police brutality lawsuit, filed in 1985 by Plambeck and his family, sought \$10 million. The suit charged that three Wheeling officers violated the family's civil rights by attacking the family

while arresting Plambeck on a warrant at his Arlington Heights home in 1983.

Michael Norris, Plambeck's attorney, said the village offered the \$52,500 settlement, and Plambeck accepted it. Norris declined to comment about how the amount was decided on.

After a week of testimony, a federal district court jury decided that only one of the officers, William Stutzman, was guilty of using excessive force to arrest Gerald Plambeck.

The other two officers named in the suit, John Stone and Thomas Lorenz, were cleared of all charges.

Although attorneys for both

sides were expecting the jury to hear evidence on damages and decide the amount of the award, U.S. District Court Judge Hubert Will, who presided over the hearings, said Wednesday that the case had been settled.

Stutzman and Stone testified that when they came to arrest Plambeck, the family attacked them and then resisted when officers arrested them also.

In conflicting testimony, Plambeck's daughters Shari and Cindy said the officers, who were dressed in plain clothes, came into the house and attacked their father without identifying themselves as police officers. The girls said they were trying to defend their father.

Pal-Waukee aims to scare off geese

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Pal-Waukee Municipal Airport officials will spend up to \$3,500 in an effort to evict some airport residents who recently caused nearly \$1 million in damage to an airplane: a flock of geese.

Two Canada geese were killed recently when they flew in front of a plane about to take off. Damages to the twin-engine turbo Falcon 10 were estimated at about \$900,000. Except for the geese, no one was in-

jured, and the pilot was able to stop on the runway before take-off.

Fred Stewart, manager and chief pilot of FMC Corporation (no relation to Pal-Waukee airport manager Fred E. Stewart), which leases space at Pal-Waukee, told the Pal-Waukee Airport Commission that the plane's owners, Emerson Electric Co., will not use the airport any more because of the geese living at the airport.

Most planes are built to withstand occasional unavoidable collisions with smaller birds, Stewart said, but Canada geese are so large that they cause excessive damage.

"These birds are lethal when mixed with aircraft of any size," Stewart told the commission. He added that not getting rid of the geese could lead to insurance problems for the airport.

Commission members said they had looked at various "fowl deterrents." The commission decided Wednesday night that they would try to get several "bird guns," cannon-like noise makers designed to keep birds away.

"This is not a gun that shoots things," commissioner Larry Hartley. "It uses propane and just makes

an abrupt noise, to frighten the birds away." Hartley estimated that enough noise makers for the entire airfield would cost about \$2,000.

"I think we'd be remiss not to do this," Commissioner Carey Chickeneo said. "Two thousand dollars is not much when you look at the damage the birds can do to planes." The commission unanimously decided to buy several of the noise guns and agreed to spend up to \$3,500.

Pal-Waukee Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said the money was available in this year's budget surplus.

Airport board seeks to evict stand owner

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Pal-Waukee Municipal Airport officials have begun proceedings to evict the owner of a fruit and vegetable stand who leases land from the airport.

Glenn Busse, who operates a business on the property at 1066 S. Milwaukee, during the summer, has been asked to clean up the property, but has not, according to airport commissioners. Junked cars and other debris litter the property, commissioners said. Busse could not be reached for comment.

"The place is just a junk yard," Commission Chairman Anthony Altieri said. Busse leases the land from the airport on a month-to-month basis, but the commission decided that because of the mess, they will evict Busse and get the property cleaned up.

"It's not really the tenant's problem," Altieri said. "I understand that people are just going in there and dumping stuff. There's all kinds of debris everywhere."

He noted that the airport does not have immediate plans for the property, but had been contacted by county officials who wanted the property cleaned up.

The commission has directed its attorney to notify Busse that his lease will be terminated.

Monday, April 25, 1988

Wheeling picks manager

A Wheeling trustee said Sunday that village board members have decided who will be the suburb's new manager, but officials will not announce their choice until tonight.

Although the new manager has been chosen, board members are holding off an announcement because "we want the proper people to be informed," said Trustee William A. Rogers. The board interviewed three finalists for the post on Sunday, Rogers said.

Village President Sheila H. Shultz said the board will take action at the village board meeting at 8 p.m. The board was expected Sunday to name a replacement for current Village Manager Thomas M. Markus. Markus resigned last month to take a job as city manager of Brooklyn Park, Minn.

Wheeling hires village manager

son was selected from those three, but the board kept its selection secret until Monday night.

"We wanted to give him a chance to contact his employer," Altieri said.

In his previous job, Anderson's salary was \$45,500. Anderson, 37, lives in Glenview with his wife and two children.

Markus, 37, has been Wheeling's village manager for eight years. He starts work next week as manager of Brooklyn Park, Minn., a Minneapolis suburb of 55,000.

The village board will hold a farewell reception for Markus at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, at the village hall.

the best qualified, citing his Anderson's experience and education. He has a master's degree in public administration from Roosevelt University, Chicago.

Trustee Anthony Altieri said the interview process was exhaustive. "We spent all day both days interviewing," he said.

Executive sessions were held Saturday and Sunday. The five finalists going into the interviews were questioned by the board all day Saturday, and then spent a few more hours in a less formal "cocktail party" at Chevy Chase County Club in Wheeling, Altieri said.

Three finalists were selected from the five, and invited back for second interviews Sunday. Ander-

After an intensive weekend of interviews, Wheeling trustees have selected a new village manager.

Craig G. Anderson will replace current Manager Thomas M. Markus, who leaves his post Friday to take a job in Minnesota.

Anderson will start June 1 at a salary of \$55,000 a year. He is currently assistant village manager in Glenview, a position he has held since 1980. Until Anderson takes over, Robert W. Fialkowski, assistant village manager, will be acting manager.

Village President Sheila H. Shultz said she felt Anderson was

DAILY BRIEFING

TODAY

Wheeling

• The Wheeling Liquor Control Commission will meet at 8 p.m. at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. Hearings for two liquor stores in Wheeling will be held to determine if the owners have violated the liquor code. Employees at both places have been accused of serving alcohol to minors. The hearing on alleged license violation by Hein's Pub will continue.

SUBURBAN REPORT

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Herald 4-20-88

New town manager is 'well-rounded'

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Less than two months after Wheeling Village Manager Thomas M. Markus announced his resignation, the village board found someone to take his place.

Craig G. Anderson, currently assistant village manager of Glenview, will take over Wheeling's top administrative post on June 1.

Anderson has held his current position in Glenview for eight years, the same amount of time Markus has managed Wheeling.

"I've always wanted to be a manager somewhere," Anderson explained. "I heard Tom was leaving to go to Minnesota, and I know Wheeling has a lot of things happening, has a good board and a professional staff."

Forty-five hopefuls submitted applications for the job awarded to Anderson this week. Anderson says he's not sure what convinced the board to select him, but noted that his experience in Glenview was probably a plus.

"Although I haven't been a manager," Anderson said, "being an assistant manager in Glenview is on a par with being a manager in a lot of other cities."

"Also, I'm already familiar with the area," he added. "I know about area-wide issues, such as Lake Michigan water allocations, collective bargaining, solid waste. But there is still tons of stuff I need to learn. I've got a lot to read up on."

Village President Sheila Schultz said Anderson's education was a strong factor in the board's decision.

"Although it doesn't sound very glamorous to say that experience, the interview and education are the basis of our choice, those were in fact the three main qualifications," Schultz said. "He had very good experience in Glenview. He's well-rounded, and handled the interview very well."

Markus would not comment on the board's choice, but said, "I've encouraged my staff to work with the new manager to make a smooth transition."



Craig Anderson, the new man in Wheeling's life.

Daily Herald Photo/Rich Chapman

Both Markus and Schultz had expressed support for another candidate, Wheeling assistant village manager Robert Fialkowski. Schultz said Fialkowski was a finalist, but would not comment further.

"I'm disappointed," Fialkowski

said Tuesday. "Obviously I was interested, but I will continue to perform as best I can. I'll support Craig."

Fialkowski, who has been assistant manager for more than seven years, will take over as acting manager for the month of May, since Markus leaves this Friday.

Meanwhile, Anderson is gearing up for the move. He is familiar with the Northwest suburbs, but will face many situations in Wheeling that he has not encountered before.

For example, Wheeling is in the midst of re-developing its downtown through a tax increment financing (TIF) district, a project Markus started.

"I'm excited about community development," Anderson said. In Glenview, much of the development efforts have centered on annexing land surrounding the village, Anderson said, "but in Wheeling, it's more within the village, inside redevelopment."

He added that he has never worked on a TIF district before, but has dealt with special service areas, another type of financing, generally used for improvements to a specific area.

Glenview's village employees do not have union representation, but Wheeling's do, so that will lead him into a whole new realm, probably from day one. Wheeling firefighter contract talks have been stalled for two years.

"Glenview doesn't have collective bargaining units," he said. "But we have what are called 'meet and confer' sessions with employees, which are almost the same thing as contract negotiations. I've handled those, and I have good interpersonal skills, which will help in that area." Anderson served as personnel director in Glenview.

When asked about pros and cons of the job, he said he doesn't really see any "cons," "otherwise I wouldn't be moving. It's a new role, and I'm sure there will be challenges. I've got some big shoes to fill."

The 37-year-old Anderson, who will be 38 when he starts his new job, has worked for Glenview for a total of 15 years, starting out in the public works department. He grew up in the Evanston and Glenview area, and attended Northern Illinois University in DeKalb.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

"Our officer sat in his car and watched the kid carrying the stuff out. It took two trips." — Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger on the liquor license suspension imposed on J.C. Liquors for selling liquor to youths. Bell Liquors was also cited for selling alcohol to a minor.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

"I know about area-wide issues, such as Lake Michigan water allocations, collective bargaining, solid waste. But there is still tons of stuff I need to learn. I've got a lot to read up on." — Assistant Village Manager Craig G. Anderson commenting on his selection as Wheeling Village Manager to replace outgoing manager Thomas M. Markus.

Herald 5-7-88

Post Office parking solution mulled

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Parking problems continue to plague the Wheeling Post Office, but the village postmaster says he's working on solutions.

Early this month, Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger asked the postmaster to do something about the excessive traffic at the post office. Haeger complained that the traffic was backing up into the street, creating a hazard for people trying to get into the lot and those

driving by.

Postmaster Wayne Van Heirseele said traffic was worse a few weeks ago, when a raise in postage rates and the impending income tax deadline brought extra customers to the post office.

"We still definitely have a problem, but it's not as bad as it was," Van Heirseele said. "In the early morning, it's still bad. But during the day, it eases off. When the new postage rates first went into effect, it was crowded all day, and it wasn't just Wheeling. Other post offices

were crowded, too, but they aren't on a heavily traveled road like Dundee."

He added that "now that everyone has the new stamps, we aren't as busy."

Van Heirseele said he has contacted regional U.S. Post Office officials, who are working on the problem. "They handle these things, because they have the money."

He said he recommended that a second branch post office be added in Wheeling, but the ultimate decision was out of his hands.

"My recommendation, obviously, would be to have an additional facility," the postmaster said. "We're getting short of space inside the building, too. But these things don't happen overnight."

Meanwhile, all Van Heirseele says he can do is wait for Post Office brass to study the problem and come up with a solution.

The Wheeling Post Office is located at 250 W. Dundee Road, directly across the street from the village hall and the police department.

HERALD 4-30-88

Work to close Northgate Parkway

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Northgate Parkway will be closed beginning Monday between Dundee Road and the Wheeling Drainage Ditch, as the revamping of a major Wheeling intersection begins.

Village Engineer James Edmond said the \$1.3 million project will make the hazardous intersection of Boehmer Road, Dundee and Northgate "a whole lot safer."

Boehmer Road and Northgate, which currently intersect Dundee at right angles, about 250 feet apart, will be connected at a 62-degree angle to form one road, with a traffic light at Dundee. Trucks and cars will no longer have to negotiate two turns onto and off of busy Dundee Road, once the project is complete.

"From an engineer's standpoint," Edmond said, "it's going to be absolutely beautiful."

However, in the meantime, the intersection will be anything but pretty.

Drivers who use Northgate to get from Dundee to Lake-Cook Road will have to detour along some of Wheeling's busier byways. Traffic will be re-routed along Dundee Road to Wolf, over to Milwaukee Avenue, up to Lake Cook Road, and back west to Northgate.

Some work on the project began last week, but the road closing was delayed from April 18 to May 2, until the Cook County Highway Authority installed temporary traffic signals at the intersection of Lake-Cook Road and Northgate Parkway, to handle the detoured traffic. Permanent signals are expected later this summer.

Edmond said the road will be closed for most of the summer. "I wouldn't plan on (the road being opened) before August," he said.

Commuters to the 21 businesses in the office complex at Northgate and Lake-Cook have been badgering the county to put the signals in for some time, saying the intersection is dangerous, particularly during rush hours.

The poles for those signals were put up early this week, and Edmond said the lights are in and are waiting for electrical power to be hooked up.

"It's going to be close," Edmond said. "ComEd said they'd be out to hook up the power as soon as possible. In the worst possible case, we'd close Northgate Monday, after the morning rush."

Total construction costs are estimated at \$1.3 million. Wheeling's share is \$234,993 and the state will pay \$160,126. The Federal Highway Administration picks up the largest part of the tab, \$931,681.



HERALD 5-3-88

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Senior center offers Rules of Road course

The Pavilion Senior Center, at Milwaukee Avenue and Strong Avenue, Wheeling, will sponsor a Rules of the Road refresher course from 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, May 25. The program is free for all people age 55 and up. For information, phone 459-2670.

Pal-Waukee pilots group holds meeting

The Pal-Waukee Airport Pilots Association (P.A.P.A.) will hold its general meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 11, at the Days Inn (formerly Pal-Waukee Motor Inn) on Milwaukee Avenue in Wheeling. The association will present its 1988 Distinguished Service Award to Prospect Heights resident Esther Noffke. Vern Jobst, a United Airlines Captain who was part of the recent around-the-world trip in a Boeing 747, will also speak.

School presents play 'Of Mice and Men'

Buffalo Grove High School will present the spring play, "Of Mice and Men," at 7:30 p.m. May 13 and 14 in the school theater, Dundee and Arlington Heights roads.

HERALD 5-5-88

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Clean the area

Wheeling's scout troops, community groups, residents and business leaders are asked to help clean up the community on "Up With Wheeling Day." The annual spring clean up will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday starting behind the Municipal Complex Fire Station, 255 W.

Dundee Road.

Car wash slated

The Wheeling Instrumental League will hold a car wash from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 7 in the east parking lot at Wheeling High School, 900 S. Elmhurst Road, Wheeling.

HERALD 5-5-88

'Waltz around the May Pole' today at Pavilion

The Wheeling Senior Citizens Pavilion invites you to "waltz around the May Pole" today at 1 p.m. at the center, 199 N. First St., Wheeling. Isabelle Stevenson and Joe Ochs will provide the music, and the highlight of the day will be the crowning of the 1988 "Super Senior." The senior elected to this honor will represent Wheeling in the North Shore Super Senior Program.

After the crowning at 1:30 p.m., Willie's Rosettes and Bake Sale will be held offering Willie Franta's famous rosette cookies and other seniors' special donations.

For further information on today's program, call the Senior Pavilion at 459-2670.

Lisa Schab
Wheeling



HERALD 5-5-88

Police dispatchers pact OK'd

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The village of Wheeling and its police radio dispatchers have approved a four-year contract which includes 5 percent annual raises for the next three years.

The contract was accepted by the village board this week, after a month of negotiations. Both sides said they were pleased with the resulting contract.

Wheeling Personnel Officer Susan Musick said the changes from the last contract were minimal, most

stemming from an attempt to make the language in the radio operators contract consistent with the police officers contract and the village personnel policy.

"I think both sides are happy," Musick said. There were no changes in employee benefits, she added, except that longevity bonuses, for employees of 12 years or more, were increased from \$400 to \$500.

The contract provides for renegotiation of wages only in the fourth year.

The radio operators are represented by the Cook County Combined Po-

lice Association. Union representative Ed Theriault said there were "no problems" with the new contract.

"The salaries are in the range for our area," Theriault said. "And the benefits are obviously good, for both sides."

He noted that starting salary range for radio dispatchers is between \$19,000 and \$20,000.

"The provisions of the radio operators contract are now in line with the police officers contract," he added. "Where it's applicable, the two contracts go hand in hand."

Herald 5-5-88

Village, county road work set

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

County and federal money will pour into Wheeling this summer, in the form of asphalt and concrete.

The largest project is widening Hintz Road to four lanes from Arlington Heights Road to Wolf Road. The county is expected to spend more than \$11 million in motor fuel tax funds for the Hintz Road projects.

Leo Mertka, head of advance planning for the Cook County Highway Department, said the job is actually three separate projects that should be finished by November 1989. Work has already begun, and the middle section, between

Route 83 and Wheeling Road, is expected to be completed by July, Mertka said.

Hintz is currently closed at the Soo Line railroad tracks, just west of Wheeling Road. The road will be open again next Tuesday, although widening work will continue between Wheeling and Wolf roads until November.

Wheeling Street Superintendent Robert Issleb said his department is busy sweeping and repairing streets and parkways damaged by winter, but the majority of summer work in Wheeling will be done by the county. The village is repaving three side streets: Tahoe Circle Drive, Alderman Drive and Edgewood Drive.

Issleb said work on Wheeling Road, between Palatine and Hintz roads, started last week. County crews will widen the road to four lanes, resurface it, and add curbs, gutters, storm sewers and landscaping. Federal funds cover 70 percent of the \$2.3 million project; county motor fuel tax will cover the remainder.

Drivers who head up to Dundee Road to avoid the congestion on Hintz will find their progress impeded by construction at the Northgate Parkway and Boehmer Road intersection, where the two roads are being realigned.

"Dundee's going to have a bottleneck at Northgate," Issleb said.

SUBURBAN REPORT

Herald 5-7-88

Annexation draws residents' ire

By KERI WYATT
and DAN ROZEK
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Wheeling officials have apparently thwarted an attempt by Prospect Heights to annex an island of unincorporated land by annexing part of the area first.

Wheeling earlier this week annexed five lots on the south end of Jackson Drive, cutting off most of the unincorporated area from Prospect Heights, which wanted to take it.

This is not sitting well with some residents at the north end of Jackson Drive, who say they want to join Prospect Heights.

Henry Schroeder, president of the Jackson Drive-Schoenbeck



Homeowners Association, called Wheeling's annexation a "dirty trick" to get him and his neighbors into Wheeling.
Wheeling Village Attorney

James Rhodes refuted the charge by saying, "At this time, the village of Wheeling has no intention of annexing the land to the north end of Jackson Drive."

Wheeling's annexation means Prospect Heights no longer borders the approximately 60-home area it wanted to incorporate. Since it no longer adjoins that unincorporated land, Prospect Heights apparently cannot annex it.

Prospect Heights officials reached for comment were unaware of Wheeling's annexation and declined to comment on the action or its possible effect on their plans.

Prospect Heights' annexation resolution still must be approved in court.

Herald 5-7-87

Water conservation rules return to Wheeling

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Even though Wheeling has increased its Lake Michigan water allocation this year, the village is still asking residents to conserve water during summer months.

Previously, the village was allowed to take up to 2.942 million gallons per day from the Lake Michigan system. The permit was revised to allow 4.022 million gallons per day for October 1988 through September 1989.

During summer, demands are

higher because the weather is drier, and people are watering lawns and washing their cars more often.

Residents are not allowed to use water for "non-essential" purposes during peak use hours, between noon and 6 p.m., June 15 through Sept. 15. Non-essential water uses include watering lawns and shrubs, washing cars, and filling pools.

David Kowal, village administrative assistant, said the conservation rules are a condition of the Illinois Department of Transportation permit allowing the village to use Lake Michigan water.

Kowal said Wheeling police will issue citations to residents who violate the conservation rules.

"Generally, they give a warning the first time. After that, they will issue a citation," Kowal said.

Deputy Chief Gary O'Rourke said the maximum fine is \$500 per offense.

"There is no bond required, but the person has to go to court, and the fine is completely up to the judge," he said.

Steven Handler, village prosecutor, said he sees very few cases each year, because most people obey the

rules. The fine he recommends "depends on the circumstances. I'm tougher if they've been warned before."

He noted that industrial areas "sprinkling 4 acres of lawn" are usually dealt with more harshly than someone who waters the bushes in their front yard at the wrong time.

Repeat offenders, of whom there are few, also face stiffer fines, but "traditionally, there's been very little problem," Handler said. "I suppose if they worked at it, someone could get me to make a recommendation (of the \$500 maximum)."

Herald 5-11-88

Pal-Waukee pilots to hold meeting

The Pal-Waukee Airport Pilots Association will hold its next general meeting at 7:30 p.m. today at the Pal-Waukee Motor Inn, Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling. The speaker will be Arthur T. Hill, III, an area manager at the Chicago O'Hare Airport control tower. He has been with the FAA for 22 years and has been a controller at Indianapolis Center, O'Hare and Detroit Metro.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Herald 5-11-88
"Generally, they give a warning the first time. After that, they will issue a citation." — Wheeling administrative assistant David Kowal commenting on a village plan to require residents to conserve water during summer months.

Herald 5-11-88

Wheeling seeks new planner

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling has begun searching for a new village planner to replace Richard Greenwood, who resigned recently to take a job with a private firm.

Monday was the final day for internal applications, according to Personnel Officer Susan Musick. Greenwood had held the post for more than eight years.

Musick said the village will expand the search starting today by placing advertisements in professional journals. Assistant Planner Christine Washburn has been named acting village planner in the interim.

Musick would not say how many applications have been received, but Washburn said Monday she had submitted her resume. She will have been with the village two years in August.

All village staff members are hired by the village manager, Musick said, but she will set up an interview committee, probably comprised of herself, Community Development Director Michael Klitzke and "maybe one other person. That hasn't been finalized."

That committee will screen applicants and make a recommendation to the village manager.

Assistant Village Manager Robert Fialkowski is acting manager until new hire Craig Anderson

takes over June 1.

Fialkowski said he wasn't sure when the position would be filled.

"If an internal applicant were not to get it, the timing is such that we wouldn't fill it until after the first of the month. So I don't know if I'll be hiring the person, or the new manager will," he said.

Greenwood said Monday his leaving had nothing to do with former village manager Thomas Markus' recent departure.

"I just wanted a change," Greenwood said. He declined to say where he is working now.

The job, which requires a degree in planning or a related field, and at least three years' experience, has a starting salary of \$30,823.

Herald 5-11-88

More than 200 spruce up Wheeling during cleanup

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

More than 200 Wheeling residents picked up trash, planted flowers and then chowed down some hamburgers and hot dogs in the village's annual "Up With Wheeling" spring cleanup day.

Village Assistant Planner Christine Washburn, who planned the day's activities, said the response was better than expected.

"We had a lot of Scout troops out, and a good showing from the senior citizens and the Jaycees," Washburn said. "But there were also quite a few individual residents who just came out to help, which was great."

Crews of cleaners, dressed in brightly colored "Up With Wheeling" t-shirts, picked up garbage all over

the village, filling two large dumpsters donated by Wheeling Disposal, Washburn said.

Paper, cans, and bottles were gathered everywhere, but the most unusual piece of garbage was an old Volkswagen engine, found near Wolf Road.

"Someone just abandoned this entire engine," Washburn said. "We had to send out an operations and maintenance truck to pick it up."

Although the forest preserve along Milwaukee Avenue is not technically the village's jurisdiction, crews foraged there as well, picking up some of the paper and trash.

"It was a great day, the weather was nice," Washburn said. "We had a great turnout."

The village provided the t-shirts and picnic lunch to the volunteers.

Herald 5-15-88

Wheeling seeking residents to fill committee vacancies

Wheeling is looking for a few good men and women to fill some vacancies on its various commissions and committees.

Wheeling has nine commissions and boards, staffed by 48 citizens who volunteer to help run the village. Seats will open June 30 for re-appointment on the appearance commission, board of health, fire and police commission, plan commission, police pension board, senior citizens commission and zoning board of appeals. Resignations have also opened one seat on the senior citizens commission and the zoning board of appeals.

Terms on each of the boards are staggered, so that a few expire each year. Village President Sheila Schultz said the board extends a re-

appointment offer to each of the members, but sometimes the offer is declined.

"A few terms expire every year," Schultz said. "If the person wants to be re-appointed, the board still re-interviews them. This stimulates some good discussion, and it's a good source of feedback from the commissions to the board."

Fourteen commission seats are up for re-appointment, and at least two are vacant due to resignations. The current terms expire June 30. Schultz said the board usually offers re-appointment, unless: "If we have several people interested in one spot, then we interview them all."

Schultz said letters will go out to those who are up for re-appointment, and interviews will be scheduled, although a date has not yet been set.

Herald 5-12-88

Strip shopping center proposed

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A developer who wants to build a strip shopping center at the northwest corner of Wolf and Dundee Roads will make a pitch for the project to the Wheeling Plan Commission tonight.

If approved, this would be the third shopping center on that corner. One already exists just west of the site on Dundee Road. Across the street, another center, which was approved by the village board April 18, will be under construction soon.

The approval for the center across the street, at the southwest corner of Dundee and Wolf, took

more than a month to get, since village trustees were fearful of traffic problems at the center.

Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said the latest proposed center is in a different situation because it is not expected to cause as many traffic problems.

"The main point on the other center was access," Klitzke said.

"This new project will be using only existing access, no new driveways. Also, the car movements are completely different on that side of the street."

The site currently holds a chiropractor's office, now vacant. Klitzke said the building will be torn down to make room for the proposed shopping center.

The area is already zoned for retail use, so developers who come in with plans that conform with village codes cannot be denied for the sole reason they are retail, according to Plan Commission Chairman Paul Eisterhold.

"If the guy has the zoning, and he's not asking for any variations, you can't deny him," he explained.

Trustees tried to deny Deano Vass, the developer who recently got approval for the shopping center across the street. Trustees reversed a decision denying that project after Vass modified his plans.

The plan commission meets at 7:30 p.m. tonight.

Herald 5-12-88

Annexation maneuvers vex residents

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The street is quiet, tree-lined. The lots are large, most of the houses older and neatly kept. A few appear to be home businesses, with several trucks parked in the driveway. Ditches, rather than curbs, border the street, which is haphazardly paved. Some of the lots are vacant.

Welcome to Jackson Drive, which, until last week, was in that no man's land known as "unincorporated area" — unclaimed by any town, governed by Cook County.

Jackson Drive was an island of land surrounded on three sides by Wheeling, and on the south by Prospect Heights. Some of the residents there wanted to become part of Prospect Heights, others, Wheeling. Some wanted to remain unincorporated.

Many of those who live on the north end of the street say they would like to be part of Prospect Heights, because they feel this would better maintain the character of their neighborhood.

But last week, the apparent battle lines between north and south were drawn. Wheeling quickly annexed five lots at the south end of Jackson Drive, the end closest to Prospect Heights. This move effectively cut off the connection between Prospect Heights and the north end of Jackson Drive, making annexation by Prospect Heights impossible.

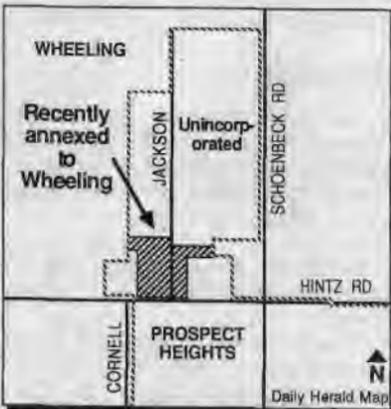
The same night that Wheeling annexed the five lots to the south, Prospect Heights passed a resolution calling for a court-ordered election that would allow residents to vote on whether they would like to be annexed into Prospect Heights. Now a judge will have to decide whether that election, scheduled for referendum ballot in November, will even be held.

Prospect Heights attorney Don



Bunny Schroeder, left, makes the case for residents of north Jackson Drive, surrounded by Donna Karlow (left), Lena and Ronald Spike.

Daily Herald Photo/Kent Kriegshauser



Kreger said the resolution will have to be interpreted in court, but declined to comment further until the city

council meets Monday.

Resident Henry Schroeder, who would like to be part of Prospect Heights, referred to the annexation as a "dirty trick," by Wheeling, but officials there claim it's only logical.

"We were aware of how those people felt," Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said. "But the logical division between the two towns is Hintz Road." Schultz said she knew what annexing the south end of the street would do, but went ahead with the action anyway.

Acting Wheeling Village Manager Robert Fialkowski said because not all the residents agreed, and "you can't please everybody," Wheeling went ahead and annexed the south end of the street.

"We obviously knew there were workings by Prospect Heights to get that property," Fialkowski said. "But we've felt all along that it would be in the best interests of Wheeling to have all the property north of Hintz Road not be in Prospect Heights."

"Those property owners (at the south end) requested that Wheeling annex them," Wheeling Village Attorney James Rhodes. He said the village did not initiate the annexation.

Rhodes said Wheeling has no ulterior motives for annexing the southern half of Jackson Drive and surrounding the northern portion.

See JACKSON on Page 3

JACKSON: Annexation troubles residents

Continued from Page 1

"At this time, the village has no intention of annexing the land to the north," he said.

"We'd love to stay unincorporated," resident Georgia Blyth said. "But we know we can't, so we'd rather go to Prospect." While they don't want to be part of Wheeling, Blyth said, she and her neighbors also fear that Wheeling will simply refuse to annex the area, and "keep dumping on us."

"I'm still hoping against hope that we can be in Prospect Heights," resident Lena Spike said.

Schroeder's wife, Bunny, agreed. "Prospect Heights has a half-acre minimum lot, but Wheeling's is much smaller," she said. "If we went into Wheeling we'd have to cap our wells, and Prospect Heights would let us keep them. We have nothing against Wheeling, we just would rather stay like we are. We all have one acre lots."

Another resident, Cheri Everly, said she has decided to move out. "I have a double empty lot next to my house. They could put up anything there with that kind of zoning. But if we went to Prospect Heights, I'd probably stay."

After considering both towns, the north Jackson Drive residents say they filed a petition with Prospect Heights, asking to be annexed into that city. They also wrote to Wheeling, informing them of their decision.

Fialkowski said the residents' "only alternatives are stay unincorporated or become part of the village of Wheeling."

"That's hard to explain to my kids," Bunny Schroeder said. "We told them you listen to the majority, because that's the way America works. We did everything we were supposed to do, but it didn't work. That's hard for them, and for me, to understand."

HERALD 5-17-88

Safety worries stall shopping center

BY DAN COIT
Daily Herald Correspondent

Plans to build a strip shopping center at the northwest corner of Dundee and Wolf roads in Wheeling have stalled because officials are worried about safety on sidewalks in the center, and the project's design.

Delko Construction Company presented a proposal to build the 12-store, two-building facility but Wheeling plan commissioners were worried that the design of a 6-foot covered sidewalk would be too narrow.

Commission Chairman Paul Eisterhold said the original plan would allow the front bumpers of parked cars to extend onto the walk and would present a safety hazard for shoppers.

"When you have a 3-foot door opening onto a 6-foot public walkway I think the building should be shortened up," he said.

The commission also was concerned about the overall look of the buildings and the fact the architecture would not blend in with neighboring properties.

Commissioner Donald Duncan said, "It's not so much worrying

about the guy next door, it's like building a car that's half Cadillac and half Chevrolet."

The commission recommended the developer extend a building wall and revise the landscaping plan.

Delko spokesman Charles Vander Vennet said the requirements would be difficult to comply with, because two alleys run through the property.

"If the alleyways weren't there we could shift the buildings around to make it look like one structure. If we had to wall off the two buildings to completely separate them we could, but the cure would be worse than the disease," he said.

Eisterhold said the plan was nevertheless unsatisfactory and would need to be changed before the commission would recommend approval.

"Because of the problems we had across the street we're trying to eliminate problems here before they begin," he said, referring to another shopping center at the southwest corner of the same intersection that was almost rejected because of traffic problems.

Delko officials will revise their proposal and are expected to resubmit it at the next meeting of the plan commission in two weeks.

Herald 5-14-88

Commission backs center plan

BY DAN COIT
Daily Herald Correspondent

The Wheeling Plan Commission is recommending that a \$3.1 million shopping center be allowed to be built on the southeast corner of Elmhurst and McHenry roads.

Creek Side Shopping Center will be built by TDK Development in a style similar to the Loehmann's Plaza shopping center at Golf and Arlington Heights roads in Arlington Heights.

TDK President Terence M. King said his plan is to build an "upscale" center that will be a focal point of the area.

"Our formula is to develop quality, attractive shopping centers in

appropriate areas. We take the care to ensure what we build we can be proud of and the community can be proud of," he said.

Because the rear of the property includes a portion of the Buffalo Creek/Wheeling Drainage Ditch flood plain, TDK will need approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Illinois Division of Water Resources before the village will issue building permits.

The builder's plans include modifying the creek bed and rebuilding the banks to move the existing flood plain area several feet to the southeast.

King said the plans have already

been reviewed by the agencies, however, and he expects approval of all the groups to allow construction to begin in June.

TDK had proposed a similar project on the same property in 1980. But that proposal was turned down by officials because of concerns about both the drainage and the size of the proposed development.

"One of the many differences between this development and the one we proposed in 1980 is the size," King said.

He said the present plan now incorporates the recommendations of the village and has been designed to fit "more aesthetically" on the property."

SUBURBAN REPORT

Herald 5-2-88

Pal-Waukee plans to add staff

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Pal-Waukee Municipal Airport officials are considering expanding the management staff of the airport.

The proposed 1988-89 airport budget includes \$73,127 to add a secretary and two assistant managers, one in the area of finance and administration, another for operations and maintenance.

The new staff would work with airport manager Fred E. Stewart, who has been managing the facility since January. However, they would not be hired for another six months or so, Stewart said.

The budget, which is expected to

be approved within two weeks, allocates \$18,127 for the secretary's salary, \$30,000 for the maintenance and operations manager, and \$25,000 for the finance manager. Stewart earns \$49,000.

Because the new assistants won't be hired for a while, airport commissioner Anthony Altieri said, the whole amount allocated for their salaries will not be spent.

Commissioner William Rogers said the new assistant managers would act independently in their areas, not just assist Stewart.

The airport has a consulting management contract with Airport Corporation of America, a New Jersey firm that helped manage the airport between the time it

was purchased by Wheeling and Prospect Heights and the hiring of Stewart.

"There's a chance that Airport Corporation of America would be our financial manager," Rogers said. "They already do our book-keeping."

Priester Aviation, the former owner of the airport, currently is responsible for maintenance work, including tasks like snow removal, grass cutting and other upkeep.

"The maintenance agreements (with Priester) terminate in 1989," Altieri said. "The question came up, do we want to start assuming some of these duties? Fred wants to assume more, but needs staff to help him."

Herald 5-6-88

5 local areas will fight landfill

By TED GREGORY
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Bartlett, Hanover Township and three other local governments filed suit Thursday charging that Cook County's approval of a \$35 million landfill proposal near Bartlett was "arbitrary, capricious and unlawful."

The 26-page suit is asking the Cook County Circuit Court to overturn the county board's approval of the "balefill," so named because garbage is baled before it is buried. Northwest Municipal Conference, an agency representing 38 local governments, is planning the balefill for about 410 acres north of West Bartlett Road and east of

Route 25 in unincorporated Cook County.

The suit claims the conference, Cook County and Chicago Gravel Co., owners of the property, broke the law in failing to provide adequate notice of public hearings on the proposed balefill. In addition, the conference neglected to submit "detailed plans" to county officials, the suit charges.

The Cook County board took an "unlawful abdication of duties" by allowing the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to determine the balefill's effect on public health, the suit claims.

The proposed balefill breaks zoning guidelines because it "fails to encourage a pattern of develop-

ment to preserve natural vegetation" and geography, the suit charges and a balefill would contaminate water while increasing traffic.

"The plan offers only one environment, a garbage dump," the suit states. Elgin, South Elgin, Wayne and Spring Lakes Mobile Home Park, which is directly east of the proposed balefill site, joined Bartlett and Hanover Township.

William F. Abolt, assistant director of the conference, said the suit "seems to be a rehashing of the same issues" argued and resolved in nine public hearings culminating with the county board's approval Nov. 16. The conference must respond to the suit in 30 days.

Herald 5-18-88

Terms reached on airport lease

By KERI WYATT
and DAN ROZEK
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Officials in Wheeling and Prospect Heights have reached an agreement with Priester Aviation which requires Charles Priester to pay back rent on leases owed to the Pal-Waukee Municipal Airport, and an additional \$154,000 to hire a maintenance manager for the airport.

The Wheeling village board and Prospect Heights City Council approved the agreement Monday, which requires Priester to pay \$111,871.92 for back rent on hangars he leases from the airport.

The agreement further stipu-

lates that Priester pay \$154,204.25 for "additional consideration."

Wheeling Village Attorney James Rhodes said the second payment was to help pay for a maintenance person. Priester has already made both payments, Rhodes noted.

The owners want Priester to pay part of the cost of adding an assistant manager because that person will assist Priester with his maintenance duties, Prospect Heights Administrator Robert R. Kiely said.

Airport Manager Fred Stewart said the money is not specifically earmarked for the new assistant manager's salary, "but that's what we're going to be using it for." He

said Priester agreed to pay the \$154,000, which is equal to \$20,000 per year for the remaining years of his lease, including renewal options. Stewart said the agreement was "totally amicable, there was no arm twisting."

The rent payment was made early in April, after the towns, which bought the airport in December 1986, threatened to terminate leases on buildings for which payments were as much as six weeks late.

This year's airport budget includes \$30,000 for an "assistant manager of maintenance and operations." Priester's contribution will defray that cost.

HERALD 5-18-88

Trustees won't budge on annexation

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

About a dozen residents of an unincorporated area near Wheeling unsuccessfully tried to persuade Wheeling trustees to reverse a decision made last week that annexed property at Jackson Drive and Hintz Road to the village.

The residents, most of whom live at the north end of Jackson Drive, were upset by the annexation of land at the south end of the street because they wanted to annex to Prospect

Heights. Last week's annexation created a barrier between the north end of Jackson Drive and Prospect Heights, making annexation to any town but Wheeling virtually impossible.

Richard Poulos, a Jackson Drive resident who has been a leader in the fight to annex to Prospect Heights, accused the board of taking away the rights of the residents.

"We were led to believe we would be allowed to make that decision," Poulos said. "That right has been taken away."

Before Wheeling's actions, the area had been scheduled for a November referendum which would allow all residents to choose which town they would want to annex to.

Rather than reverse last week's decision, the board added several lots along Hintz Road to its jurisdiction, through an involuntary annexation process allowed by state law. When a village surrounds an unincorporated area less than 60 acres in size, it may annex the property without the property owners consent.

Resident Phillip Rouse said

Wheeling had "created an unincorporated ghetto," cut off from any other town.

Resident Henry Schroeder noted that many of the parcels annexed during the last two weeks are in violation of village codes, and would have to request special use permits or zoning changes. The land is all currently zoned for single family residential use.

"I regret that any one has lost trust in us," Schultz said. "We do the best we can, and we try to look at the good of the entire community."

SUBURBAN REPORT

Herald 5-23-88

Donor pays for park equipment

By STUART R. PADDOCK III
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Thanks to an anonymous donor, Last Four Acre Park in Wheeling will have new playground equipment as early as this fall.

The donor gave the \$9,800 necessary to build the playground for toddlers.

Plans call for a "Lokville" unit, which has ladders leading to two elevated decks joined by a crawl tube. It also has a tube slide, a ski slide, a cyclone slide and a swing set. Near the unit will be a race car rider and a "Columbia Rider," which is designed like the space shuttle.

Several months ago, the park

district applied for a community development grant for the same playground from the Hidden Valley Ranch Company which is located in Wheeling and is a subsidiary of the Clorox Company in California.

Park District Superintendent Karop Bavougian said he has not heard from Hidden Valley.

Last Four Acre Park has been the subject of debate recently between the park board and its citizens advisory committee.

The committee was concerned that little would be done to the park beyond the grading and seeding that was done last fall. In a prior meeting, board members said no money was available and the

original plans would have to be put on hold.

Original plans designed by Rose and Associates, a landscaping architectural firm, called for two smaller than usual softball diamonds, a basketball court, a tot lot and a playground for older children. The estimated cost was more than \$165,000.

Realizing they could not afford the full cost of the project, the park board agreed to construct the park as funds became available.

But now, the equipment may be installed by September, Bavougian said. "We have to wait for the turf to establish and it will take a couple of months for the equipment to arrive."

HERALD 5-24-88

3 staffers in Pal-Waukeee budget

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Pal-Waukeee Municipal Airport officials approved a \$911,000 airport budget that includes funds to hire three new staffers, including two assistant managers.

Officials from Prospect Heights and Wheeling, as airport co-owners, still must approve the budget, although the airport is self-sufficient and uses no public funds.

The 1988-89 budget includes \$847,402 for operating expenses and \$64,090 for capital expenses.

Those expenses will be paid with revenue generated at the airport, Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart

said.

After operating expenses are paid, excess revenues go to pay capital expenses. After deducting projected capital expenses, the budget has money left over to use for the airport's share of grants.

Federal and state grants are often used for land acquisition or other large projects, and require the airport to pay a percentage of the project cost.

Projected revenue for the airport this year is \$1,218,696, which after covering estimated expenses leaves \$307,204 to pay for grants.

Most of the revenues come from a "flowage fee" on fuel sold at the air-

port, hangar rentals and "tie down" fees from pilots whose planes are parked outdoors.

One of the biggest expenses in this year's budget is for three new staff members; a secretary and two assistant managers to help Stewart run the airport.

The budget includes \$22,659 salary and related benefits for the secretary; \$40,000 for an assistant manager of operations and maintenance and \$33,750 for a second assistant, specializing in finance and administration.

Stewart, who is paid \$49,000 annually, told the airport commission that the new assistant managers would not be hired immediately, so

the entire amounts budgeted would not be spent this year.

"We expect to hire our operations and maintenance assistant in about October," Stewart said. "The finance person would come on in February, so he'd be ready for full responsibility by the next fiscal year."

Part of the new operations and maintenance manager's salary will be funded by money paid this week to the airport by Priester Aviation, former owner of the airport.

Because Priester was late in paying some of the lease payments on hangars the company rents from the airport, company officials agreed to pay back rent, plus \$154,000 to help defray the cost of the new assistant.

HERALD 5-23-88

Complaints delay drain system

By KRIS KOPP
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Complaints from residents living on Jackson Drive in unincorporated Wheeling Township are holding up Buffalo Grove's plan to build a \$500,000 drainage system in University Court.

Buffalo Grove Village Manager William R. Balling said they are already one month behind on the project, which will alleviate flooding problems that six residents living on University Court have had since 1969.

The plans are being presented to Wheeling officials because the three-acre site for the facility is in Wheeling.

Buffalo Grove has paid \$86,000 for the site, which is located just south of Tarkington School. In the meantime, officials have agreed to take out a \$2 million tax-backed loan, a portion of which will pay for the drainage system.

But residents of Jackson Drive are objecting to the drainage facility, which they say will further contribute to flooding on their own street.

"I can understand what they are trying to do and how they are trying to make it work," resident Ray Lipovitch said. "I guess I just want to make sure it is designed properly to protect the people on Jackson Drive."

Balling and Public Works Direc-

tor Gregory Boysen said the system will not create further problems for Jackson Drive residents.

"The natural flow out of University Court is onto Jackson Drive and we are trying to accommodate that flow," Boysen said.

Balling said the flooding problems in that area involve Buffalo Grove, Wheeling, Wheeling Township and Arlington Heights. A study was conducted outlining improvements that each group would need to make to solve the drainage woes.

Wheeling plan commissioners will review the plans at 7:30 p.m., Thursday in the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

• "It is essential to deal with employee problems. The employees have to deal with them, so they won't impact productivity."
— Wheeling Village Manager Thomas M. Markus commenting on a plan to spend \$5,000 to set up an "employee assistance program" which would provide counseling to employees whose personal problems are interfering with their work.

HERALD 5-21-88

PUBLIC SPEAKING

• "This is a very technical case. I have to decide if the village had enough evidence to meet the state criteria." — Cook County Circuit Court Judge Alexander White commenting on Wheeling's efforts to condemn land at the northwest corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue to build an \$8.9 million shopping center.

HERALD 5-4-88

Controversy mires truck yard

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The village of Wheeling, the city of Prospect Heights and local homeowners are joining forces to stop a gravel truck storage yard from further operating in a residential area.

The property is located on Hintz Road, just west of Jackson Drive in unincorporated Cook County, between the two towns. It is already being used to store gravel trucks, but the owner applied for a zoning change and that opened the door for neighbors to complain.

Local residents, both towns and the Lakeside Villas Homeowners Association are filing objections

with the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals, which governs the use of the land.

Owners Thomas Conroy and his wife wanted to get a permit to operate a storage yard, "to avoid problems in the future," according to their attorney, William Moore.

Although the property is operating legally, and has been for about 40 years, it does not conform to existing zoning, Moore said. His clients wanted to get a special use permit to "legitimize" the storage facility.

"We decide to do this to prevent problems, and all of a sudden a bunch of people on Jackson Drive go bananas," Moore said.

Prospect Heights City Adminis-

trator Robert R. Kiely said the city first heard about the situation from those residents.

"We feel a gravel storage yard is totally incompatible with the residential use in that area," Kiely said.

Moore said he expects Wheeling to attempt to annex the property.

Wheeling Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said the village is objecting to the owner's request because of concerns about noise, dust and debris generated by the gravel trucks.

Because the land is surrounded by the village of Wheeling, and is less than 60 acres, Klitzke said it "meets the requirements for involuntary annexation."

HERALD 5-4-88

Fourth of July committee schedules fund-raising activities

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling 4th of July Committee is stepping up its fund-raising efforts to plan an exciting Independence Day celebration.

Judy Abruscato, committee chairwoman, said the fireworks display will be put on by Melrose Fireworks, the company which handles the dec-

orative explosives at Comiskey Park in Chicago.

"A lot of people were disappointed last year (with the fireworks)," Abruscato said. "We were too. But I think this year it's going to be a lot better." The committee has allocated \$8,000 for the fireworks display, to be held at Heritage Park July 4.

The committee has hosted several fund-raising events, and received donations from businesses in the

area. This weekend, Domino's Pizza on Dundee Road will sell slices of pizza for 50 cents each, and donate part of the proceeds to the 4th of July celebration.

Wa-Pa-Ghetti's recently donated \$404 to the Independence Day cause, raised through a coupon campaign.

St. Joseph the Worker Church will also donate to the cause, Abruscato said.

The next big Fourth fund-raising effort will be held at Striker Lanes bowling alley. A "scotch doubles" bowling tournament will be held at 9 p.m. May 28 at the bowling alley, at 100 W. Dundee Road, Buffalo Grove.

Cost is \$25 per couple. Buffet, door prizes and alley prizes are included. Reservations must be made by calling Abruscato at 541-8788 or Sue Ugolini at 537-7893 before May 22.

Herald 5-4-88

Protests delay plans to build detention pond

BY LINDA MAIZELS
and KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Buffalo Grove's plans to buy a piece of property in Wheeling and build a water detention pond have been delayed by angry residents who oppose the project.

Residents of an unincorporated area near the border of Wheeling and Buffalo Grove are fighting Buffalo Grove's attempts to buy the lot, valued at \$86,300, from the village of Wheeling.

Buffalo Grove is trying to buy the property, at the north end of Jackson Drive, which is located off of Hintz Road just west of Schoenbeck Road. If the plan is approved, it would provide flood control for a subdivision in Buffalo Grove. The pond, although owned by Buffalo Grove, would remain in within the village of Wheel-

ing.

Buffalo Grove officials told Wheeling plan commissioners that the basin, which would measure 300 feet in width by 406 feet in length and would be 14 feet deep, would collect excess flood water and dispose of it through a pumping system. The water would then be released into a storm sewer system.

"The water would go into the west ditch line of Jackson Drive," said Greg Boysen, director of public works in Buffalo Grove. "We found that the natural drainage course for the Buffalo Grove area was southeasterly, along Jackson Drive."

Wheeling Plan Commission Chairman Paul Eisterhold said the basin would be dry most of the time, and even during rains the water would drain out of the pond.

Flooding has been a continual problem for the residents on the

street. Residents, who live in a small unincorporated area of Cook County between the two villages, told officials that they feared the new pond would aggravate the problems.

"My property is considered waterfront property much of the time," said Phil Roos, 2919 Jackson Drive.

"This is a problem that needs to be addressed on a larger scale than you have proposed. The people in unincorporated Cook County are seemingly receiving the brunt of the water dumped on Jackson Drive," Roos added.

Residents did not like the appearance of the proposed basin, as plans would call for the removal of some trees in the lot. Also, the developers were considering the construction of a fence around the basin to reduce the danger to neighborhood children. Boysen said that the fence was not necessary and was included to ap-

peal to the residents.

Resident Rick Poulos, 2829 N. Jackson Dr., said that the fact that the village was willing to build a fence proved that there was a problem.

"The fence would protect the neighbors from a nuisance the petitioner is asking to construct," Poulos said.

Wheeling plan Commissioner Steven Walanka called the proposed basin "an attractive nuisance."

"You might not want it used as a recreational site but it might be used as a recreational site. How are you going to keep the kids from playing in it?" Walanka asked.

The commission will resume debate on the problem May 26. In the meantime, residents can submit written complaints that representatives of Buffalo Grove said they will respond to.

Herald 5-25-88

Condemnation ruling due soon

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A decision on condemnation proceedings filed against several downtown Wheeling businesses could come within three weeks, either clearing the way for a major redevelopment project or further stymying village efforts to fix up the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

The property owners and village officials are waiting for a ruling from Cook County Circuit Court Judge Alexander White. White said Monday he is still researching the evidence and he expects to hand down his opinion "in two or three weeks."

"This is a very technical case," White said. "I have to decide if the village had enough evidence to meet the state criteria" for setting up a tax increment financing (TIF) district.

Property owners are fighting Wheeling's efforts to condemn their land and build an \$8.9 million shopping center, arguing in court that the area does not meet criteria for a TIF district. Such districts are established to improve an area, and any incremental increases in property taxes generated by the upgrade are used to repay loans for the project.

Wheeling Village Attorney James Rhodes said if the court rules in Wheeling's favor, condem-

nation trial dates will be set.

Vantage Companies Inc., Arlington Heights, has a contract to buy the land from the village, and build the shopping center. Vantage retail senior vice president Richard Hulina said despite the delays, he is still enthusiastic about the project and plans to go ahead as soon as the property is acquired.

Dunkin' Donuts, Wheeling Auto, Tien Tsin restaurant, a house next door to Tien Tsin, Dreiske's Florist and one vacant lot were condemned. The village has bought eight other properties already.

Michael Norris, attorney representing Eugene Wang, owner of Tien Tsin restaurant, said he is optimistic about the outcome.

SUBURBAN REPORT

HERALD 5-27-88

Cops aim to curb prom drinking

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling police will be spending extra time in liquor store parking lots this weekend, in an effort to curb underage drinking at Wheeling High School's prom.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said his officers will watch local liquor stores tonight and again Saturday and Sunday to prevent high school students from buying alcohol for pre- or post-prom parties.

"We're not watching so much for the purpose of arresting them," Haeger said. "We're just trying to discourage them from trying to get the alcohol. All it takes is one kid getting a bit intoxicated, and

getting into an accident."

He noted, however, that minors caught with alcohol will be arrested. Wheeling High School's prom is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. tonight at the Westin Hotel in Rosemont.

Wheeling High School teacher and junior class sponsor JoAnn Smith said the school is trying to discourage drinking in a variety of ways.

"When the kids bought tickets, we gave them a little booklet about the prom, and it included little messages about 'Just Say No,' and 'Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk,'" Smith said. "This week we sent out confirmation letters to the kids who are going, and it included a letter and a key ring

from SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving)."

Smith said parents of prom-goers also got letters asking them not to allow students to have parties with alcohol.

Haeger said he hopes parents won't allow their children to get a hotel room and have a party.

Some schools sponsor after-prom parties to give students an alternative to parties where they might be drinking illegally. Wheeling High School tried that a few years ago, Smith said, "but I think we only sold four tickets. It just didn't work."

She said it's probably something the parents should do, not the school.

Herald 5-28-88

Pond to benefit downstream

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A detention pond designed to alleviate flooding in a Buffalo Grove subdivision will also help residents downstream, Buffalo Grove officials contend.

The Wheeling Plan Commission Thursday unanimously approved the village of Buffalo Grove's plans to build a detention pond between University Drive and Jackson Drive. Buffalo Grove needed Wheeling's approval since the three-acre site, which it recently purchased, is within Wheeling's boundaries.

Civil engineer John Mackie, who had prepared a report on the project when it was first proposed,

told the commission that "less water will go down Jackson" as a result of the project.

"There is no doubt in my mind this will improve the situation," he said. "Just how much is subject to discussion."

The basin would remain dry most of the time, and when water is collected in it during storms, it would be released at a controlled rate. Mackie noted that the release rate was even more restrictive than the one he had recommended in his report, making the \$500,000 drainage system "a significant remedy for flooding problems on University Court and the north end of Jackson Drive."

Residents who had opposed the project last month, fearing it

would create more flooding problems on Jackson Drive, were pleased to see that Buffalo Grove had revised its plans by removing a fence and adding more trees.

Chairman Paul Eisterhold said that many of the residents had submitted written questions after that meeting, and that written responses from both villages had been sent out.

However, some residents were still worried about the depth of the pond. Although village ordinances restrict depth of detention ponds to four feet, the pond will be 14 feet deep.

Wheeling Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said the four foot requirement was an "aesthetic guideline."

Herald 5-29-88

New village manager takes office

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's new village manager, Craig G. Anderson, moves into village hall this week.

Anderson will begin work Wednesday. The former assistant manager of Glenview says he is looking forward to working in Wheeling, and has been reading up on village issues.

"General development in Wheeling is one of the bigger issues" he anticipates dealing with as the new top administrator. "A lot of what's happening now in Wheeling is akin to

what's going on in Glenview, but it's with property already inside the village. In Glenview, we've been working more on annexing land outside the village."

Anderson says his experience in that area may help him handle the current situation on Jackson Drive, where Wheeling recently annexed several acres. Some residents left in an unincorporated area were unhappy with Wheeling's action, which thwarted their plans to annex to Prospect Heights.

However, Anderson says he supports the annexation.

"From a planning perspective, it

makes sense," he said. "Cook County's comprehensive plan indicates their ultimate desire is to have all the land in the county incorporated into cities and villages. Wheeling's action certainly is in line with that and sets up a reasonable division, on Hintz Road, between Prospect Heights and Wheeling."

Another situation Anderson will face soon is contract negotiations with the Wheeling Firefighters Association.

"I'm anxious to get started," Anderson said. Although Glenview does not have employee unions, Anderson served as personnel director and has

dealt with employee representatives.

Anderson will also have to hire a new village planner to fill the vacancy created by the recent resignation of Richard Greenwood. He said he will not be bringing any staff members with him from Glenview, nor did he have anyone in mind for the job.

"I would imagine we'll go through the normal recruitment process," he said.

Anderson said he is buying a house in Wheeling, in the Richfield subdivision. He and his wife and two daughters expect to move into the village in late July.



Laurels to more than 200 Wheeling residents who picked up trash and planted flowers in the village's annual "Up with Wheeling" spring cleanup day. Village Assistant Planner Christine Washburn, who planned the day's activities said the response was better than expected. "We had a lot of Scout troops out, and a good showing from the senior citizens and the Jaycees," she said. "But there were also quite a few individual residents who just came out to help, which was great." Crews of cleaners, dressed in brightly colored "Up With Wheeling" T-shirts, picked up garbage all over the village, filling two large dumpsters donated by Wheeling Disposal.

Herald 5-31-88

SUBURBAN REPORT

Wheeling nabs young drinkers

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's weekend crackdown on underage alcohol use resulted in the arrests of nearly a dozen minors, six of them for using fake identification cards.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger said that none of those arrested were students at Wheeling or Buffalo Grove high schools, where proms were held over the weekend.

Last week Haeger sent letters to both high schools asking that students be warned of the stepped-up patrols, and encouraging the students not to drink in conjunction with the prom.

"Maybe we accomplished our goal of discouraging the high school kids from trying to buy or use alcohol," Haeger said, noting that most of those arrested were old enough to be out of high school, and none lives in Wheeling.

All seven minors caught using fake identification were arrested outside of J.C. Liquors, 1061 Lake-Cook Road.

J.C. Liquors will not face any charges in the incidents, because the cards were not altered, they just didn't belong to the people who presented them.

"We can't hold clerks to higher standards," Haeger said. "These were good IDs. They appeared to be valid. This is not an effort to get

the store, it's an effort to get the kids."

Youths charged were from Vernon Hills, Mount Prospect, Buffalo Grove, Deerfield, Prairie View and Long Grove.

Haeger said the fake IDs varied from an Illinois State University student ID to a Missouri driver's license, and have not been linked to a specific source.

"We've heard it's very easy to purchase these cards," Haeger said. "That's the next thing we're going to be looking into. What type of cards are they, where are they coming from?"

He said he is encouraging stores to call police if they suspect someone is trying to use false IDs.

Commission OKs flood project

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

6-2-88
Buffalo Grove may store some of its excess water in Wheeling, the Wheeling Plan Commission said last week.

Plan commissioners recommended that the village board approve plans for a three-acre, 14-foot deep detention basin on land just south of Booth Tarkington School off North Jackson Drive.

The action comes one month after the commission delayed giving its nod of approval to the plan when about 20 residents living on Jackson Drive expressed concerns that the detention basin would increase flooding in their neighborhood and lower their property values.

But both Buffalo Grove and Wheeling officials say the plan to provide drainage for a 52-acre area of Buffalo Grove will actually improve drainage on Jackson Drive.

"(THE PLAN) can't do anything but improve the situation on Jackson Drive," said civil engineer John Mackie, who was hired by Buffalo Grove to study the impact of the proposed detention basin on the area.

Mackie and Wheeling Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said the plan would slow the frequent flooding of Jackson Drive during major storms.

The stormy accusations made by residents at the previous public hearing were absent from Thursday's meeting. Only several residents asked questions of the plan commission or of Buffalo Grove officials and witnesses.

Many of the residents' questions were answered in a detailed letter written by both villages that was sent to all concerned residents.

IN THAT LETTER, Buffalo Grove said the plan meets both village and state regulations, and that all permits necessary for the plan have been secured. The village also said the clay will be placed in gaps in the sand beneath the basin to ensure that storm water does not leak into the aquifers that feed area residents' wells.

In Wheeling's response, the village said the plan would not generate any more water into the Jackson Drive area than had previously entered it. The village also said the basin's design, which calls for a capacity handling any storm within a 100-year period, is standard.

For Phil Mostaccio, who owns the one-acre lot directly east of the basin site, the concern was for his Jackson Drive neighbors. He said he plans to build a new home on his parcel and is concerned about potentially declining property values around him.

"I like the new plan because I have to look at it," Mostaccio said, "but my neighbors to the south have to wear it."

OTHER RESIDENTS WANTED guarantees that future developers upstream wouldn't quietly hook onto the new drainage system, thereby overloading the new basin. But Greg Boysen, Buffalo Grove's director of public works, said most of the upstream area is developed, adding that any future developer would have to meet stiffer drainage guidelines.

Boysen said construction of the detention pond was Buffalo Grove's only alternative in solving the drainage problem along University Court and adjacent streets.

He said the existing development was built before village ordinances required developers to retain their own storm water.

Buffalo Grove has already approved nearly \$500,000 for the purchase of the land and construction of the detention basin. The village has an purchase option with elementary School District 21 for the three-acre parcel, currently zoned for single-family residential housing.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE project, which includes razing a home currently on the site, could begin a little more than 30 days of a village board approval, Boysen said.

Buffalo Grove was required to seek a special use permit from Wheeling because of the intended use of land. The special use provisions outlined in the Wheeling zoning ordinances allows the village to closely monitor development of land that comes under unique circumstances, such as putting a detention basin on land zoned for housing.

In answering some residents' concerns, Boysen said there was precedent for detention basin construction on residential property.

Because of questions raised at the public hearing, Buffalo Grove has agreed to plant more trees surrounding the basin and to not build a fence along the perimeter of the site.

The plan commission recommendation will now go before the village board, which is expected to make its decision at its June 20 meeting.

8 youths charged with buying liquor

Wheeling police arrested eight area youths over the weekend for buying alcohol at a local liquor store with fake identification.

Police say the eight were arrested Friday and Saturday after buying liquor at the J.C. Liquor store in the Lexington Commons Plaza shopping center at Lexington Drive and Lake-Cook Road.

J.C. Liquor was fined \$1,000 last month and ordered to close for 10 days for selling to teenagers without asking for identification. Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger said, however, that the liquor store was not at fault in the weekend's crackdown.

Haeger said plain-clothed officers waited in unmarked cars in the store parking lot or were customers in the store before apprehending the suspects.

The chief said the store has a reputation of selling to underage drinkers. "The word was out on the street that it was easy to buy there," Haeger said. But now, he said, J.C. Liquor and other Wheeling stores are being more cautious. "We know they're watching it. Because we're watching them," Haeger said.

The police department had sent out letters to parents of students of Wheeling, Buffalo Grove and Stevenson high schools indicating that the department was taking action to curb the sale of alcohol to those under 21 years old.

Arrested and charged were: Bryan Ulbrich, 18, of 7 Beechwood Court, Buffalo Grove, charged with misrepresentation of age and underage possession of alcohol; Lawrence Platek, Jr., 18, of 516 Deborah Lane, Mount Prospect, underage possession of alcohol; Bradley J. Anderson, 17, 264 Cottonwood, Buffalo Grove, misrepresentation of age; William G. Sullivan, 20, 4112 Three Lakes Dr., Long Grove, underage possession of alcohol; Dennis Daughtridge, 20, 892 Swan Lane, Deerfield, misrepresentation of age, underage possession of alcohol; Noel E. Smith, 18, 774 Westmoreland, Vernon Hills, misrepresentation of age, underage possession of alcohol; Robert C. Rinaldi, 17, 20818 N. Florence, Prairie View, underage possession of alcohol; and Salvatore Boccia, 17, misrepresentation of age, underage possession of alcohol.

Thursday, June 2, 1988

Wheeling Countryside

Wheeling Township '87 assessment up 5.9%

Countryside 6-2-88
School districts and governments in Wheeling Township may hit a bonanza this year.

Cook County Assessor Thomas Hynes announced last week that assessments for the township jumped 5.9 percent in 1987, the third largest jump of all county townships.

Only Orland Township, with a 9 percent hike, and Schaumburg Township, with a more than 6 percent rise, saw larger increases.

Wheeling Township's increases, coming mostly from new housing starts, could mean increases in property tax revenue for the taxing bodies within the township, including Elementary School District 21, High School District 214, the Village of Wheeling and Wheeling Township.

FINAL ASSESSMENTS FOR 1986 pegged the value of property in the township at more than \$823 million. Hynes' office has increased the 1987 figure to more than \$871 million.

The 1987 figure will not be finalized until after the Cook County Board of (Tax) Appeals rules on all adjustment requests.

The assessments are still subject to reduction requests currently being heard by the tax appeals board, and the final tax base will be determined by the state equalization factor, or multiplier, which is anticipated to be released later

this month, according to Richard Vanecko, a spokesman for assessor's office.

Vanecko also cautioned taxpayers to avoid associating increases in assessed value with increases on their tax bills. "The tax bills are really in the hands of the municipalities and other taxing bodies," he said. "The tax bills are determined by the spending requests of those taxing bodies, and the assessments only determine what portion of those requests will be attributed to individual properties."

WHEELING VILLAGE FINANCE Director Bob Fialkowski said the village will not know how the assessment increase affects its coffers until a more detailed report is released in several weeks that specifies where the township's increases are found.

Dolores Stephan, Wheeling Township assessor, said the rise in assessments reflects the large amount of new construction the township has seen over the past three years.

She said the heaviest concentration of new construction was in north Arlington Heights, and in Buffalo Grove and Wheeling. She said she expects the township's assessment to continue to increase.

"I can say we're going to go on for another couple years," Stephan said, "until the land is all used up."

Villages asked to bus commuters to Deerfield

By Cyril Ibe
Staff Writer

6-2-88
Country side
Wheeling and Buffalo Grove officials are being asked to help the Village of Deerfield come up with a solution to the commuter parking crunch at that town's train station.

Since more than half of the commuters who park at the Chicago and North Western train station in Deerfield don't live in that town, Deerfield Mayor Bernard Forrest last week called on officials of neighboring communities to the west for cooperation in solving commuter parking shortages. Forrest suggested that officials look at ways to bus commuters from their towns to the Deerfield station to free up more park-

ing spots there.

Forrest sent a letter to village presidents in Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, Vernon Hills and Lincolnshire informing them that a re-evaluation of limited commuter parking around the Deerfield train station could result in the reduction of some parking spaces for outside residents.

He urged officials to encourage residents of their towns to explore other ways of dealing with limited parking spaces around the Deerfield commuter station, rather than counting on Deerfield to provide additional spaces.

"Although Deerfield is looking at parking alternatives, our first obligation is to our residents," Forrest stated in the letter dated May 27. "Last month,

the village purchased another piece of property near the train station at what amounts to \$6,000 per parking space. Thus we believe that we have more than fulfilled our responsibilities."

DEERFIELD VILLAGE trustees approved an agreement with the owner and operator of Deerfield Marathon service station at 836 Deerfield Road in April to convert that facility to a parking lot for residents only. Construction started on the project about two weeks ago and is expected to be completed later this year. Between 60 and 65 parking spaces will be constructed at the new site.

Meanwhile, Forrest said some residents from Lincolnshire, Vernon Hills,

Wheeling and Buffalo Grove want to be considered for a parking space when the new facility is finished.

"Many of the residents of those towns have been calling to say they need parking. (But) we can't provide it to everybody," Forrest said.

WHEELING VILLAGE President Sheila Schultz said Tuesday that she has not yet received Forrest's letter. But she said, "We are sensitive to the situation over there. But I'm not sure what we as a municipality could do to discourage people from parking there."

Schultz suggested that since Deerfield officials probably have a list of all the riders from out of town that they should embark on some sort of public information campaign to encourage those commuters to form car pools.

As far as busing commuters to Deerfield — suggested by Forrest — Buffalo Grove Pres. Verna Clayton said Vernon Township already provides a dial-a-ride service from the Lincoln Club apartments on Milwaukee Avenue to the Deerfield train station.

BUFFALO GROVE officials have written a letter to township officials to consider expanding that service to benefit more Buffalo Grove commuters. However, Clayton said Buffalo Grove has no plans to bus residents to Deerfield.

Besides Forrest's suggestion for a commuter bus service to address the "mass transit needs" of residents from other towns, he urged his colleagues to "take an active role in supporting the conversion of a portion of the Wisconsin Central (Soo Line) to a commuter operation."

Buffalo Grove has passed resolutions encouraging the RTA to go forward with plans for the commuter service and also has a site for a railroad station in the Corporate Grove business park in case plans ever materialize.

Schultz said Wheeling has given its "whole-hearted" support to the Soo Line proposal all along. However, outside of that, she didn't see anything else the village could do. She said Wheeling would consider the possibility of establishing a bus service for commuters. She said she could foresee some problems with that, however, such as making sure there were enough riders to make bus service feasible and finding parking places near where people would get on the bus.

SUBURBAN REPORT

Wheeling OKs shopping center

6-7-88
BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials approved plans for a new shopping center along the banks of the Wheeling Drainage Ditch Monday night. However, no building permits will be issued until the developer modifies the creek bed and flood plain area, as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State Division of Water Resources.

Village Engineer Jim Edmond said the modifications to the creek will not cause any problems downstream.

The new shopping center will be located on a triangular piece of

land formed by the creek, Elmhurst Road and McHenry Road. The six-acre site will eventually house two shopping buildings separated by an atrium.

Trustees were worried about how the creek modifications would affect flooding in the area. The developer, TMK Development Ltd., is planning to widen a straighten out the creek.

Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman said, "The plan would be a lot more palatable with more trees" along the creek.

Lawrence M. Freedman, attorney for the developer, said that request could be accommodated when the project is presented for final approval from the village ap-

pearance commission.

Trustee William A. Rogers said, "If you tear down trees and make the banks smooth, the water is going to go through a lot faster."

Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said the flow would be "more efficient" but the creek would be widened to store water on the site. He added that during heavy rains some water would be stored in the parking lot.

The developer will be required to help pay for sidewalks along both Elmhurst and McHenry roads, and to fully improve the south half of McHenry Road. The developer is also planning to install a bicycle path in the open area near the creek.

SUBURBAN REPORT

Wheeling to continue appeal

6-8-88
BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Illinois Supreme Court will be asked to review an appellate ruling that grants collective bargaining status to Wheeling Fire Department lieutenants.

In what probably will be a test case for all Illinois communities, Wheeling Attorney James A. Rhodes said he will argue that the appellate court erred in its May 12 decision. He added that he thinks the court ignored several points of the village's argument which were supported by the state Board of Police and Fire Commissioners.

Meanwhile, Wheeling firefighters said they are disappointed

with the prospect of further appeal.

"It's very disheartening for us to know that the village persists on adhering to its position," said Bart Burns, president of the Wheeling Firefighters Association.

"They don't feel the employees will carry on their duties and responsibilities" if lieutenants and firefighters are in the same bargaining unit, he said.

Village officials and union representatives have been battling over the inclusion of the six lieutenants in the union since February 1986. The village claims that lieutenants are supervisors and therefore exempt from collective bargaining.

The Illinois Labor Relations Board ruled in March 1986 that lieutenants should be allowed to join the union. The appellate court agreed, saying that lieutenants "more closely resemble the firefighters than either the captain or the chief."

Both parties, meanwhile, have agreed to bargain while the matter is resolved in court. However, until a final decision is reached, the village will bargain only with the firefighters, and not with the lieutenants.

The negotiations, which have yet to be scheduled, will be the first since March 1987, when the village appealed the decision by the labor board.

Police crack down on vehicles without stickers

Countyside 6-9-88

Wheeling should get a nice little addition to its July monthly allowance.

Wheeling police last week issued citations that could generate nearly \$2,500 in fines from car-owning residents who elected not to purchase their required vehicle sticker for 1988.

Residents stopped and ticketed by police at early morning roadblocks last week have until July 10 to pay the \$15 fine for not having the sticker and another \$18 to \$30 for the sticker itself.

Residents who purchased their stickers by Jan. 31 paid only \$10.

TOTAL REVENUE FROM the annual vehicle sticker roadblock could be more than \$6,500, or nearly 3 percent of the total annual take from vehicle sticker purchases.

Finance Director Bob Flalkowski said the more than \$220,000 generated each year by the vehicle stickers funds 20 percent of Wheeling's road and bridge budget.

Police ticketed 166 motorists Tuesday through Friday during their three-hour daily roadblocks. All vehicles were stopped and checked for stickers. Company cars, cars registered outside the village and new residents were not ticketed, Deputy Police Chief Gary O'Rourke said.

The most tickets were issued on the streets of the Arlington Club subdivision, where officers issued 70 violations last week. Roadblocks were also set up other new subdivisions in town, including the Ridgefield subdivision, located west of Wheeling Road and south of Dundee Road, and the Eastchester subdivision, located at Route 83 and



Wheeling police stop cars leaving the Arlington Club subdivision last Thursday morning during a crackdown on residents who haven't yet purchased their 1988 vehicle stickers. Police issued 166 citations after setting up roadblocks in several parts of the village last week. (Staff photo by Kathy Tray)

Kristy Lane.

O'ROURKE SAID THERE weren't many violators. "I would say we have a real high compliance rate," he said.

But the roadblocks, which have been done for the past several years, may become a thing of the past. The village board is expected to decide whether to pursue abandoning vehicle stickers as a source of revenue and instead estab-

lish a utility tax. Supporters of the utility tax proposal say it would be easier to collect and would generate more money for the road and bridge fund, which is now in the red.

The proposal being reviewed by the village board calls for putting 1 percent tax all utility bills. The utility tax, Flalkowski said, would generate between \$300,000 and \$330,000 each year, or more than 50 percent more

than the vehicle stickers.

Flalkowski said the additional revenue is needed because the road and bridge budget, which goes toward street, bridge and sidewalk repair, is losing money. This year's budget projects a \$150,000 shortfall in revenues that will be made up from the fund balance.

The village has scheduled a public hearing on the utility tax for June 13.

Village board approves shopping center plans

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Countyside 6-9-88

Wheeling is going to get a new shopping center.

Located just south of the corner of McHenry and Elmhurst roads, the \$3.1 million Creek Side shopping center may house up to 25 different businesses, including a new Sears store, developers said.

Wheeling trustees Monday night approved a site plan for the three-building project after asking the developers to work with the village on the construction of a fence around portions of the six-acre project.

The developers must now satisfy the concerns of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Water Resources before building begins.

BECAUSE THE PROPERTY lies in the designated "floodway" — the area through which the water stored from a 100-year storm is conveyed — the developers must create another avenue for the water.

Wheeling Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said the developer, TMK Development, Ltd. of Bannockburn, has solved that problem by proposing to create a larger ditch running along the Wheeling Drainage Ditch that forms the southern border of the property.

TMK is expected to provide a trapezoidal-shaped ditch around the much

smaller creek bed to accommodate any excess water. The original creek bottom will not be altered, Klitzke said.

Klitzke said FEMA is waiting for the state to determine if a permit will be authorized for the construction of the ditch. The state is now evaluating its concerns on floodways, causing a delay in the permit process. Klitzke said the village approval is contingent on state approval.

"WE'RE GOVERNED right now by the state. If they don't issue a permit, we don't issue a permit," he said.

Village board members, before granting unanimous approval to the project, voiced concerns about the proposal.

Trustee William Rogers said he was concerned that the construction along the ditch would disrupt water flows. "I question what happens below and above the stream," Rogers asked Klitzke.

Klitzke said the plan does not alter the intake or outflow of the creek. The ditch, he said, took the place of the land upon which the shopping plaza would be built.

Terence King, the president of TMK, said he hopes to get the necessary permits within the next 60 days. He said the first phase of the project, which includes construction of a 15,600-square-foot building and a 3,000-square-foot building, will begin this summer.

Tenants should be offered occupancy this year, King said.

Opinions sought on utility tax

state law allows municipalities to tax utility bills at up to 5 percent, Schultz said she does not foresee going above the 1 percent tax.

Residents and businesses in Wheeling would pay the new tax on natural gas, electric and telephone bills, generating an estimated \$360,000 per year. Last year's vehicle sticker sales raised \$208,263.

"The tax is a real 'common good' thing," Schultz said. "It spreads the obligation for the roads to more people," including local businesses.

She added that if the utility tax is not imposed, "we would have to make a big jump in the vehicle sticker prices."

involved with the vehicle stickers. Village President Sheila Schultz said reaction among residents to the tax has been varied.

"I've gotten some feedback from senior citizens in opposition," she said, noting that many older residents do not own cars. Those who do drive pay a lower sticker fee of \$3, rather than the \$10 fee. She added that she has also received positive comments, usually from people who "are very conscientious, and buy a sticker every year, but it really bugs them that so many people get away with not buying a sticker."

Schultz said she is "anxious to have the hearing," to get further reaction from residents. Although

Wheeling's proposed 1 percent utility tax will be scrutinized in a public hearing next week. The village board may use the tax to replace Wheeling vehicle stickers as a source of money for street repairs. The public hearing will begin at 8 p.m. Monday at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Director of Finance Robert Flalkowski first proposed the tax during budget workshops early this spring. He noted that in addition to raising more money, a utility tax would be more efficient because of the large amount of paperwork and enforcement costs

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Countyside 6-9-88

Wheeling police get tough on teen alcohol drinking

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

6-9-88
Wheeling isn't relying just on its kids to "Just Say No." Police are helping them, by taking alcohol out of their hands and hauling them off to jail.

Of late, Wheeling has attacked young lawbreakers with renewed vigor. There are more arrests than usual of minors in possession of alcohol, some involving children as young as 14 years old.

In spite of efforts to discourage drug and alcohol use by teens, local educators feel alcohol may be becoming a replacement for other drugs.

Barb Steffani, president of the Wheeling Township Chemical People Task Force, said the vigorous anti-drug crusade has probably slowed the use of hard drugs among teenagers. "But alcohol is readily acceptable," she said.

Youths "definitely" substitute alcohol for harder drugs because it is more socially acceptable and easier to obtain, she said.

Avrum Poster, principal of Holmes Junior High School in Wheeling, agreed.

"Kids who won't use drugs will use alcohol," he noted. "They see adults drinking and they rationalize that it's acceptable adult behavior, and therefore okay for them."

Seasonal trends

Spring is a time when more kids may try to buy liquor, especially for prom or graduation parties, says Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger.

The department sent letters to both Wheeling and Buffalo Grove high schools just before their proms, warning students that undercover police will be watching local liquor stores closely.

As such, no one from either school was arrested during prom weekend. However, undercover police caught seven youngsters from surrounding communities trying to buy booze at one store in Wheeling during that weekend.

The store, J.C. Liquors, was not penalized because Haeger said the identification used by the minors looked legitimate. Early this spring, J.C. Liquors was fined for selling a large amount of liquor to a 17-year-old boy, and some beer and wine to a

16-year-old girl, in incidents just three weeks apart.

However, those arrested in the Memorial Day weekend incidents, the youngest of whom was 17 years old, showed clerks fake identification. Police surveillance and questioning led to the arrests, Haeger said.

"I think some of these people were operating under the notion that they could buy liquor at that particular store," Haeger said. "Maybe now they've got the message that they can't."

Haeger said he can only hope the courts take strong action against the teens arrested over the holiday. The maximum fine for misrepresenting age and possessing liquor as a minor is \$500, but the actual fine is usually about \$50, Haeger said.

However, there are alternatives to fines, Village Prosecutor Steven Handler said.

"With very young offenders, I'm more concerned with remedial efforts, such as counseling," Handler said. "I also look at the attitude of the parents. Sometimes they've stepped in and done much more to

See DRINK on Page 3

DRINK: Wheeling cops get tough with teens

Continued from Page 1

help than the courts ever could. Other times, they just don't give a damn. If so, I'll ask for education or counseling."

Handler said he asks that older offenders are usually just fined.

"By the time someone is 19 or 20 years old, a monetary penalty is more of a deterrent than a dozen drug education lectures."

Do kids say no?

School children are being told repeatedly to "Just say no" to drugs and alcohol. At the same time, younger children and more of them seem to be drinking.

"You don't see the effect (of the Just Say No campaign) on high

schoolers," Steffani noted. "But in five years, it will be interesting to see if those who are in elementary school now act any differently. We just might see that what we are doing now is effective."

Steffani said that she believes alcohol is more dangerous than other drugs because it is more subtle.

"Kids see their parents drinking, even to excess," she said. "It's socially acceptable."

Although she admits "not much headway" has been made in discouraging teenagers from drinking, drunken driving has decreased.

Handler said he believes educators, local police departments, liquor stores and the courts all must work together.

"If kids learn about the dangers of alcohol but then they can go out and

buy it, drink it and nothing happens, you've wasted that education," he said.

Haeger noted that more liquor stores are calling the department for assistance.

Poster said his school goes to the root of potential problems by offering "effective parenting" classes. Every fall, school social workers lead a seminar for parents of junior high students, entitled "What Parents Need to Know about Drugs and Alcohol That Their Kids Already Know."

"Most parents wait until their kids hit rock bottom before doing anything to help them," Poster asserts. "We encourage parents to look for signs of possible drug or alcohol abuse, and head them off. They have to avoid denial."

Board to ask high court to hear firefighter issue

Village officials are continuing their efforts to fight a state labor board's ruling that fire department six lieutenants can be part of the firefighters' union.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Wheeling firefighters and the village are headed for a potential date with the Illinois Supreme Court.

Trustees Monday night directed Village Attorney James Rhodes to petition the state's highest court to overturn an appellate court ruling that allows lieutenants in the fire department to be included in the firefighters' union.

"This is a very critical issue that has to be resolved," Village President Sheila Schultz said.

At issue is whether the six lieutenants in the department are considered supervisors or members of the rank and file. An Illinois State Labor Relations Board (ISLRB) hearing officer, the ISLRB and the Illinois Appellate court have all held that the lieutenants are legally entitled to the same bargaining rights as the 41 other firefighters, a point village officials disagree with.

TRUSTEE JAMES WHITTINGTON

6-9-88
Countywide
said the case is still not clear. "I think there are still some unanswered questions," he said. "Who's in charge? That's the question."

Firefighters' Association President Bart Burns said the news that the village board is taking the issue to the Supreme Court is disquieting.

"We're disappointed the village has chosen to continue this costly appeal even though the village's position has been repeatedly and unanimously refuted by the legal authorities," Burns said Tuesday after learning of the village's decision.

"It is also very disheartening for us to know that the village persistently adheres to its position because they don't feel employees will carry on their duties and responsibilities if they share the same collective bargaining pursuits," Burns said.

RHODES MONDAY NIGHT attacked the May appellate ruling, saying the court failed to consider several of the village's arguments. "If you look at the opinion, you saw that there were probably nine or 10 points

that they totally ignored that they said were there. I thought the appellate court was wrong."

"I just don't see where they have any room for an appeal," Burns said. "The case is so strong (against a successful appeal) that an appeal would be frivolous."

The village and the firefighters began their battle in January 1986, after newly-enacted state legislation forced municipalities to recognize unions of firefighters and police officers.

Village officials had previously dealt with the firefighters in an informal arrangement that covered salaries and working conditions. But the 1986 law stated that if the union was sanctioned by the ISLRB, the municipality had to negotiate with that bargaining unit.

WHEELING OFFICIALS balked, however, when the six lieutenants were voted into the bargaining unit. The village argued the lieutenants were supervisors and that their ability to function as management would be eroded if they became members of the union. The village refused to negotiate with the union despite a ISLRB ruling that said the lieutenants should be part of the bargaining unit.

The firefighters, who Burns said have spent between \$25,000 and \$30,000

in legal fees to support their claim, ended up taking the village to the ISLRB, which ordered the village to negotiate with the union.

The village appealed that ruling to the state appellate court, which heard oral arguments in January. On May 12, the appeals court upheld the ISLRB ruling that said the lieutenants — according to state law — are not supervisors and could be considered part of the bargaining unit.

Rhodes said he will ask the Supreme Court to hear the case. The court will likely decide during its September session whether it will hear the Wheeling case. The village will be notified in October of the court's decision. If the court does hear the case, oral arguments would be scheduled for a later date in the session, which ends in June 1989.

WHITTINGTON SAID THE case involves more than just Wheeling. "We think the issue is large enough to be considered by more people than have already considered it," he said. "It's a question that's larger than Wheeling. We're trying to define the unit."

Both sides did agree in April to a partial settlement that calls for the village and the firefighters — minus

High court —

(Continued from page 5)

the six lieutenants — to negotiate a contract while the lieutenant issue is being resolved.

Burns and Rhodes said the appeal to the Supreme Court will not affect those negotiations, which Burns said he will ask the village to schedule soon.

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Burns also said the Supreme Court appeal may be a topic of negotiations once the two sides get together. "Everything is negotiable," he said. Whittington agreed. "I'm willing to talk about the whole thing," he said.

"**OUR INTENTIONS** are to continue per the agreement and to work at coming to an agreement with the village," Burns said. But, he said, "it seems it won't be a complete agreement without the lieutenants."

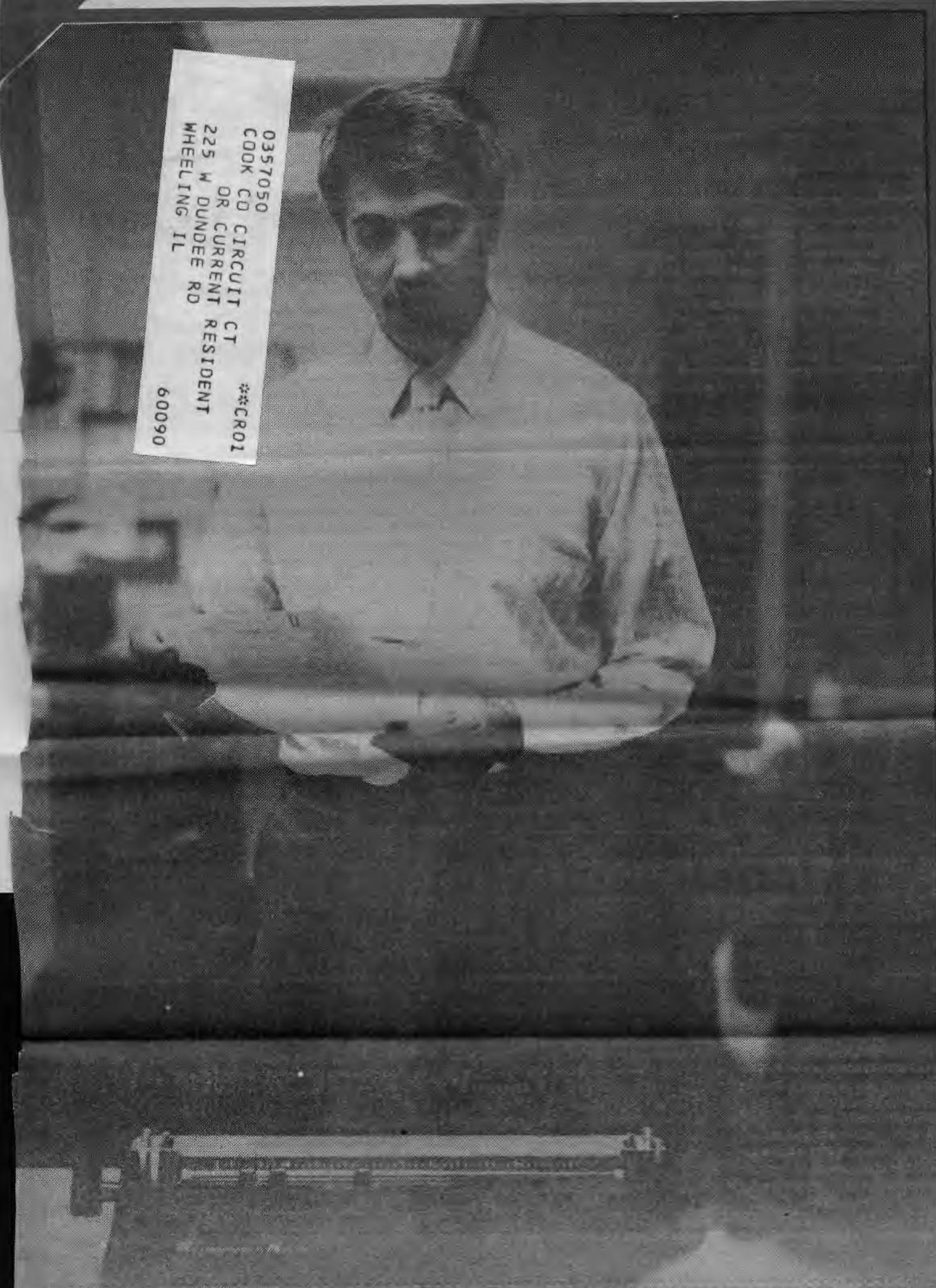
"We feel this (a bargaining unit with the lieutenants) is right," Burns said. "We work with these guys, we go to fires with these guys. We don't feel there should be artificial barriers between the company officers and the rank and file."

Schultz said the village board feels just as strongly. "It (the case) should continue," she said. "The board was aware of the potential cost and the decision was made to appeal."

CYCLING

Wheeling

Countryside



0357050
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WHEELING IL 60090

Village to appeal **5**

Kids solve problems **14**

Battle of the bulge **25**

On the cover

After one week on the job, Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson is starting to learn his way around village hall. Turn to page 8 for an up-close look at the new man in town. *Staff photo by Bill Powers.*

Countyside - 6-9-88

New village manager started at the bottom

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Most residents usually only see municipal workers when their water meters are being read or when their snow-clogged streets get shoveled.

For most, the village manager, the guy who directs the people who direct the meter readers and those who shovel the snow, is the last person they would expect to meet.

But had you lived in Glenview 15 years ago, you might have found Wheeling's new village manager on his knees at the side of your home, plucking numbers off those spinning metal dials that measure water use.

Yes, you could say Craig Anderson started at the bottom.

ANDERSON, 38, IS Wheeling's new top administrator. He started last week, taking over for former village manager Tom Markus, who took a similar job in Brooklyn Park, Minn. earlier this year.

Sitting in his office, reflecting on the past 15 years in municipal government, Anderson said he definitely likes his new job.

"It always beats reading meters," Anderson said with a laugh. "I always hated that job."

After spending summers working for the Glenview Public Works Department between semesters at Northern Illinois University, Anderson graduated with a bachelor of science degree in biology in 1973.

WITH THE ECONOMY experiencing a recession, Anderson's employment options were limited. And the Evanston product and New Trier High School graduate liked working under the sunshine. So, it was a natural marriage of convenience — he took a full-time position with the public works department.

"The money was good; most of the work was outside," Anderson said.

But Anderson didn't stay in one position for long, mostly because Glenview officials noticed his talent for management.

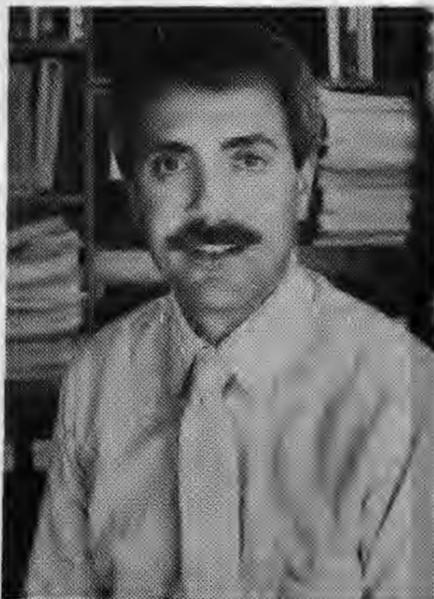
He was promoted to administrative assistant for the director of public works and then later promoted to administrative assistant in the village manager's office. In 1980, Anderson was named assistant village manager.

AS HE WAS progressing through the village ranks, Anderson began to enjoy dealing with village policy. "I like (village business)," he said. "I didn't know I liked it back in 1977 and 1973, but Glenview allowed me to find that out."

With his new interest in tow, Anderson stopped by Roosevelt University and got himself a degree more in line with his profession. Taking many classes at Roosevelt's satellite campus at the Glenview Naval Air Station, Anderson received a master's degree in public administration in 1979.

It all lead him in one direction: toward the top management spot with a municipality. It's about as far as he can go without getting elected. And would he want to place his name on a ballot some day?

"No thanks," he said, waving his hands. "I'd rather be in a position where I can carry it out, where I can make suggestions."



Craig Anderson

"I'M NOT going to going to jump in and say 'We've got to change this, we've got to change that,'" Anderson said. "I don't know enough right now."

Not to worry, says Glenview Trustee James Smirles, who worked with Anderson during his tenure with that village. "He's a fast learner and an excellent listener," he said. "He is excellent at working with people."

While working at the Glenview Public Works Department as a regular operations and maintenance employee, Anderson fixed engines, repaired broken water mains and, of course, read water meters.

His supporters say that experience has helped make him the manager that he is today.

"THE EMPLOYEES remember those things," Smirles said. "They say 'He's been there, he hasn't been in an ivory tower all day.'"

"Craig's unusual in that he worked his way up from scratch, that's very unique for someone in a managerial position," said former boss Bob van Duesen, the Glenview village manager who hired Anderson first as his administrative assistant and later as assistant village manager.

What Anderson wants away from the office is usually to be outside — running, catching a Cubs game or grilling on his barbecue. Soon he will take his grill and running shoes, and move to Wheeling. Anderson said he plans to move into the Ridgelfeld subdivision, located west of Wheeling Road and south of Dundee Road.

FOR NOW, ANDERSON said he just wants Wheeling to run as smoothly as it did under Markus. "I think he did an excellent job," he said. "Those are big shoes to fill."

Most people, though, are confident Anderson will need a shoehorn to get his more than adequate feet into the job.

"I think Craig's great," van Duesen said. "I think Wheeling is very fortunate to have him as manager."

WHEELING PRESIDENT SHEILA Schultz couldn't agree more. "The selection process was very difficult, but Craig was the final choice," she said. "I think he's going to work out very well."

Just two days into his new position, while still trying to get to know the community and its people, he was asked what a routine day is like for him. Anderson laughed. "I don't know," he said, "I haven't had a typical day yet."

Pal-Waukee buys liability insurance

By Keri Wyatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Pal-Waukee Municipal Airport officials have agreed to spend \$13,845 for liability insurance.

In February, members of the Pal-Waukee Municipal Airport Commission, which governs the airport, were surprised to learn liability insurance covering themselves and their decisions had lapsed Dec. 31, 1987. The airport's liability was not affected.

While the commission scrambled to find a carrier, the City of Prospect Heights and the village of Wheeling, co-owners of the airport, each agreed to pick up the liability for its members on the commission.

Liability for actions taken both by the commission, and by officials from both towns in regard to the airport, will now be covered by the policy from National Union Fire Insurance. The policy is being handled by Julius Moll & Son Inc.

The policy offers \$1 million in coverage. Although the policy was accepted by both towns, Prospect Heights Alderman Warren Sunde said he would like to see more than just \$1 million in coverage.

"I'm wondering if that limit is adequate," he said.

"It's not," replied City Attorney Donald Kreger, "but it's all we can get." Sunde voted in favor of accepting the bid.

Although it took several months, the airport eventually had a choice of three bids on insurance. One was from Arthur Gallagher Insurance Co., which had carried the officials' liability until it lapsed at the end of last year.

Julius Moll also submitted another bid, through Airport Operators Council International Inc., but the annual premium was \$16,979, and the policy required a \$250 membership fee.

Officials take high view of airport

6-14-88
BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Officials from Wheeling and Prospect Heights took in a pilot's-eye view of Pal-Waukee Municipal Airport this weekend during a tour hosted by the Pal-Waukee Airport Pilots Association.

Nine officials from the two towns, which jointly own the airport, flew over the Northwest suburbs in private planes, climbed up to the top of the control tower to talk with air traffic controllers, and chatted with pilots.

Prospect Heights Alderman Charles VanderVennett asked the pilots how they felt about the public ownership of the airport. Wheeling and Prospect Heights purchased the airport from Priester Aviation in 1986.

PAPA President Barry Dainas said the pilots were glad to see improvements being made in the airport, but better communication between the pilots and city officials was necessary.

"Pilots don't know what's going to happen," Dainas said. "They are con-

cerned about stability, the future of the airport."

Now that the airport is publicly owned, the Federal Aviation Administration is requiring it to comply with stricter regulations. Improvements have occurred, but often take longer than expected.

"We'd encourage you to push forward, make it happen," Dainas said.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz agreed communication with the pilots at Pal-Waukee was important, adding that "the municipalities are really sensitive to foot-dragging."

Schultz noted that "political constraints" often slowed projects. "We need to get information about the airport out to the public," she said.

Barry Axelrod, publicity chairman for PAPA, said the pilots would be willing to help the municipalities if they needed a plane for medical or other emergencies.

Axelrod said this is the first time the association has invited officials to the airport, noting that he sees the get-together as a "great way to improve communications and let the officials know what we do."

Wheeling considers utility tax

6-14-88
BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials are considering imposing a 1 percent utility tax to raise money for street repairs.

The new tax would replace the current vehicle sticker fees, which officials say is not raising enough money and is inefficient because of high administrative costs.

At a public hearing Monday night, more than 50 residents, mostly senior citizens, spoke out against the proposed tax.

Senior citizens' vehicle stickers are discounted from the regular rate of \$10 to only \$3. Several residents said they'd rather see an in-

crease in the sticker fee, which has not changed since 1973.

Patricia Walsdorf of 483 Thornhill, called the proposed tax a "reverse Robin Hood" to seniors who don't drive. "My neighbors are a young couple with two cars. You're handing them six bucks on a platter and hitting me," and other seniors on a fixed income, she said.

Many residents were also concerned that the tax was "open ended" because state law allows municipalities to tax utilities at up to 5 percent.

Like the sticker fee, the proposed tax would raise revenue for the road and bridge fund.

Between 1983 and 1987, expend-

itures in that fund rose more than 33 percent, while vehicle license revenues rose only 10.8 percent.

Wheeling Director of Finance Robert W. Fialkowski said at least 15 percent of the revenue from the stickers is spent on collection and paper work. A utility tax, which would be added to phone, electric and natural gas bills, would be much more efficient, he said.

He estimated that the tax would add an average of \$14 per year to each household's bills.

Residents and businesses would contribute about \$360,000 annually through the new tax, Fialkowski estimated. That amount would automatically increase as utility prices rose with inflation.

Seniors battle 1 percent utility tax

6-15-88
BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A group of Wheeling senior citizens are fighting the proposed 1 percent utility tax, which, if passed, would replace the village vehicle license sticker fees to pay for street repairs.

Vehicle stickers cost \$10, except for seniors, who pay only \$3 per year.

The Wheeling chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons rallied almost 50 seniors to attend a public hearing this week to oppose the 1 percent tax on electric,

telephone and natural gas service. The tax would cost an average of \$14 per year per household, officials say.

A group from the AARP studied the tax proposal and said they feared the tax would continue to go up with rising utility costs, or that the percentage could be increased.

"It's a safe assumption that taxes have a tendency to go up," Marvin Horcher said. "This tax could be increased up to 5 percent. And each time there's an increase in the cost of utilities, the cost goes up. This is taxation without representation."

Robert McIntyre said that the vehicle stickers seemed "quite fair,"

because, "It's hard to argue against taxing cars, which run on streets, for the maintenance of those streets."

Wheeling Director of Finance Robert W. Fialkowski, who first proposed the utility tax as a more efficient way to collect revenue for the street repair program, noted that the every resident creates "certain needs on the system, even if they don't have a car." The tax revenues would go into the road and bridge fund, which pays not only for street repair but sidewalks, plowing and sewers.

"A well-maintained road system

enhances property values," Fialkowski added.

Some seniors suggested doubling the vehicle sticker cost instead of replacing it with a utility tax. The sticker cost has been the same since 1973, although the cost for late fees was increased a few years ago.

"Maybe the vehicle tax should have been increased to keep pace," McIntyre said. "Instead of enjoying benign neglect."

Village President Sheila Schultz said the board will not vote on the proposed tax until staff has reviewed the concerns brought up at this week's public hearing.

SUBURBAN REPORT

Wheeling eyes bike restriction

6-15-88
BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling may restrict bicycle traffic on some of its busier streets, although police say an ordinance is still "down the road."

Wheeling currently allows bicyclists to ride anywhere in the village, as long as they obey the state rules of the road.

However, Chief Michael F. Haeger said the department may ask the village to prohibit bicycles on Elmhurst Road, Dundee Road, Milwaukee Avenue and Old McHenry Road.

"The problem is, the lanes are so small that there is no room for bikes," Haeger said. "And they

generally go about 20 miles per hour under the speed limit."

Al Petty, president of the Wheeling Wheelmen bicycle club, said he wouldn't be against restrictions if "alternatives were provided. Sidewalks are a possibility, although not the best one."

As the suburbs have grown, Petty said, "we just don't have the east-west access, and have to go further away" to find roads without heavy traffic. He noted that most cyclists already avoid roads as busy as Dundee, although they may have to ride along it for short distances to get somewhere else.

Haeger said he has asked the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation for suggestions about how to han-

dle the problem.

He noted that there have been a number of bicycle accidents on the streets, but did not have statistics available. Last week, a cyclist riding on the sidewalk in front of the village hall collided with a police car pulling out of the driveway. Haeger said the cyclist, who rode into the side of the squad, was injured but the police report of the accident was unavailable to reporters, police said.

Haeger said the suggestion for restrictions came up at a staff meeting. Getting bicyclists off the busy roads "is not a high priority, just something we're considering," Haeger said. "It's still down the road."

Seniors see red over village's utility tax plan

Wheeling officials are considering imposing a new 1 percent municipal utility tax to replace the existing vehicle sticker fee. But some Wheeling seniors oppose the tax, saying it will place a burden on those who can least afford it.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

You can raise our taxes, but you'd better raise the right ones.

Wheeling senior citizens virulently argued that point Monday night, telling the village board it should increase the vehicle sticker fee and not consider a replacement utility tax that they called inequitable and unpalatable.

The village held a public hearing Monday night on whether to replace the \$10 a car vehicle sticker with a 1 percent tax on all gas, telephone and

electricity bills in the village. Trustees took no action on the proposal, but are expected to vote on the tax sometime this summer.

Village officials say the vehicle sticker is difficult to enforce and its revenue inefficient to collect. "We're in a situation where we feel we need to have an adjustment in the revenue stream," Finance Director Bob Fialkowski said Monday. He said the utility tax is more fair to residents and businesses.

BUT THE MORE than 60 residents who attended the hearing — most of them seniors — said the proposed tax would hurt retirees and burden those least able to pay it.

"Why don't you just raise the price of the vehicle tax and get it over with?" senior citizen Pat Walsdorf asked the board. "I'm scared to death of an open-ended tax."

The vehicle sticker fee was enacted in 1973 and set at \$10 for each car. A vehicle sticker for trucks and

recreational vehicles is more than \$10, and is less for motorcycles and vehicles owned by senior citizens. The fee has not been raised since 1973.

Village staff estimates the average homeowner would pay \$14 annually in utility taxes. If the same family owned two cars, it would have to pay \$20 in vehicle sticker fees.

MONEY FROM VEHICLE sticker fees goes toward the village's road and bridge fund and is used to repair and maintain the village roadways, sidewalks and storm and sanitary sewers. The vehicle sticker money — expected to generate nearly \$220,000 this year — provides about 20 percent of the entire \$1.09 million road and bridge budget. Village officials say money generated by the utility tax would be used in the road and bridge fund.

Seniors argue their costs would rise substantially if the village dropped the vehicle stickers and went with a utility tax. Their yearly charge would go from the \$3 for each senior citizen vehicle

sticker to average of \$14 for the utility tax. And, they say, because the increase is not a property tax — a tax that both the state and federal governments allow seniors to deduct — there would be no relief.

"This is an indication that you are going to push us out of Wheeling," Walsdorf said. "I ask you, please, don't pass a tax that is so discriminatory."

Village President Sheila Schultz said the board initially resisted the idea of a utility tax. But, she said, the vehicle sticker "still doesn't address the neighbor who doesn't buy it."

TRUSTEE WILLIAM ROGERS said he is unsure what will happen to the road and bridge budget if something isn't changed. "One of the difficulties facing the board is that we may have to double the vehicle tax," he said. "Where do we get the money to make up this fund? You tell me, I don't know."

Fialkowski told the board and
(Continued on page 14)

Blood drive finds summer pin

By Keri Wyatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A blood drive held in Wheeling hardly put a dent in the summer blood shortage, sponsors of the drive say.

"Summer tends to be a time when blood supplies are low," Daniel Adams, village sanitarian, said. Donors are hard to find, which makes blood supplies even lower, and in-

creases the need. Fortunately, the cycle breaks when the vacation season ends, but it doesn't help people who need blood transfusions or major surgery during the summer.

Wheeling's July blood drive yielded only 67 units of blood, but Adams said every little bit helps. "The numbers are a little down from our March drive," he said. "But they are about the same as last July. There's an acute shortage of blood this time

of year."

In March, the village collected 93 units of blood from 101 people. Only 72 would-be donors showed up to this week's drive.

"With vacations, summer activities, people just don't donate," Adams said.

Those who did were rewarded. Several area restaurants donated prizes for donors. Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza gave coupons, good for a free

While other suburbs have restricted water use, Buffalo Grove and Wheeling imposed no extraordinary limitations, and water service has remained normal throughout the drought conditions of the last three weeks.

However, Buffalo Grove did reach record levels of water consumption during the dry spell. On an average day, the village pumps about 3.1 million gallons through the system, said Public Works Director Gregory Boyesen. Last week, the village pumped 9.7 million gallons in a single day, he said.

"We're seeing extraordinary peaks demands due to the historically high amounts of lawn watering," Boyesen said.

WHEELING'S DAILY AVERAGE consumption has doubled to from 4 million to 8 million gallons per day in the last two weeks, said Bob Gray, director of operations and maintenance.

Both towns have imposed their normal summer lawn-watering bans. Buffalo Grove residents cannot water lawns between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Wheeling residents cannot water between noon and 6 p.m. No further restrictions are anticipated.

Neighboring Long Grove is not having the same luck, however, and the village is at the alert stage. Officials are asking residents to voluntarily conserve water in any way possible, especially by not watering their lawns. Long Grove residents have private wells that draw water from a shallow aquifer about 110 feet below the surface.

Most of the residents have wells that are about 200 feet deep and are experiencing no problems, said Long Grove Village Administrator D.M. "Cal"

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Each year for the past several years, the police department has set up roadblocks at various residential developments around the village, stopping all motorists and checking for the stickers. Fialkowski said the roadblocks are costly.

VILLAGE MANAGER CRAIG Anderson said the village must look at the cost of those roadblocks. "The ongoing problem is enforcement and how much money you want to spend enforcing compliance," he said.

Senior resident Marvin "Syke" Hoher said he feared the creation of a small utility tax could eventually result in a larger one. "It's a very safe assumption that once a tax is created, you see it go up, you very rarely see it go down," Hoher said. He said the utility tax was "the best example of taxation without representation."

HOCHER ALSO RAILED against the companies within the village that would no longer have to register fleets of company cars. To those companies, Hoher said, the village would "be giving a free ride, and a lot of that expense would fall on the shoulders of retirees, and the rest of the village."

One senior, Joseph Volk, said some trustees who vote for the tax may find themselves voted out of office the next time they seek re-election. "To support a utility tax is to write your own political obituary, and I think that goes for the Village of Wheeling," Volk told the board. "If you vote for a utility tax, we will change the membership of this board next April."

While the proposed tax didn't sit too well with Wheeling seniors, the business community appeared have few complaints about it. Only one local businessman appeared before the board. He said the change in tax structure would benefit him because he owns five cars, and that the burden would be transferred to businesses

THE MAXIMUM AVERAGE daily water allocation from the Northwest Water Commission to Wheeling and Buffalo Grove is about 5.4 million gallons each, according to Stephen Sturgell, the commission's executive director.

Each town has pumped much more than that in the last two weeks, but the Northwest Water Commission can provide 180 percent of a town's daily allocation, which is based upon usage projections, Sturgell said.

Sturgell said while the commission's water supply program "is working exactly as designed," consumption is far in excess of what had been anticipated. On Sunday, he said, the pumping station in Des Plaines provided 46 million gallons, an amount that had been expected to be used only on a peak day in 2015.

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audience that expenditures for the road and bridge budget have risen faster than the revenues from the vehicle stickers. He said the shortfall has previously been made up with an increase in property taxes and by depleting the balance in the road and bridge fund.

The utility companies would do all the billing and would turn over the money to the village either monthly or quarterly. They would also assess a 3 percent fee on the total tax collected to cover collection costs, Fialkowski said.

One resident, Sonya Mitchell, said the tax wasn't too high, but that it taxed the necessities of life, a tax she said no one could avoid. "I think leveling this tax on a necessity is ridiculous," Mitchell said. "I have no problem at 1 percent, but with the increases in utilities, where does that lead us?"

FIALKOWSKI SAID THE increased revenues generated by a utility tax would allow the road and bridge fund to operate without dipping into reserves. He said the utility tax would bring in about \$360,000 each year, more than 50 percent more than the revenue generated by vehicle stickers.

He estimated that nearly 15 percent of the cost of each vehicle sticker goes toward collection of the fee. That figure, he said, doesn't include the dollars the police department spends on enforcement of the vehicle sticker ordinance.

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There hasn't been vocal opposition from the business community. Jackie Pollack, executive director of the Chamber, said the relative size of village businesses may contribute to the initial lack of concern.

nittles are undoubtedly an envious green

sprinkling ban because the water sup-
plies are privately-owned, but Doughty

Carlyle J. DeLoach
6-17-88

Utility tax not needed

No one likes the idea of having to pay a new tax. But most of us will reluctantly accept the tax if we're convinced it's absolutely necessary. Unfortunately, such is not the case with Wheeling's proposed utility tax.

Wheeling officials are considering establishing a 1 percent municipal tax on electric, gas and telephone bills and putting the revenue from the new tax into the village's road and bridge fund. Under a plan being reviewed by the village board, the utility tax would take the place of the existing vehicle sticker tax.

While we don't doubt Wheeling officials when they say the village needs the additional revenue that would be generated by the utility tax to help pay for road improvements, there's a simpler and more reasonable way of generating that money: raise the fee for vehicle stickers and — if necessary — work on ways to ensure that residents are paying that fee.

Officials who support the utility tax point out that the village has a difficult time getting citizens to pay for their vehicle stickers. The utility tax, they say, would be easier to collect because it would simply be added onto the utility bills of residents and businesses.

The fact that a tax may be difficult to collect should not be the sole reason for abolishing it, however. Other area municipalities have combated the problem of getting residents to buy vehicle stickers by using such techniques as cross-checking the names of homeowners who receive water bills with those who have the stickers. Enforcement is possible.

The vehicle sticker tax makes sense because it puts a portion of the cost of maintaining village roads on those who use the roads: the motorists. In that way, it's not unlike the Illinois' motor fuel tax, which is used to help finance state and local road projects. The utility tax, on the other hand, would impact all residents, even those who don't drive. And Wheeling's senior citizens, who now pay just \$3 a year for a vehicle sticker, would see a substantial increase in what they pay the village to maintain the roads. Dozens of seniors who attended a public hearing this week on the proposed tax told village officials they can't afford to pay the extra tax.

Rather than establishing a new tax, the village should hike its sticker fee of \$10, which hasn't increased since 1973 and is about half the amount of what surrounding communities charge for vehicle stickers.

If Wheeling doubled its vehicle sticker fee, it would actually bring in more revenue than the 1 percent utility tax. And drivers wouldn't have room to complain about the fee increase because it would be the first hike in 15 years, and they would be paying about the same as residents in neighboring towns.

If the village were in dire financial straits and needed an influx of revenue to keep its head above water, a utility tax might make sense. But outside of a shortfall in revenue in the road and bridge fund, Wheeling is in good financial shape. What's needed now is an adjustment in an existing tax, not a brand new one.

SUBURBAN REPORT

Airport plan would hit Wheeling

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

6-18-88
Wheeling members of the Pal-Waukee Airport Commission say land acquisition planned by the airport would drain Wheeling of tax income a lot more than it would affect Prospect Heights.

To bring the main runway into line with federal safety standards, the airport may have to buy surrounding land to move the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection. With the realignment, the airport would not need to shorten its 5,000-foot runway, considered by pilots to be the minimum safe length on which to land jets.

Engineers are still trying to find

an alignment that would require buying and demolishing as few pieces of property as possible and still meet federal safety standards, along with configuration standards set by the Illinois Department of Transportation and Cook County Highway Department.

One proposal would take Wolf Road through what is now Wolf Run Estates, an unincorporated group of houses surrounded by Wheeling. Wheeling's Foxboro apartment complex and Harmony Village condominiums also are in the path of Wolf Road on various proposals by the engineer.

"Why turn over taxable land to a non-taxing body?" asked Commissioner William A. Rogers, a

member from Wheeling. Since the land is in Wheeling, "It's a Wheeling problem, not a Prospect Heights problem," he said.

"You're looking at what's being lost and you have a myopic vision of what is being gained," responded Carey Chickerno, a commissioner from Prospect Heights. He added that the airport brings jobs.

"The financial viability of an airport that wants to serve business aircraft absolutely depends on a 5,000-foot runway," said Charles Priester of Priester Aviation.

Wheeling said public funds would not be spent on the airport when it bought Pal-Waukee with Prospect Heights.

SUBURBAN REPORT

Intersection relocation mullied

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

6-17-88
Pal-Waukee Airport officials, struggling to find the best alternative for relocating the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads, will try to negotiate with federal and state authorities in an effort to reduce the impact on property surrounding the airport.

Homeowners from the Wolf Run Estates subdivision asked the Pal-Waukee Municipal Airport Commission to look at other alternatives, such as changing runway configuration.

Last month, consulting engineer Warren A. Knoles suggested Wheeling buy and demolish the en-

tire subdivision to make room for the road relocation and an industrial park.

"There is a lot of concern and total amazement at what is being proposed," Robert Holtz, president of the Wolf Run Estates Homeowners Association, told the commission.

The realignment of the intersection is necessary to bring Pal-Waukee's main runway into compliance with federal safety standards, to allow planes enough "clear space" for safe landings.

Knoles showed the commission several alternatives for moving the intersection west and curving both roads out slightly from the airport.

One of those alternatives would take fewer homes and lots from Wolf Run, but would then require the demolition of an apartment building in Foxboro, a complex located just north of the intersection on Wolf Road.

The commission asked Knoles to see if he could take Wolf between the Foxboro building and a group of Harmony Village Condominiums on the other side of Wolf Road, and also to see if the configuration would change if lights were not put on the runway.

Pilots have warned that many corporate jets will move to a different airport if the current runway length of 5,000 feet is not maintained.

Police unit prepared for crisis situations

A special emergency services team made up of officers from 29 police departments, including Wheeling and Buffalo Grove, sprung into action during last month's shooting incident in Winnetka.

By Pete Wicklund
Staff Writer

If anything positive came out of the recent tragedy in Winnetka it was the demonstration that suburban police departments are prepared to handle emergency situations and have plans to assist their neighbors in times of need.

For only the second time since its inception late last year, a special team of suburban police officers specially trained to handle everything from a plane crash to a hostage situation went into an action. Officers from suburban departments belonging to the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System's Emergency Services Team waited outside the Kent Road home on May 20 where Laurie Dann held police at bay.

The arrival of the team allowed Winnetka's own police to handle problems related to the drama, including crowd control, and other police work that may have come up during the several hours before it was determined Dann had shot herself.

Available for service to 29 north and northwest suburban communities, including Wheeling and Buffalo Grove, that are NIPAS members are officers trained to provide police manpower at the scene of a major disaster; to protect

visiting dignitaries; and for hostage or standoff situations.

THE IDEA BEHIND the EST team is to provide a team of specialized manpower and equipment, which no single department could afford to maintain itself.

"It's much more fiscally responsible," said Deputy Chief Gary O'Rourke of the Wheeling Police Department and an EST commander.

Winnetka police summoned the EST team at about 11:20 a.m. on May 20. Pagers worn by EST team members sounded in 13 of the 29 member communities. The pagers' beep sent those officers to the telephones to contact the Glenview Police Department, the selected EST dispatching office. The EST members then received instructions on where to meet Winnetka officials.

Commander Charles Bouland of the Libertyville Police Department, one of five EST commanders, said he and Libertyville officers David Poulton and William Kinast met a Winnetka officer at Hibbard and Tower Roads. From there they were directed to the Kent Road house.

AT THE HOUSE, Bouland said he
(Continued on page 68)

Police unit—

(Continued from page 65)

and other EST commanders took instructions from Winnetka Police Chief Herbert Timm. The EST system is based on the premise that the police chief or a designated officer of the community requesting assistance is the final authority over the situation.

"We're (EST commander) advisers," said Bouland. "We recommend things they could do but it's up to the town's individual commander to make decisions. Chief Timm did a hell of a job. He handled it real well. He was anxious and had a lot of things going on at the same time."

At the scene, EST members changed into black fatigues and body armor and awaited further instructions from Timm. But the team members, who train monthly on tactical procedures,

ended up keeping a long vigil in front of the house.

"It was kind of tense," said Bouland. "I suppose we were not completely sure we had the suspect in the home. We couldn't communicate with her and we couldn't see her."

THE WINNETKA SITUATION was only the second time the EST team has been used since it became available for service in November 1987. The other time was at an early 1988 robbery at the Wheeling Currency Exchange. The assailant escaped from that scene even though EST members swooped in on the shopping center where the exchange was located.

Bouland said he would expect the team to be called out more frequently than it has, but he acknowledges that it

is good that no more than two communities have yet to use the team. O'Rourke said he anticipates the 28-member team to be expanded this year.

Bouland said in addition to the monetary savings to member communities, the team members were more likely to stay cool and prepared in an emotionally-charged situation than the local department.

"When you get called in on the emergency services team you're divorced from the situation, you're not intimately involved," said Bouland. "If it was my situation here in Libertyville I'd want all the help I could get and the more professional all the better."

"I think it's nice to know that local police departments are prepared to handle these situations."

SUBURBAN REPORT

Firefighters' pact talks to open

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After 15 months away from the bargaining table, Wheeling firefighters and village officials plan to sit down and start working on a contract again this week.

Negotiations over salary, hours and working conditions are scheduled for June 29. Contract talks broke down in March 1987, when the village appealed an Illinois Labor Relations Board ruling that lieutenants could be included in the union bargaining unit.

The Illinois Appellate Court upheld the labor board decision last month, and the village responded by appealing the case to the Illi-

nois Supreme Court. The court's decision on whether to hear the case has not been made.

Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said he believed some of the evidence presented in the case was "ignored" by the appellate court, and he recommended that the village appeal to the high court.

In the meantime, a settlement agreement reached between the village and union allows for interim bargaining until the case is settled. That agreement also allows for retroactive raises for both the firefighters and lieutenants, who had not seen a pay increase for two years.

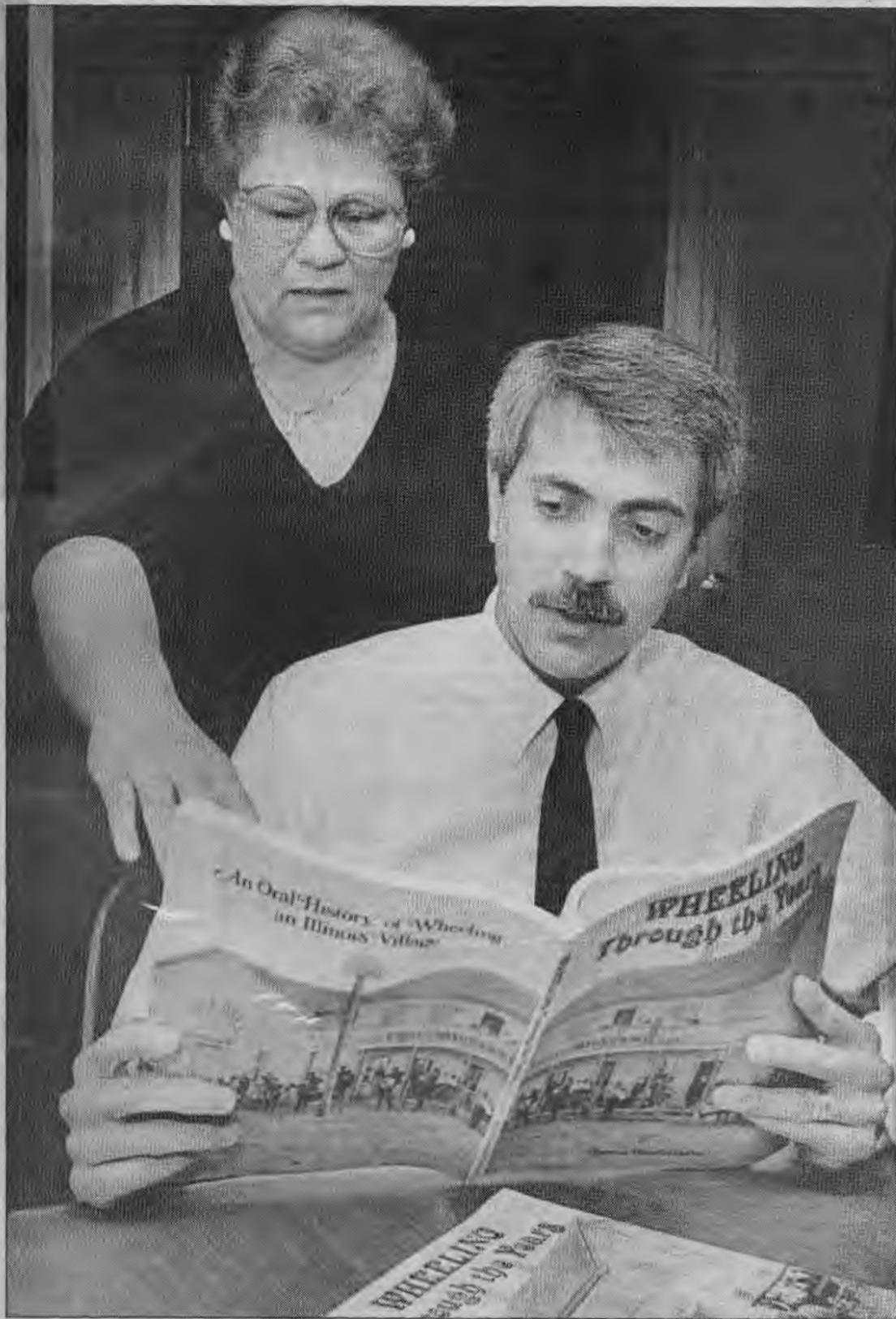
However, the village still re-

fuses to recognize lieutenants as part of the union, arguing that lieutenants are supervisory and therefore excluded.

Union President Bart Burns said he is "disheartened" by the village's decision to appeal the case, but is looking forward to negotiations.

Village Personnel Officer Susan Musick said a management negotiating team has not been finalized yet, but she and Rhodes would probably be among those representing the village at the bargaining table.

Musick said the whole contract is open to negotiation, "but we won't know what the discussion will entail until we sit down."



Wheeling through the years

Wheeling Historical Society president Lonnie Schnaitmann presents *Wheeling Through the Years* to new Village Manager Craig Anderson. The book, which was published by the society last year, is an oral history of the village. For more information about the society or any of its activities, call 537-9057.

Daily Herald Photo/Rich Chapman

SUBURBAN REPORT

Wheeling firm threatens to go

BY DAN COIT
and KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writers

A Wheeling company is threatening to move out of the village, taking up to 150 jobs with it, unless it is granted a tax exemption.

Officials from ENSAR Corp. said this week they are considering a move into Lake County, where taxes are lower, unless they can compromise on a plan for a proposed expansion of the factory.

A Cook County tax exemption program, designed to keep businesses from moving to neighboring counties where taxes are lower, must be granted by local officials. However, ENSAR is planning to

initially lease out 50 percent of its new space, and village code requires a company to occupy at least 75 percent of any new additions to its buildings.

Thomas Winkler, ENSAR attorney, said the company needs the exemption in order to expand its Hintz Road site by about 88,000 square feet.

"The project as planned will not go forward without the tax benefits that come from the exemption," Winkler said.

He said that between 50 and 100 existing jobs plus about 50 new jobs manufacturing "kitchen gadgets" and Handi-Foil food wrap — totaling about \$600,000 per year in wages — may move to

Lake County if the project is not approved.

ENSAR management "would look into moving the entire operation into Lake County because there is a need for the space now. There aren't many alternatives," Winkler said.

"The corporation has experienced explosive growth and expects that growth to continue," Winkler said, adding that the company would use 50 percent of the expansion immediately.

Village President Sheila Schultz said a compromise agreement may be hard to come by.

Winkler said he will continue to work with village staff to find a compromise.

Wheeling passes town house plan

By DAN COIT
Daily Herald Correspondent

6-22-88
The Wheeling village board gave the green light to the proposed Strong Gate town house development, paving the way for construction of the 37 units to begin in late summer or early fall.

The eight-building project, to be located along Stong Street between 10th and 12th streets, was approved 4-2 at a meeting earlier this week.

Trustees Elizabeth Hartman and Judy Abruscato objected to the project, mainly because of its density.

"I'm opposed to any increase in residential density," Hartman said.

Abruscato agreed with Hartman but also said she was not satisfied with a number of other aspects.

"I have too many unanswered questions," she said. "With that size building, the living spaces have to be too small and the traffic in the area

Zone change spurs house construction

Four new single-family houses may soon be under construction on 10th and Strong Streets in Wheeling as a result of a zoning change approved by the village board.

The lots, located at 190-193 10th Street, had been zoned for multifamily dwellings, but were changed to single-family at a village board meeting earlier this week.

is going to increase."

Despite the opposition, the village may have had little choice in the matter because of a 10-year-old court order requiring officials to allow multifamily construction on the four-acre site.

"You have to take into consideration the 1978 court decree," Village

Manager Craig Anderson said the switch was needed because drainage problems anticipated on the site would have prevented anything but single-family construction, even though the land was otherwise approved for town houses.

"It's been determined the flood plain regulations would prohibit a town house development," he said.

Manager Craig Anderson said. "Those lots can be developed with up to 15 units per acre." The planned density is about nine units per acre.

Trustee Anthony Altieri said he thinks the development would mesh well with the surrounding neighborhood.

"I don't think we're talking about

"The rezoning would be in keeping with the rest of the neighborhood."

Village President Sheila Schultz said the change also would eliminate worries about property values expressed by other homeowners in the area.

"This was an area of great concern by the surrounding residents," she said.

a substantial increase in density," he said.

Anderson agreed the project would be beneficial for the village. "It certainly appears to be a nice plan for the site," he said.

The three-bedroom town houses will be priced between \$100,000 and \$110,000.

Weather to decide if Wheeling July 4th fireworks will go off

6-23-88
By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's Fourth of July Committee members are facing a tough decision this week, trying to decide whether the lack of rain will make fireworks too risky.

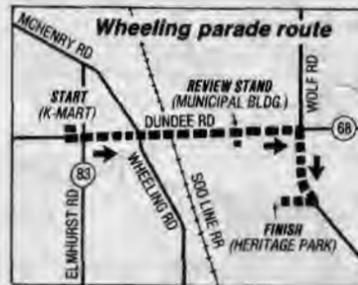
The Fourth of July fireworks display celebration is being funded largely by a local food company, but the most desperately needed donation, a solid day of rain, has yet to appear.

Yet, committee members said they are happy to have a donation from Orval Kent Food Company Inc., which will pay for the display this year. "Without this donation, we would not be able to have the fireworks," committee Chairwoman Judy Abruscato said.

However, unless it rains, the village may not be able to have the fireworks at all.

Wheeling Fire Chief Bernie Koeppen said Tuesday that more rain than the scant amount that fell Monday night is needed to make the area safe, especially for a large crowd.

Abruscato said she is "concerned with the dryness," but noted that Koeppen and Police Chief Michael Haeger were "moni-



toring the situation."

Haeger agreed that more rain is needed, adding that the decision could not be made yet because the holiday is still a few weeks away.

Koeppen said the committee will make a decision Friday on whether to have the fireworks display. Several Northwest suburbs already have cancelled displays because of dry conditions. Wheeling shoots its fireworks over the lake behind village hall, but Koeppen said he is worried about the large crowds on the very dry grass in Heritage Park.

Abruscato said if the drought prohibits the fireworks, "maybe we'll just do something later in the year," such as having a community picnic with a fireworks display for Labor Day.

Orval Kent pledged up to \$4,500, depending on the cost of the fireworks, Abruscato said. The total cost for parade and fireworks is usually \$10,000 or more each year.

Even if the sky over Wheeling isn't lit up on the holiday weekend, plenty of fun, food and other activities are on the agenda.

St. Joseph the Worker Church will hold its annual FamilyFest June 30 through July 4. The festival, held on the church grounds, adjacent to Heritage Park and the fireworks display, features food and musical entertainment.

FamilyFest also includes games, kiddie rides, a petting zoo, helicopter rides and elephant rides. Admission and parking are free.

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Water is safe, Wheeling says

6-23-88
By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

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Mike Kohen, vice president of

external affairs for the Tahoe Village Condominium Association, said the issue of lead levels in water has been discussed by residents.

"Maybe some panic has set in," he said. "But I think somebody's trying to capitalize on the concern people have."

Rhodes said the village tracked the people who were distributing the bottles and told them to apply for a peddler's license, after getting several complaints from people in the Tahoe development.

"They haven't come in for a license and paid the fee yet," Rhodes said. He did not know the name of the company, since they had not submitted an application.

Camper dealership trying to meet codes

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Owners of a Wheeling camper dealership that has been in violation of several zoning laws for more than two years are trying to work out a plan to bring their property up to code.

Wheeling Acting Village Planner Chris Washburn said campers, trailers and other recreational vehicles were being stored on the property, which is not allowed. Also, those vehicles are parked on grass, rather than a paved surface, another violation. Warnings have been issued, Washburn said.

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"The grass sucks up more water," he said. "We'll do gravel if its required, but grass keeps the dust down."

The dealership also would like to move its fence back from Milwaukee Avenue to set up an area for display of campers, vans and camping trailers.

Commissions' seats filled

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The various commissions are part of the village legislative review and usually make recommendations on issues to the village board. Residents often sit on a commission in their particular area of expertise.

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The senior citizens commission welcomes three new members: Fred Steffens, Adelle Becker and Edward Ciskowski. Bernard Nathan was re-appointed. Each will serve for two years.

Wheeling will light the fuse

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Judy Abruscato, Fourth of July committee chairman, said St. Joseph the Worker Church's Family Fest also has been a big contributor. Other funding comes from residents, the Rotary Club, Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza and the First National Bank of Wheeling.

Seniors panel member left off board

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In the midst of several new appointments to the Wheeling Senior Citizens Commission, one outspoken commissioner was denied reappointment.

Patricia Walsdorf has been an outspoken critic of village government, the commission she served on, and the policies of the Pavilion Senior Center.

"I sensed her frustration and we had talked about it," said Village President Sheila Schultz, who recommended Walsdorf not be returned to the commission. "After talking to her, the board decided her involvement was not beneficial, for both her and the commission."

Walsdorf, however, contends she was not given the reappointment partly because she asked too many questions about use of the senior center. When the center adopted a membership policy, Walsdorf was a vocal opponent, saying a membership policy was discriminatory and should not be allowed in a building built with public tax money.

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which she calls "an exclusive group of citizens than represent about one-tenth of 1 percent of the village population."

Walsdorf is the president of the newly formed Wheeling chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons, something she worked to bring to the village on her own after she could not convince the commission to sponsor it.

The vacancies were filled by the reappointment of Bernard Nathan and by the appointment of Fred Steffens, Adelle Becker and Edward Ciskowski.

Wheeling passes town house plan

BY DAN COIT
Daily Herald Correspondent

The Wheeling village board gave the green light to the proposed Strong Gate town house development, paving the way for construction of the 37 units to begin in late summer or early fall.

The eight-building project, to be located along Stong Street between 10th and 12th streets, was approved 4-2 at a meeting earlier this week.

Trustees Elizabeth Hartman and Judy Abruscato objected to the project, mainly because of its density.

"I'm opposed to any increase in residential density," Hartman said.

Abruscato agreed with Hartman but also said she was not satisfied with a number of other aspects.

"I have too many unanswered questions," she said. "With that size building, the living spaces have to be too small and the traffic in the area

Zone change spurs house construction

Four new single-family houses may soon be under construction on 10th and Strong Streets in Wheeling as a result of a zoning change approved by the village board.

The lots, located at 190-193 10th Street, had been zoned for multifamily dwellings, but were changed to single-family at a village board meeting earlier this week.

is going to increase."

Despite the opposition, the village may have had little choice in the matter because of a 10-year-old court order requiring officials to allow multifamily construction on the four-acre site.

"You have to take into consideration the 1978 court decree," Village

Manager Craig Anderson said the switch was needed because drainage problems anticipated on the site would have prevented anything but single-family construction, even though the land was otherwise approved for town houses.

"It's been determined the flood plain regulations would prohibit a town house development," he said.

Manager Craig Anderson said. "Those lots can be developed with up to 15 units per acre." The planned density is about nine units per acre.

Trustee Anthony Altieri said he thinks the development would mesh well with the surrounding neighborhood.

"I don't think we're talking about

"The rezoning would be in keeping with the rest of the neighborhood."

Village President Sheila Schultz said the change also would eliminate worries about property values expressed by other homeowners in the area.

"This was an area of great concern by the surrounding residents," she said.

a substantial increase in density," he said.

Anderson agreed the project would be beneficial for the village. "It certainly appears to be a nice plan for the site," he said.

The three-bedroom town houses will be priced between \$100,000 and \$110,000.

Weather to decide if Wheeling July 4th fireworks will go off

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's Fourth of July Committee members are facing a tough decision this week, trying to decide whether the lack of rain will make fireworks too risky.

The Fourth of July fireworks display celebration is being funded largely by a local food company, but the most desperately needed donation, a solid day of rain, has yet to appear.

Yet, committee members said they are happy to have a donation from Orval Kent Food Company Inc., which will pay for the display this year. "Without this donation, we would not be able to have the fireworks," committee Chairwoman Judy Abruscato said.

However, unless it rains, the village may not be able to have the fireworks at all.

Wheeling Fire Chief Bernie Koeppen said Tuesday that more rain than the scant amount that fell Monday night is needed to make the area safe, especially for a large crowd.

Abruscato said she is "concerned with the dryness," but noted that Koeppen and Police Chief Michael Haeger were "moni-



toring the situation."

Haeger agreed that more rain is needed, adding that the decision could not be made yet because the holiday is still a few weeks away.

Koeppen said the committee will make a decision Friday on whether to have the fireworks display. Several Northwest suburbs already have cancelled displays because of dry conditions. Wheeling shoots its fireworks over the lake behind village hall, but Koeppen said he is worried about the large crowds on the very dry grass in Heritage Park.

Abruscato said if the drought prohibits the fireworks, "maybe we'll just do something later in the year," such as having a community picnic with a fireworks display for Labor Day.

Orval Kent pledged up to \$4,500, depending on the cost of the fireworks, Abruscato said. The total cost for parade and fireworks is usually \$10,000 or more each year.

Even if the sky over Wheeling isn't lit up on the holiday weekend, plenty of fun, food and other activities are on the agenda.

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Wheeling loses its personnel officer

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's personnel officer, Susan Musick, has resigned to take a job in Janesville, Wis.

Musick, who has worked for the village about two years, will work for the city of Janesville as a personnel director, a department-head position.

Village President Sheila Schultz said because Janesville is a much

larger town than Wheeling, "this job is a wonderful career opportunity for Sue. I think she left strictly as a career move."

Village Manager Craig Anderson agreed the move was "a step up" for the former employee, however unexpected for him.

The village is not hiring anyone to replace Musick, Anderson said. Rather, Village Administrative Assistant David Kowal will take over Musick's duties in addition to his

other work.

Musick is the second staff member to resign since former Village Manager Thomas Markus left April 30. Former Village Planner Richard Greenwood resigned in May to take a job in the private sector.

Schultz said the resignations are not related, and the recent ones would have happened whether Markus left or not.

"Wheeling is a good training ground," she asserted. "Our people

are well qualified, so they sometimes will go to a bigger town. We hate to see them go, but we can't hold them back."

Schultz said she will miss Musick, who was "a delightful person to work with."

Anderson said Musick's job included working on a settlement agreement with the Wheeling firefighters union. She was also part of the team working to find a new village planner.

3 suburbs join 'no fireworks' bandwagon

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling, Vernon Hills and Lake Zurich have joined the parade of Northwest suburbs canceling their Fourth of July fireworks.

The decision to cancel was not only because the explosives might start fires on the dry grass, but with so many other towns having already canceled, the extra crowds might be too much to handle, officials said.

After two weeks of deliberation, Wheeling Fire Chief Bernie Koeppen decided Wednesday that fireworks are unsafe. Part of the decision was peer pressure, he admitted.

"We're falling in line with the rest of the towns around us," he said.

Vernon Hills trustees canceled the village's display after Countryside Fire Chief A. Lewis Landry warned that cancellations in nearby towns would bring "hundreds" of extra visitors.

In addition, Koeppen said, the half an inch of rain which fell Tuesday night was not enough.

"It didn't do much for that dry grass," Koeppen said. "I told the Jaycees (who conduct the fireworks display) if we got an inch and a half of rain between now and the Fourth, they could go ahead with it if they had time to set up."

Wheeling instead will shoot off its fireworks on Labor Day, maybe accompanied by a family picnic in the park, said Judy Abruscato, chairman of the Wheeling Fourth of July committee.

Lake Zurich also jumped on the "no fireworks" bandwagon. Officials

Fireworks shows: Sizzle or fizzle?



Communities with fireworks

Barrington
Bloomingdale
Elk Grove Village
Mount Prospect
Mundelein
Rolling Meadows
Roselle
Streamwood

Cancelling fireworks

Bartlett
Buffalo Grove
Des Plaines
Hoffman Estates
Island Lake
Lake Zurich
Libertyville
Vernon Hills
Wheeling

Daily Herald Graphic

feared emergency services could be overburdened by additional crowds from neighboring communities.

Nearby Island Lake canceled its show, as did Libertyville on Tuesday. Des Plaines, which planned its first fireworks display since the mid-1970s also canceled.

However, some towns are going ahead with the displays, saying they can combat the crowds and the dryness successfully.

"The dryness is not going to prevent it," said Mount Prospect Fire Chief Edward M. Cavallo of the display set for Melas Park, Central and Busse roads. He is taking several precautions, however, including parking restrictions and an extra pumper truck.

Rolling Meadows also plans a display: "Unless something drastic happens in the next couple of days," Fire Chief Thomas A. Holz said Wednesday.

In Mundelein, fireworks will go off at 9 p.m. Monday, after the area is thoroughly wet down, officials said.

AARP fighting to use Pavilion

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The newly formed Wheeling chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons elected officers this week, and is jumping into a political battle with the village.

The chapter is again trying to get use of the Pavilion Senior Center.

Village policy restricts use of the Pavilion, stating that programs there must "not require affiliation to any organization other than the Senior Center," and prohibiting groups that charge or solicit membership, admission fee or dues.

Officers are: Leona Madden, president; Andrew P. Snyder, vice president; Robert L. McIntyre, secretary; and Dolly Hein, treasurer. The chapter, which has 70 members, meets at the Community Presbyterian Church.

Barbara McIntyre, AARP member, said the chapter is writing letters to the members of the village's senior commission, trying to get its support.

"We're attempting to meet in the Pavilion, because we really need a building that has wheelchair access," McIntyre said. "They could meet at the Pavilion if they comply with the policy," Village President Sheila Schultz said. "They would have to meet at a time that does not conflict with other Pavilion programs." The Pavilion is closed at night for security reasons.

Village hall meeting rooms are available to outside groups who put up a \$100 deposit, and have \$1 million insurance coverage. Despite the fact that the village hall is wheelchair accessible, the group says it cannot afford village hall.

Wheeling Director of Community Development Michael Kiltzke said he believes the AARP chapter will not be able to use the Pavilion because the group solicits membership and charges dues.

"It's difficult for any group," he said. "Not just AARP. We're not running a meeting hall."

Pal-Waukee to get fenced in

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A construction contract for security fencing at Pal-Waukee Airport is expected to be awarded soon. Construction of the fencing, which officials say will reduce thefts, vandalism and trespassing at the airport, should begin this fall.

Because there is no fence around the airfield, joyriding drivers can take their cars right onto the runway, causing an obvious safety hazard to themselves and pilots. The tie-down areas for planes also are unprotected, making theft a problem.

The fencing is being paid for by

state and federal grants, and the Illinois Department of Transportation, aviation division, is handling the bidding process.

Airport Manager Fred Stewart said IDOT officials are accepting bids now and should award a contract in August.

The fencing is considered an "interim" security measure, because it will not entirely circle the airport, Stewart said most of the fencing will be put in near the south end of the property, particularly near the driveways to prevent cars from driving onto the runways.

When more grant money is available, more fencing will be installed.

"The rest of the fence will be tied in to the interim fencing," Stewart said. The cost of construction of the cyclone fence has been estimated at \$94,475, he said, although that ticket did not include engineering or cost of materials.

"That's just an estimated cost, subject to the bids," he said, noting that state and federal grants are paying for the entire project.

The fence will be built to Federal Aviation Administration specifications: 4 feet high in some places, 6 feet high in others.

The airport, which is jointly owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights, is occasionally patrolled by police from both towns.

Wheeling police recruits pass tests

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Three new officers will be sworn into the Wheeling Police Department next week, after passing a battery of tests.

Michael Prozycki, 24; Todd Wolff, 23, and Hugh Versteegh, 25, were approved last week pending a medical

examination, and department officials announced recently that all three had passed.

The new officers are part of an effort to beef up the police force, approved as part of this year's village budget. Two of the new officers are taking new positions on the force. The third was hired in anticipation of a current officer being promoted to sergeant.

One of the new officers, Wolff, is a community service officer for the department.

The men will be sworn in at 8:30 a.m. July 8. On July 11 they will leave for police academy training, an intensive, 13-week program.

The new officers bring the department up to its full force of 47.

Starting salary for a new police

officer is \$25,826.

After 13 weeks of training at the police academy, the new recruits will return to Wheeling and spend the next 13 weeks working on the street with a more experienced officer before going "solo."

New officers are considered "on probation" for the first two years of their employment.

Village board to discuss utility tax

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A proposed 1 percent utility tax will be discussed at the Wheeling village board meeting this week.

Because of the Fourth of July holiday, the board will meet at 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 5.

The board is expected to enact legislation which would abolish the current vehicle sticker license fee and replace it with a 1 percent tax on electric, natural gas and telephone service.

Since Finance Director Robert W.

Fialkowski first proposed the tax in budget hearings early this year, it has been met with some resistance, both from residents and business owners in the village.

Senior citizens in Wheeling have led the fight, arguing that the tax will increase with utility prices, hurting those on a fixed income.

The vehicle stickers cost \$10 per year, but are only \$3 for senior citizens. Fialkowski said if they were not replaced, the cost would have to increase.

Fialkowski has also stated that the sticker fees are difficult to enforce

and costly to administer, making the system inefficient.

Many senior citizens, however, have told village officials they would rather have the sticker cost increased than a utility tax.

Some said they do not own cars, so they would go from paying no tax to paying full tax on their utilities.

Fialkowski estimated the average cost of a utility tax to Wheeling residents would be about \$14 per year. Businesses would also have to pay the tax.

Senior citizen Robert McIntyre said the sticker fee was fair, since it

taxes users of the roads for maintenance of them.

In a memo reiterating his positive recommendation of the tax, Fialkowski notes: "It is hard to understand how a group can make an argument (against the utility tax) that the users of the roads should carry the burden of the costs... and yet defend the practice of having some of the users of that system pay less than others (through the reduced rate)."

Fialkowski said he will maintain his recommendation in favor of the utility tax.

Wheeling, firemen resume talks

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling firefighters and village officials will sit down at the bargaining table this week to continue work on a contract.

Union and village leaders met last week for the first time in over a year, in what union President Bart Burns called a "very encouraging" contract negotiation session.

The next session is set for Thursday.

Burns said he couldn't comment on the content of talks "because we agreed to leave it at the table. We wouldn't be acting in good faith if we talked about it outside

of that. But we want to work hard at reaching an agreement."

Village Manager Craig Anderson said union officials gave the village's negotiating team a written contract proposal, which they will review and respond to in the next session.

Three sessions have been scheduled in the next month, Anderson said, where the two sides will discuss salary, hours and working conditions.

The two sides have been at odds since February 1986, when the union voted to include the department's six lieutenants in the bargaining unit. The village refused, arguing that lieutenants are supervisors and therefore exempt from

collective bargaining. The ensuing legal battle is still going on.

In November 1986, the Illinois Labor Relations Board ruled in the union's favor. Contract talks broke down completely in March 1987, when the village appealed the case to the Illinois Appellate Court.

In May of this year, the court also ruled in the union's favor. The decision did not end the argument, although the village did offer to restart negotiations, but only with the rank and file firefighters.

The firefighters agreed, then village announced it was appealing the case to the Illinois Supreme Court. The court is expected to review the case when it reconvenes in the fall.

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Village Board deferred action on a 1 percent utility tax Tuesday night, after hearing objections from village residents.

The proposed tax would add 1 percent to all residential and business gas, electric and telephone bills in the village.

The utility tax was first proposed as a replacement for the current village vehicle sticker fee to pay for street repairs and replacement.

About 60 residents, chiefly senior citizens, said they would prefer to see the cost for village vehicle

stickers increased.

Several businessmen also opposed the tax. Al Heimert, vice president of manufacturing at Orval Kent Food Company Inc., said the tax would have a "depressing effect on the residential, commercial, and business real estate values in Wheeling." The proposed tax would cost the company an estimated \$10,000 annually.

Trustee William Rogers suggested the vote on the tax be tabled.

Rogers mentioned that the village has no accurate count on the number of people who do not purchase the vehicle stickers. Trustee James Whittington agreed, saying, "I'm not convinced that we know

Decision on utility tax delayed

our delinquency rate."

Finance Director Robert W. Fialkowski proposed the tax, saying the sticker fee system is inefficient and difficult to collect.

Officials estimate that the tax would add about \$14 annually to the average household's bills.

Vehicle stickers cost \$10 per year, as they have since 1973. Fialkowski said if the utility tax was not enacted, the sticker price would have to go up about \$5.

Senior citizens, who currently pay a discounted \$3 per sticker, said they'd rather see the sticker tax increased than the utility tax enacted.

All six village trustees expressed reservations about the tax.

Wheeling gives tax second look

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees appear to be having second thoughts about imposing a 1 percent utility tax on village residents and businesses.

In an informal poll, three trustees say they are undecided, while one appears to favor the tax. Two others indicated at a meeting this week that they will probably oppose it.

Opposition to the tax is coming primarily from local senior citizens who prompted the board to delay a vote on the tax Tuesday.

The tax would replace vehicle stickers in paying for street repairs. Finance Director Robert W.

Fialkowski said a tax on electric, gas and telephone bills would be more efficient and generate more revenue than the stickers.

Residents who instead asked for an increase in the sticker fees surprised Trustee William Rogers said.

"But I'm glad to see senior citizens are willing to pay their fair share," he said. Stickers cost \$3 for senior citizens and \$10 for everyone else. "My mind is still unresolved," Rogers said.

Trustee Anthony Altieri said that before he would vote on the tax, "I need to feel... that people understand why we are considering this. If all the questions are addressed, it still seems like the best

alternative." Trustee Elizabeth Hartman also is undecided.

Some trustees said they worry that Wheeling residents will get pulled over in other towns if their cars don't display stickers.

Trustee Joseph Ratajczak was the only board member to openly support the utility tax.

"Primarily because of revenue," he said. "The deficit in that fund is being made up right now by property tax."

A 1 percent tax would cost the average household about \$14 per year.

Trustees Judy Abruscato and James Whittington opposed the tax, saying people prefer paying a one-time flat fee.

Fourth celebration hailed as success

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

7-7-88
Wheeling's Fourth of July Celebration is being hailed as an unqualified success, despite the fact that the drought dried up all hopes of a fireworks display.

"The parade was great," Fourth of July Committee Chairwoman Judy Abruscato said. "We had 88 units, and they were all fantastic. It was our best parade ever."

Fire Chief Bernie Koeppen said he was glad he decided to cancel the fireworks, because dry conditions led to small grass fires in other areas of town.

The Old Settlers Picnic, sponsored

by the Wheeling Historical Society, drew record crowd of 99 "old-timers" and historians, who enjoyed a pot-luck lunch, a sing-along, and an afternoon of reminiscing about the good old days in Wheeling.

At Familyfest, the village's annual celebration, things went off without a hitch. Police estimated that between 240,000 and 250,000 people attended the festival, which featured food, entertainment, games and rides.

Familyfest Publicity Director Kathy Pico said the fest was the biggest and best ever.

"Our best thing this year was having Blood, Sweat and Tears perform," she said. The free Saturday

night concert drew the largest crowd of the weekend.

Chief Koeppen said the festival was very safe, with no fires on the grounds and no serious injuries. Department paramedics attended to "a few bruises and bumps," on a handful of fest-goers, Koeppen said. "Nothing big or drastic, no fires."

Those who hoped to get an elephant ride at Familyfest were disappointed, because the handlers did not have the proper insurance, Pico said. "They thought we had the insurance, but they were supposed to bring it. The guy waited two days trying to get insurance but couldn't." She said the elephants were available for viewing and petting, but not for

rides. "We'll try that again next year," she said. "Hopefully they'll get it right."

Pico said the biggest money-makers for the festival were the food booths and the bar. Pizza and corn on the cob were the most popular food items, Pico said, although "all the restaurants did real well," even those offering more exotic food.

"The restaurants and bar are the biggest money-makers," Pico said but organizers refused to say how much beer and wine was consumed.

When asked what she would change for next year's festival, Pico joked, "How about some rain?"

Wheeling squad car bursts into flames; no one hurt

7-11-88
HERALD
Wheeling police are in the market for a new squad car, after the one carrying the department's canine unit went up in flames.

Police dog Laiser and his handler, Officer William Benson, had just gotten out of the car to investigate a possible burglary on Milwaukee Avenue when flames broke out, police said. Man and dog were not injured but the car was completely destroyed.

Wheeling Fire Department Captain Ralph Perricone said the

fire was apparently caused by a frozen alternator, which caused heat to build up from the friction of the frozen alternator belt on a frozen pulley. He noted that this is a typical cause of car fires.

Also destroyed in the fire were the car's radios, custom radar, siren controls and other equipment. Village officials said they will not have an estimate on the value of the damage until the car is inspected by insurance adjusters.

Seniors rush to join Pavilion center

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

7-12-88
Membership at Wheeling's Pavilion Senior Center is booming, despite the controversy which initially surrounded imposing a membership policy.

Nearly 300 senior citizens have joined the center since May, when the policy was enacted, Senior Center Director Barb Hansen said. Membership costs \$8 per year for residents, \$10 for non-residents.

The extra \$2 for nonresidents has not deterred seniors from Buffalo Grove, Northbrook, Prospect Heights and other communities from joining, however.

Hansen said that although "the great majority of our members are from Wheeling, we don't turn anyone away." She said a breakdown of members' hometowns was not available.

When Hansen first suggested a membership policy, a small but vocal group of senior citizens were opposed to it, saying it was exclusive and would restrict membership.

Village Trustee James Whittington also was concerned that if not worded properly, the policy would make the center "seem like a private club." After working on the wording of the membership policy, Whittington voted in favor of it.

Apparently, the membership fee has not been a detriment, much to

Hansen's delight.

"Membership has really pleased me. It's more than I dared to hope for. But, I knew membership would work. The problems our critics feared have just not occurred."

Part of Hansen's pitch to village officials on membership was that it would foster a sense of "belonging" at the center. She says that has proven true.

"There is a real spirit of pride in the center," among members, she said. "It's so evident that they have a sense of belonging."

The policy allows any seniors to participate in educational or service programs, such as rules of the road classes or blood pressure screenings,

even if they are not members.

However, free lunches, parties, trips and other activities are reserved for members only.

Also, the Pavilion may only be used for village-sanctioned senior activities. Outside groups may not use the building unless they meet a list of criteria outlined in the policy.

The Wheeling branch of the American Association of Retired Persons, which includes many of the membership policy critics, is trying to obtain permission to use the center for its meetings.

The group's request has met with resistance, because the group solicits dues, and groups that do so are prohibited in the membership policy.

Violations hit camper dealer

7-13-88
BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The owner of a Wheeling camper dealership is expected to take a step this week toward correcting several zoning code violations on his property.

Bob Leonard, owner of Sky Harbor Recreational Vehicles, 400 N. Milwaukee Avenue, is asking Wheeling planning officials to allow him to move his fence back from the road as part of his plan to set up a display area for campers, vans and trailers.

However, Sky Harbor still is in violation of zoning codes which prohibit storing vehicles on the property. The dealership, which

has a repair shop, stores vehicles that have been repaired, sometimes for months at a time. Also, Acting Village Planner Kris Washburn said those vehicles are parked on grass, rather than on a paved or gravel surface, another violation.

Sky Harbor has been cited for code violations several times, and village planning officials expect to set up a meeting to work out a plan to bring the property to code.

Sky Harbor representatives are expected to present plans for the display area to the plan commission at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

"They felt this was something they needed to do right away, be-

cause this is the height of their sales season," Washburn said. The change is a zoning variance, and does not correct any code violations, but "will make it look a lot better," Washburn said.

If permission to move the fence back is granted, "we'll begin the process of correcting the other things," Washburn said.

Because the dealership is on sandy soil, the owner said paving would create drainage problems.

Washburn agreed. "It's true they have good drainage there, and there would be no use requiring complete paving." However, she said paving of aisles between rows of parked vehicles may be required.

Wheeling cops await results of testing

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

About 20 Wheeling police officers seeking a promotion to the rank of sergeant are awaiting the results of a written exam, the first step in the selection process.

There are only two vacancies for sergeants, Police Chief Michael Haeger says. Those who pass the written exam will be eligible for the next phase of testing, called an "assessment center."

"Assessors from an outside agency come in and the officers go through a series of exercises that test their supervisory and management skills," Haeger said.

Results of Saturday's test will not be available for about three weeks, Haeger said.

The last test was given about two and a half years ago. A new test is being used this year. The test comes from an outside agency but is administered by the Wheeling Fire and Police Commission.

A second part of the written test, also given Saturday, is a "local knowledge" test, which includes questions about state statutes, traffic laws, village ordinances and police department rules and regulations.

Passing the tests does not ensure a promotion, but only puts the officers names on an eligibility list. That way, the department can keep an active list in case other sergeants are promoted or leave the department, which has authorization for seven sergeants.

The salary range for a Wheeling police sergeant is \$32,903 to \$41,000. Starting salary for an officer is \$25,826.

Southpoint now is Wolf Point

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The owners of one of Wheeling's older shopping centers are changing its name and its looks, amid plans for an expansion.

Southpoint Shopping Center has changed its name to Wolf Point, and developers will present plans to the Wheeling Plan Commission tonight for an addition and new landscaping.

The center is on the northwest corner of Camp McDonald and Wolf roads, near the Wheeling/Prospect Heights border. Plans include dividing a large retail space that once housed a grocery store into smaller, easier-to-lease

stores.

"There's a lot of space in that store," Acting Village Planner Christine Washburn said. "I think they want to divide it because there is more of a market for smaller stores."

The commission also will review plans to turn a vacant gas station on the same corner into a video store, "to set up a coordinated development," Washburn said.

"We want to tie them together visually and coordinate the traffic, things like that," she said.

Washburn said the new owners of the center also plan to add several islands of landscaping to the parking lot, "so it doesn't look like a sea of asphalt."

Southpoint struggled in its early years. An A&P grocery store at the center went out of business in December 1982. The Four Ways Foods store that took its place lasted about nine months before the company supplying its foods called for payment on \$200,000 worth of goods. Store owners declared bankruptcy.

Despite problems with the store, the shopping mall hung on, and is almost completely leased, Washburn said.

Center owners George Savoy and Pat Roberts could not be reached for comment Wednesday. The plan commission will meet at 7:30 p.m. at village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Wheeling approves fence shift

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling planning officials are working with the owner of a camper dealership in the village to improve its appearance and correct several zoning code violations.

At its Thursday night meeting, the Wheeling Plan Commission approved a request from Bob Leonard, owner of Sky Harbor Recreational Vehicles, 400 N. Milwaukee Avenue, to move the chain link fence at the front of his property.

The fence will now be located 88 feet back from Milwaukee Avenue to provide an open sales lot. Leonard said the move will improve

business. Previously, the fence was 25 feet from the road.

While moving the fence does not address any zoning violations, it is a "stopgap measure," Acting Planner Christine Washburn said.

Sky Harbor still has to correct a number of zoning violations, including illegal storage of recreational vehicles. Thursday's meeting was the second in a series of meetings with officials to try and bring the dealership up to village standards.

"You understand that this approval is given on condition of your continued progress," in correcting other problems, Plan Commission Chairman Paul Eisterhold told Leonard.

"We intend to keep following this through," Leonard replied.

Washburn said the village has issued citations to Sky Harbor several times for various violations, particularly for storing vehicles on the property.

When the dealership first moved from Northbrook to its present location, the owner asked for permission to store campers and trailers. His request was denied, but he stored the vehicles anyway.

Leonard said he was aware of the violations, but could not afford to correct them immediately. He also noted that the vehicles stored there are ones repaired on the premises, waiting to be claimed by their owners.

Trustees mull curbside recycling plan

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees are considering a curbside recycling program for the village, similar to those recently put in place in Arlington Heights and Buffalo Grove.

Representatives from Waste Management of North America say the program run by their company will extend the life of existing landfills.

Lee Addleman, Waste Management's Midwest recycling coordinator, said start-up costs would run about \$38,000, the cost of plastic bins used to hold recyclables at the curb. Also, each resident would pay about \$1 per month for the pick-up service. Addleman said his company helps

villages involved in the program apply for state grants to offset start-up costs. Buffalo Grove just signed on to the exact same program, and recycling pick-up will begin there Aug. 15. Buffalo Grove officials expect to hear this week whether they have received a grant to help pay the \$38,720 start-up bill.

Addleman said if the village receives a grant to cover the cost of the bins, the program could be "an unexpected source of revenue" for Wheeling. Money from the sale of recycled materials would be returned to the community, minus Waste Management's processing costs.

"I'm assuming that somewhere along the line we'll learn what your processing costs are," Trustee Wil-

liam Rogers said.

Addleman said the information would be provided. "You're not going to have the fox counting the chickens," he said.

Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal, a local branch of Waste Management, would provide announcements and education about the program. "We're willing to do virtually anything to make this program a success," Addleman said.

The curbside program would be run on a voluntary basis, and would only include single-family homes. Residents would place glass, tin and aluminum cans, and newspaper in the special bins, and put the bins out on the same day garbage is collected.

A truck with bins for each of the three items would collect the items, and take them to a recycling plant.

"It makes no sense to bury newspapers, tin or glass," Addleman said.

Although the Wheeling program would not include recycling of plastic, Addleman noted that technology in plastic recycling is moving ahead. Right now, it is difficult to recycle because so many different types of plastics are used, so a lot of plastic ends up at landfills.

"Archaeologists will dig this up some day," he said, holding up a plastic pop bottle, "and wonder about us."

Wheeling trustees will vote on the program at a later date.

Proposed utility tax draws opposition

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's plan to implement a 1 percent utility tax has met with varied, but often unexpectedly strong, reaction.

Much of the opposition to the tax, which would replace village vehicle stickers, has come from a political action group that will benefit whether or not the new tax is enacted. The group's questions prompted Wheeling trustees to table the proposal, and no date has been set yet for a village board vote on the issue.

The recently formed Wheeling chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons has led the fight against the proposed tax, rallying large groups of senior citizens to speak out against the plan.

The association says the tax will hurt senior citizens because they pay reduced rates for vehicle stickers, or don't drive, or live on fixed incomes.

Whatever the outcome, it appears the Wheeling AARP is using the proposed tax as a feather in its political cap.

"Either way, it's having an impact," said Pat Walsdorf, one of the chapter's founders. "One way or another, AARP will benefit." The group's vocal opposition and well-orchestrated fight has helped recruit members, Walsdorf said.

"Is this on our political action agenda?" Walsdorf said. "Absolutely. The timing couldn't have been better. This came at the right time."

Vehicle stickers currently cost \$10, although senior citizens pay \$3. The proposed utility tax would cost the average Wheeling household about \$14 a year, and would be added to monthly telephone, gas and electric bills.

AARP representatives and other seniors say they would rather pay full price for vehicle stickers, even if the cost increases, than a utility tax.

Proposed utility tax

To estimate annual costs, add annual total bill for:

Telephone	_____
Electricity	_____
Natural gas	_____
Total	_____
Multiply	X 0.01
Estimated annual tax	_____

"It isn't so much the amount, it's that it's clearly defined," Walsdorf said. Because state law allows municipalities to tax utilities up to 5 percent, some residents are afraid the tax will go up in the future.

However, alternative revenue sources, such as property taxes or even vehicle stickers, have no limit, officials say.

"There is no reason for anyone to assume that a utility tax amount is more likely to be increased than the amount of most other local taxes," Wheeling Finance Director Robert Fialkowski said.

He said the vehicle sticker system is inefficient, since about 15 percent of the revenue raised is spent on administering the tax. Also, Fialkowski says not everyone who should be buying one. However, no statistics on the number of scofflaws are available.

While opposition from some residents is strong, representatives of other interests in town have remained relatively silent.

"We haven't heard anything from members," said Ed Main, Wheeling Chamber of Commerce president. "We carried an announcement about



Sheila Schultz



Robert Fialkowski

it in our newsletter. I don't know if that's complacency, or if people are using other avenues to express their opinions about it."

While Main said he doesn't think the tax would be a big problem, "It's got to have some impact. At 1 percent, it's not going to be a big drain."

Only one company, Orval Kent Food Co., sent representatives to a public hearing on the tax. They called the tax unfair and said it would drive businesses out of Wheeling.

"As an individual living in Wheeling, I'll save money because I'm a multi-car owner," Main said. "I don't know what it would be for my business, (Striker Lanes in Buffalo Grove) because it's not in Wheeling."

Main said he is "aware of the need for more money for roads, but I'm a little disappointed in the sales pitch, saying they have trouble administering it. They haven't raised the sticker fee in 10 years or more."

Village President Sheila Schultz said she doesn't mind the political muscle-flexing from the senior citizens group. "Whenever any group feels strongly about an issue, we welcome their comments," she said.

At a recent public hearing, Schultz reacted a bit differently when a resident accused the village board of trying to vote the tax in without enough public notice.

"This came up at budget meetings in February," she said. "We could have passed it right then, but we didn't. We put out a special newsletter, we held a public hearing. That was not required, but we were offering a courtesy to you to hear your opinions."

Schultz said people who attended the meeting represented a "small sampling" of Wheeling's population. "Feedback from the general public to me has been heavily positive," she said.

Comments from the audience at two public meetings held on the tax indicate some people are having trouble computing how much the tax would cost. One resident figured the tax would add \$3 to his bill, and Fialkowski corrected him, saying it would only add 30 cents.

"I think the decimal point is being put in the wrong place," by residents trying to find out how much the tax would cost them, Schultz said.

Tree removal angers neighbors

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents trying to save trees on Walnut Avenue were frustrated this week by the Wheeling Plan Commission's decision to approve a three-lot subdivision project in their neighborhood.

It was the second time the commission endorsed the Andalina subdivision, proposed for the corner of Walnut and Park avenues. Developer Larry Scimeca received preliminary approval for the project in November 1986. But he failed to return for final approval before the one year time limit, Acting Village Planner Chris Washburn said.

Walnut Avenue is 15 feet wide and lined with trees. In order to build on his property, Scimeca would have to widen the street to 24 feet so emergency vehicles and two-way traffic could travel safely on the street. In the process, trees on the block would be removed.

Residents say their neighborhood would be changed drastically if that happens, even though Scimeca said he would try to relocate as many trees as possible.

"You're going to lose 35 years worth of beautiful trees and tear up our neighborhood," John Carichner said. "There are no traffic problems on that street. Wacking those trees is a crime. They are an integral part of our neighbor-

hood."

Improvements must be made to the property if it is developed, plan commission Chairman Paul Eisterhold said.

"These are the minimums for a safe situation," he said. "There is not a lot we can do."

Eisterhold suggested that residents approach the Wheeling Park District to see if it would be interested in buying the property for a park.

"It's been done before," he said.

"I'll try to save as many as I can," he said, adding that he has talked to experts from Morton Arboretum, who said chances of such mature trees surviving a transplant are slim.

Residents seeking stop signs for safety

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Residents in the Polo Run subdivision in Wheeling say their neighborhood streets are unsafe, and are asking the village board to do something about it.

The main street through the subdivision, Equestrian Drive, is a popular short cut between Wheeling Road and Elmhurst Road. Residents say they need stop signs to slow down the traffic.

Although the posted limit is 25 mph, and police frequently catch speeders, residents told the village board this week that drivers continue to speed through their neighborhood. Two residents presented the board with a petition signed by nearly 200 people asking for stop signs, speed bumps and signs that say, "Slow, children playing" and "No construction traffic" on Equestrian Drive.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said speed bumps could not be put in on a public street because of liability problems, and "if snow plow equipment goes through there, speed bumps would wreak havoc."

"We shouldn't have to fear for our safety," Nancy Stephenson, 715 Equestrian Drive, said. "We have attempted to our part by reporting offenders to the police, but we are fighting a losing battle."

Anne Marie Ehrlich, of 1291 Der Street, said many small children play in the neighborhood. "Consider the lives of the children," she said.

Anderson said the village would do a traffic count on the street to "see if stop signs were warranted."

The residents requested signs last year, and the village said they would consider it, but no signs were put in, Stephenson said.

Condemnation set to begin for 'clear zone'

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling and Prospect Heights have begun condemnation proceedings on several pieces of property surrounding Pal-Waukee Municipal Airport.

The land is being condemned to create a "clear zone" around the airport, to bring it into compliance with federal safety standards. No buildings or runways will be put on the property in the zone.

A condemnation suit has been filed against the owners of the property at 10 E. Hintz Road, although it

is not exactly clear who owns the property. The suit names several owners, including Andrew P. Kolton, A.P. Kolton Realtors, the estate of Rose M. Kolton, Cook County Registrar of Titles, and "unknown owners."

Pal-Waukee Airport commissioners reportedly discussed the acquisition of two more properties — one of them an abandoned gas station on the south end of the airport, the other a vacant piece next to that — during a closed door session last week.

"We want to take the old Marathon gas station," Commission-

er William Rogers said. "But we want to make sure there are no hazardous wastes still under the ground there, so we want to do soil borings."

Rogers said the commission asked Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart to check into getting the soil tests conducted, so that if there are still underground gas tanks or other problems, the commission can adjust its offer accordingly. "If we are going to have to go in and clean up the site, we're not going to offer as much," Rogers said.

Prior to condemning land and taking it through eminent domain proceedings, Prospect Heights and

Wheeling, as joint owners of the airport, have tried other avenues. Rogers said they usually have two or more appraisers determine the value of the property, then make an offer on the land based on the appraisals. Rogers said he was surprised about how many landowners rejected offers made by Prospect Heights and Wheeling on behalf of the airport.

"We're offering mostly fair prices," he said. "We have at least two appraisers look at each piece. I don't understand why they should hold it up in court, unless they have some special reason."

Wheeling taxes drop 1 percent

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Tax bills for residents in Wheeling are expected to be about 1 percent lower than last year, due mainly to decreases in the tax rates for Wheeling Township, the village of Wheeling, which offset increases in two local school districts.

A decrease of almost 11 percent in the village tax rate stemmed from a jump in the taxable value of property in the village, most of which may be due to new development in Wheeling, Finance Director Robert Fialkowski said.

The township tax rate dropped 13.59 percent, something Township Supervisor Ruth Grundberg also attributes to an increase in the township's overall assessed valuation. "It spreads the burden over a greater number of people, so it costs the individual homeowner a little bit less."

Some Wheeling residents live in

Prospect Heights Elementary District 23, where the tax rate increased nearly 12 percent after resident approved a tax increase in a 1987 referendum.

Voters agreed in November to increase the education fund tax rate by 80 cents per \$100 of assessed value. However, board members agreed to raise the rate by only half that amount the first year.

Superintendent David S. Robert called the board's decision an "absolute, iron clad 40 cents maximum."

The Harper College tax rate increased 9 percent, to 30 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. Officials blamed the increase on a \$1 million building automation system.

The system will completely automate the school's heating and cooling systems, as well as improving building security, said Vernon Manke, vice president for business affairs.

"If you took that \$1 million levy

out I bet our increase would only be about 1 percent," Manke said.

But tax rates account for only a portion of a homeowner's total property tax bill. Increases to the assessed value of a home often can outweigh a drop in the tax rate, with the net result being a higher property tax bill. So individual tax bills can hinge on any assessment increases.

Overall, most residents in Wheeling will pay a combined tax rate of \$8.867 per \$100 assessed valuation.

That translates to a typical tax bill of \$1,028.86 for the owner of a \$84,436 home, which was the average selling price of a home in Wheeling last year. For taxation purposes, residential property in Cook County is assessed at 16 percent of its market value. But state officials say property is traditionally under-assessed; they estimate the average Wheeling homeowner is assessed at 11.41 percent of the value of his home.

Buffalo Grove-Wheeling tax rates

(Per \$100 assessed valuation — Cook County portion)

	1986	1987	%
Cook County.....	\$.858	\$.913	+6.41%
Forest Preserve.....	.106	.102	-3.77%
Suburban TB Sanitarium District	.010	.010	n/c
Metropolitan Sanitary District	.635	.517	-18.58%
NW Mosquito Abatement District	.012	.011	-8.33%
Wheeling Township (all funds)	.103	.089	-13.59%
School District 21.....	2.614	2.561	-2.03%
High School District 214.....	2.159	2.196	+1.71%
Harper College.....	.279	.304	+8.96%
Village of Buffalo Grove.....	1.782	1.561	-12.40%
Village of Wheeling.....	1.436	1.281	-10.79%
Buffalo Grove Park District.....	.649	.649	n/c
Wheeling Park District.....	.543	.522	-3.87%
River Trails Park District.....	.323	.335	+3.72%
Indian Trails Library District.....	.334	.333	-.30%
Wheeling Twp. Rural Fire Dist.....	.141	.146	+3.55%
Forest River Fire Protection.....	.300	.300	n/c
Buffalo Grove Total.....	\$9.541	\$9.274	-2.80%
Typical tax bill.....	\$2,308.15	\$2,295.81	-.5%
Based on the village's 1987 average home sale price, \$114,701, and a state-estimated assessment level of 11.41 percent.			
Wheeling total.....	\$9.089	\$8.867	-2.44%
Typical tax bill.....	\$1,030.65	\$1,028.86	-.1%
Based on the village's 1987 average home sale price, \$84,436, and a state-estimated assessment level of 11.41 percent.			

Wheeling seniors battle utility tax proposal

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A group of Wheeling seniors are continuing their battle against the village's proposal to replace its vehicle stickers with a 1 percent utility tax.

The Wheeling chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons has fought the utility tax, saying they would rather have the sticker fee increased. Stickers are currently \$10, but only \$3 for senior citizens.

Officials estimate the utility tax, which would add 1 percent to all telephone, natural gas and electric

bills in the village, would cost the average household about \$14 per year.

One of the group's complaints with the proposed tax is that the rate on compliance with vehicle stickers is unknown. Wheeling Finance Director Robert Fialkowski proposed the new tax because the vehicle sticker system is inefficient, and not everyone in the village purchases them as required.

The tax, first proposed in budget hearings early this year, has been tabled indefinitely by the village board.

AARP representatives, in a memo

to village trustees, said they had visited apartment complexes in both Wheeling and Buffalo Grove, counted cars, counted stickers, and come up with a compliance rate for both towns. The results: Wheeling, 36 percent compliance. Buffalo Grove: 71 percent compliance.

No margin of error for the informal poll was given, and the statistics list three complexes in Wheeling and only two in Buffalo Grove.

"Did they run a license plate check to see if the vehicles without stickers are registered in the village of Wheeling?" Fialkowski said when told about the AARP study. "I wish

they'd at least have brought in the license numbers so we could run a check and go after those people."

Fialkowski said the main reason he proposed replacing the stickers with the utility tax is because "we're spending too much to collect \$10." He said about 15 percent of the sticker fee funds go directly back into administrative costs, making the system inefficient.

"Even if we had 100 percent compliance, the proposal still stands," he said. "Although I don't know if it's (the new tax) is going to fly. We have to answer a lot of questions, and we have to make our projections for future revenue now."

Airport panel stalls decision on intersection

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Pal-Waukee Airport officials again delayed a decision on the proposed relocation of the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads — frustrating airport pilots and local residents.

The roads must be moved to create clear space for the airport's main runway, in order to meet federal safety standards.

The Pal-Waukee Airport Commission, which has been deliberating the road relocation for two months, is made up of residents and trustees from both Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which jointly own the airport. An attempt by Prospect Heights representatives

to move ahead with the plan was blocked by Wheeling representatives.

Consulting engineer Warren A. Knoles outlined the fifth plan revision for the commission, and then recommended a combination of three of the plans.

That particular recommendation would take Wolf Road through the Wolf Run subdivision and also take several acres of industrial property from Wheeling.

Commissioner Carey Chickerno of Prospect Heights said he wanted to accept Knoles' recommendation. But Commissioner William Rogers of Wheeling said the plan would hurt Wheeling more than Prospect Heights.

"My community is going to lose

land and tax dollars," Rogers said. "I don't believe we have to do that."

Barry Axelrod, representing the Pal-Waukee Airport Pilots Association (PAPA), said delays in recommending a plan were driving away airport business.

"Your users are being wooed away by Waukegan and Kenosha," he said. "People are leaving because they don't have a clear indication of what's going to happen to the runway."

Pilots have said the runway must be at least 5,000 feet for jets to land there. But Commissioner Rogers has said although he's not opposed to a 5,000-foot runway, he does not believe a shorter runway would drive business away.

AARP moves closer to Pavilion use

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons moved a step closer to its goal of meeting in the Wheeling Pavilion Senior Center Thursday, but the chances for actually attaining that goal looked slim.

The AARP chapter appealed to the Wheeling Senior Commission, which makes recommendations to the village board on the workings of the Pavilion.

Robert McIntyre, Wheeling AARP Secretary, asked the commission to endorse the chapter's request to meet at the village-owned center, lo-

cated at the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Strong Street.

However, the commission would not give an endorsement, but recommended that the AARP chapter present its request to the village board.

Donald Hammer, senior commission president, told the AARP officers that because of several provisions of the senior program policy, "I don't see how we could sponsor such a group."

Hammer cited several provisions, including requiring any program to be "non-discriminatory and non-partisan." McIntyre replied that although the AARP is a group that lobbies on behalf of senior citizens' is-

ues, it is not affiliated with a political party.

Michael Klitzke, Wheeling's community development director, said he thought "partisan is meant to mean politics, whether national or local."

The Wheeling AARP has been active in local politics in the few months since it was formed, most notably in its organized opposition to a proposed 1 percent village utility tax.

Commissioner Bernie Nathan said he thought the group could meet in the Pavilion, if the board agreed. However, Hammer said that would conflict with the policies, which also state that "no membership, admis-

sion fee, or dues may be charged, or donations collected or solicited for any program or meeting."

Commissioner Maurice Schrote said he also thought the group should be able to use the Pavilion because "the purpose of the senior program here is to serve people."

"It's a fine line," Commissioner Fred Steffens said. "We're all in the same boat. We're all seniors."

Klitzke said in addition to going against the rules, allowing AARP to use the Pavilion would set a precedent. "We're not running a meeting hall. That's the intent of this policy, and why it was set up in the first place."

More police is reason for 15% levy jump

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

More police officers and other village employees are one of the main reasons Wheeling's tax levy is expected to jump more than 15 percent, village officials are saying.

The increase will translate into increased property taxes in the village.

The 1988 levy, which will be discussed at the village board meeting Monday, determines taxes to be collected in 1989. The total projected levy is \$5,976,171, an increase of 15.5 percent from what was collected this year.

Due to an increase in calls, the police force has been expanded by

six people, and additional personnel have been requested for next year.

Also, because of growth and development in the village, the operations and maintenance department has also added personnel, which increases the road and bridge fund levy.

Despite the increase in taxes, Finance Director Robert W. Fialkowski said he believes the proposed levy is "a prudent request," needed for "continued financial stability."

The levy must be filed with the Cook County Assessor's office by Sept. 13 this year. The levy is determined by amount of property tax money needed in the general fund, road and bridge fund, and to

repay loans.

Fialkowski said the percentage of property tax dollars in the village's overall budget varies from year to year, and from fund to fund.

For example, property taxes are expected to make up about 25 percent of the general fund this year. In comparison, about 30 percent of the fund will come from sales tax revenue, according to initial projections.

A levy is only one factor in determining tax rates.

The second factor in the formula is the overall assessed value of the property in the village, which will be determined and released next summer.

Village OKs preliminary subdivision plans

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A line of evergreen trees along Walnut Avenue in Wheeling will soon be gone, despite area residents' efforts to save them.

The Wheeling Village Board approved preliminary plans Monday night for Andalina's Subdivision, located at Walnut and Park avenues. However, the board denied a request to allow a smaller front yard for the lot on Walnut Avenue.

The trees must be removed so Walnut Avenue can be widened, to provide access to three new homes. Walnut is currently only 15 feet wide, but village code requires a street wide enough to ac-

commodate emergency vehicles. It will be widened to 24 feet.

Developer Larry Scimeca said he will transplant the trees, but because many are more than 30 years old, he said it is doubtful that all will survive the transplanting.

"We just can't have progress and still have the trees," Scimeca said.

Neighbors say it will alter the character of their neighborhood drastically.

Jane Murnane, who lives on Walnut Avenue, said taking down the trees would "change the structure of the neighborhood."

The Wheeling Plan Commission recommended approval of the

three-lot subdivision last month, despite residents' protests.

Scimeca also asked for a 20-foot front yard rather than the required 25-foot yard. The board denied this by a 4-1 vote.

Scimeca was also concerned that he might have to add a street light. One light already exists nearby. He told the board it would cost him an additional \$2,000 to \$3,000.

"I'm not a Lexington, I'm not a Pulte," he said. "I'm just trying to get this property on the tax rolls. I just can't afford it."

The village engineer will review the street lighting and make a recommendation before the plan is brought back for final approval.

Wheeling board plans 'trustee's retreat'

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

8-3-88
Wheeling trustees will spend a few hours next week getting away from it all in a "trustee's retreat" next Monday night.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz said the meeting will be "an informal get-together for staff and trustees." The village's six trustees,

Schultz and various staff members will have supper at the Pavilion Senior Center, 199 First St., at about 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 8. After supper the staff members and elected officials will have a wide-ranging informal discussion.

"It's a chance to catch up with each other, to look at where we are and where we are going," Schultz explained.

Wheeling plans Labor Day with a bang

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

8-3-88
A community picnic and the postponed Fourth of July fireworks will go hand-in-hand to make for a big Labor Day celebration in Wheeling.

Wheeling's fireworks display was ousted from the Fourth of July by the summer drought. Fire officials say that although rain has been sparse, they expect the show to go on Sept. 3.

"You're not going to have the amount of people in the park on Labor Day that you would have on Fourth of July," said Bernie Koepfen, Wheeling fire chief. "Our big concern on the Fourth was panic in such a large crowd if something

went wrong."

He added that the occasional thunderstorms have put more water in the pond behind the village hall, where the fireworks will be launched.

"I don't think we should have a problem," Koepfen said. "And hopefully, between now and then, we'll get a little more rain."

Meanwhile, the Wheeling Fourth of July committee is organizing a community picnic to go along with the display, which will be at Heritage Park.

The Wheeling Park District board will host the fireworks and the picnic. The board opted to hold the festivities on Saturday so it would not conflict with the fireworks planned for Buffalo Grove

Days on Sept. 4.

Wheeling's fireworks display will begin at dark. The Wheeling High School band will perform, and the Wheeling Park District Rocket Club will give a demonstration prior to the fireworks.

Judy Abruscato, committee chairman, suggested residents bring a picnic supper. The park refreshment stand also will be open.

The fireworks display will cost about \$8,000. The fireworks were funded by residents' contributions, as well as contributions from St. Joseph the Worker Church Family-fest and Orval Kent Food Products Inc., the event's main co-sponsor, Abruscato said. Orval Kent pledged up to \$4,500 to fund the display.

Wheeling tax levy may jump 25%

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

8-3-88
Wheeling's property tax levy is expected to jump 25 percent next year over this year's levy, a higher rise than originally predicted.

An accounting error originally led village officials to predict an increase of 15 percent.

The village is adding more police officers, operations and maintenance employees, and other staff members to keep up with the growth of the village, said Finance Director Robert W. Fialkowski.

The 1988 levy determines taxes to be collected in 1989. The total projected levy is \$5,781,458, a 25.05-percent increase over what was collected this year.

The village board approved the amount of the levy this week. A public hearing on the levy is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 6. The village must turn in its levy amounts to the Cook County Assessor's office by Sept. 13.

The increase in the levy will translate into increased property taxes in the village. However, Fialkowski

said, he does not expect excessively higher tax bills for residents, because the village is growing.

"The development of the past few years is starting to show up on the tax rolls," Fialkowski said, which spreads the burden of payment out over a broader base. He noted that he was "surprised" by this year's assessed valuation, or overall value of property in the village.

"We expected about 2 or 3 percent increase in assessed valuation, but it was actually 11 percent," he said. As a result, the tax rate for bills collected this year is lower than normal.

The increase in the levy will bring those rates back up next year, Fialkowski said, but because the growth in the assessed valuation is expected to continue, "the rates will compare favorably with prior years."

The property tax is just one source of revenue for the village. Other sources contribute varying amounts to each of the village funds.

For example, property taxes are expected to make up about 25 percent of the general fund this year. In comparison, sales tax is expected to make up about 30 percent of this fund.

Wheeling planners OK shopping center

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

8-1-88
After two months of negotiations, Wheeling Plan Commission reversed an earlier decision and recommended plans for a shopping center at Wolf and Dundee roads.

Commissioners rejected plans presented in May by a 4-3 vote. Because the center would be built as two separate buildings on two lots, planners were concerned that one might be sold off later. They asked owner Gus Tourlis to agree that the two buildings, which are separated by a public alley, remain under joint management.

They were also concerned about traffic, sidewalks and parking problems.

At first, Tourlis and his attorney were hesitant, but have now agreed to keep the two parcels together.

"They will be permanently run, managed and owned by one entity," Commission Chairman Paul Eisterhold. The concession, along with minor modifications to the plans, convinced the commission to unanimously approve the project.

The two buildings will be built on lots held in two different land trusts, although Tourlis is the beneficiary of both. Because of the public alley between them, joining them is just about impossible.

Eisterhold said that the plans had improved considerably in other areas, too. "They widened

the sidewalk in front of the building," he said. Commissioners had been concerned that cars parked in front of the center would hang over the sidewalk, creating a hazard.

"We felt more comfortable with the new plan," Eisterhold said. "I think the architect did too. He was more proud of this plan than the first one."

The shopping center will be the third to locate at the busy intersection. Plans for a new center across the street were approved earlier this spring. Another center is already located on Dundee Road just west of the site.

The site is currently occupied by a chiropractor's office, which is vacant.

Addolorata plans revised

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Plans for expansion of the Addolorata Villa Home for the Aged in Wheeling are being revised and will be resubmitted to the Wheeling Plan Commission at its next meeting.

Community Development Director Michael Klitzke says the project is "proceeding," but has been changed slightly, so the site plan revisions must be approved by the plan commission and the village board.

"An existing building was not accurately shown on their original site plan, so they had to correct that. They also reconfigured their parking lot, due to the grading of one part of the site. And the biggest change, I guess, is that they've decided to go with a wet pond instead of a dry detention area," Klitzke said.

Although the plans were approved early this spring, Klitzke said he was not sure whether construction permits have been issued yet, Klitzke said.

"They are getting their contracts together," he said. "I think they are a little upset with the permit fees."

Despite the last minute changes, Jill Killilea, marketing representative for Addolorata, said "there's no holdup. Everything is going according to plan."

The preliminary work on the nursing center will begin soon, and is being staked out right now.

"Construction of the apartments has always been scheduled for September or October, which is still what we are planning," Killilea said.

The \$17 million project includes 100 apartments, 80 new skilled care nursing beds, renovation of 45 shelter apartments, and a convent for the nuns who operate the facility.

Of the 100 apartments, more than 20 percent have already been reserved with a deposit, Killilea said.

The three and four story building will have studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units. The two-bedroom apartment rent ranges from \$1,300 to \$1,450, and includes one meal per day. Transportation to local shopping and entertainment, special events and utilities except telephone.

Polo Run seeks safe, quiet streets

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Drag-racing cars and a neighborhood full of small children are a dangerous combination, say residents of the Polo Run subdivision in Wheeling.

Frustrated by speeding drivers who use their curving residential street as a cut-through route between Wheeling Road and Route 83, the residents are continuing to badger the village board and police department, trying to get stop signs

put up on their street to slow the traffic down.

The village is currently counting cars on the street at various times of the day, to see if stop signs are warranted. Equestrian Drive winds through the upscale subdivision, connecting the two major roads. Mailboxes and fire hydrants have been repeatedly rammed by drivers who took the curves too fast, neighbors say.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said a traffic study is currently underway, and the village is planning to

so the airport cannot condemn the land and take down the trees.

"We're ready to discuss it," Stewart said. "But we cannot, on our own, barge into the forest preserve. We're waiting. We are not able to move until we have something concrete from them."

Stewart says he will seek federal money to fund the survey, but noted that, "it was their idea to do the cotton-pickin' survey."

Newhard said the idea came up in discussion with Stewart and engineering consultant Steve Moulton.

"They had suggested it, or I may have said we should do a survey," he said. "It came up in discussion."

Newhard said he is drafting a letter to send to Stewart, so the two groups can meet to discuss the tree problem.

Trees grow into problem for airport, preserve

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Mother Nature and the Cook County Forest Preserve are causing a few headaches for Pal-Waukee Municipal Airport officials.

The flora near the airport are a hazard for pilots, since many of the trees tower high above the federal height limits for objects in the approach path of a runway. Other not-so-tall trees are expected to eventually grow past the acceptable height standards.

The Cook County Forest Preserve officials say they are concerned about public safety, but would like to know just how many trees are causing the problem. They are making no promises about removing trees.

"It's a delicate issue," Chief For-

ester Richard Newhard said. "We're willing to work with them, but we don't want to destroy something unique."

To find out how many trees might be in the way, the forest preserve district is asking the airport to pay for a detailed survey of the 16 acres directly in the approach zone to Runway 24. Then, if the trees must be taken down or topped, they are asking the airport to not only pay for the work, but to reimburse them for the value of the trees, which could run in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, according to forestry experts.

The survey would map out every tree in the 16 acres, noting its diameter, height, species and exact location.

Newhard estimated that such a

survey would cost about \$5,000.

The issue of the trees has caused Pal-Waukee officials some consternation. They met with Newhard to discuss the problem back in January, and offered to meet again, according to Fred E. Stewart, airport manager.

"We never received any response," Stewart said. "We haven't been able to open any dialogue." Then, last week, district officials testified at a public hearing on height regulations surrounding the airport.

"Apparently they chose to talk to everyone else about it," Stewart said.

Both sides say they are willing to work together, but communication seems to be a problem. Forest preserve officials noted at the public hearing that the district is exempt from eminent domain proceedings,

Towns discuss plans for commuter service

Community leaders from Buffalo Grove, Wheeling, Mundelein and Vernon Hills will meet this week to discuss plans to bring commuter service to the Wisconsin Central Railway.

Buffalo Grove trustee Sidney Mathias said village representatives will present plans they have already made in an attempt to bring the commuter service through the village.

Although Metra officials say there is a definite lack of funding for the \$42 million project, Buffalo Grove officials have set aside land in the Covington Corporate Center for a depot. Metra is the commuter rail arm of the Regional Transportation Authority.

Under the proposal, commuter rail service will start on the Wisconsin Central, formerly the Soo Line, from Mundelein south to Des

Plaines. There, the rail connects with the Chicago-bound rail of the Chicago and North Western Railway.

The new line would have stops in Buffalo Grove, Vernon Hills, Wheeling, Mount Prospect and Mundelein.

Metra officials said a 1986 study conducted by R. L. Banks and Associates shows a projected daily ridership of 2,787 on the Wisconsin Central commuter trains. Yearly one-way ridership is estimated at 1.4

million.

Metra estimates it would cost roughly \$42 million to implement the commuter service, which would include the purchase of four locomotives, 20 double-decker commuter cars and construction of the rail connection at Des Plaines.

The meeting is scheduled to take place at 8 p.m. Thursday at the Northtran suburban bus offices, 900 E. Northwest Hwy., Des Plaines.

"We want to see if the intersection meets the guidelines for stop signs set up by the Illinois Department of Transportation," he said. "But you can still place a stop sign if it doesn't meet the warrants, based on community need or a particular problem."

When Route 83 and Wheeling Road are widened, he added, "We will have additional traffic. Stop signs are not a guarantee, but they are a deterrent. It would make us feel better."

Village clerk may become appointed post

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A move is afoot that could replace the elected Wheeling village clerk with an appointed one.

Village President Sheila Schultz said an appointed clerk would be more efficient since he or she would work in village hall all week. The current clerk, Janet M. D'Argo, is elected on a part-time basis and is expected to be in her office only one or two days a week.

To change the clerk's status, Wheeling voters would have to surrender via referendum their right to choose a village clerk, a vote that could be held as early as November. State law requires voter approval for any change in the form

of government. ⁸⁻¹⁰⁻⁸⁸
Trustees would have to submit the question to the county by Sept. 1 in order for it to be placed on the November ballot. They will discuss it Monday.

Voters elect a village clerk, along with village board trustees and the village president. The clerk has no power to vote on village issues and the job includes keeping track of documents and licensing and taking minutes at the village board meetings.

D'Argo is paid \$4,800 annually. Her four-year term will expire in April.

D'Argo said she agrees with making the position a full-time appointed job, "because it will give the position more continuity," but

does not think the title should be conferred upon a current staff member.

"I'd like to see one person just for the clerk's job," she said.

The proposed change could mean hiring a full-time clerk, or merely appointing a current village staff member as clerk, and delegating the responsibilities of the job to deputy clerks.

"I'm not so sure we'd be hiring anyone," Village Manager Craig Anderson said. "The day-to-day operations would be given to other people, and we'd probably have a staff person appointed as clerk."

Robert Fialkowski, assistant village manager, said the board will discuss how such a change might be handled.

Hindu sect plans temple for Wheeling

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Members of the International Swaminarayan Satsang Organization bought land in Wheeling this week and have plans to build a temple there.

Leaders of the Hindu sect will present plans to the Wheeling Planning Commission Aug. 25.

Jash Patel, president of the group's board of trustees, said the group has been meeting in a Skokie Park District hall since it was organized in 1983.

There are only about 10 swaminarayan temples in the United States, Patel said. The only two in the Chicago area are located in Lemont and Aurora.

"We were looking all over," he said. "We liked this property, it is a nice, quiet place. It's pretty isolated."

The two-acre parcel, located just east of Northgate Parkway at the end of 12th Street, is currently vacant and heavily wooded, Patel said. Despite the isolated location, the group wants to be accepted, Patel said.

"We want to be a part of the local community. We want friendship," he said. "We don't have any political element. It's strictly a cultural and religious group."

He estimated that there are at least 40 to 50 Indian families living in Wheeling, and about 80,000 Indian people in the Chicago area. The majority of Indians, about 80

percent, are Hindu, though not all of them belong to the swaminarayan sect.

The temple, which Patel is designing, will be a one-story domed building with a large, open, central hall and two other rooms.

The hall will not have chairs or pews.

"We sit on the floor," Patel explained. "That is just part of our belief, that God should be on the higher level. We spread out our rugs and say prayers."

Swaminarayan services are loosely structured, but very reverent. Men who are not priests, like Patel, lead the prayers. Actual Hindu priests come from India to visit the congregation occasionally.

Wheeling will offer interest-free loans

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The village of Wheeling has been awarded \$50,000 to pass out in interest-free loans to homeowners.

The loans are available to low-income homeowners, and must be used to bring houses up to the village's building codes.

Acting Village Planner Christine Washburn said the program, administered by Cook County, "is not a house maintenance program, and not a fix-up, cleanup program. The money has to be used to bring a house that is substandard up to code standards." Those standards include minimums for safety, health, and structure.

Loan recipients must meet federal income guidelines. To apply, a family of four may have a maximum annual income of \$31,700; a family of two, \$25,350.

If a homeowner has several code violations, he cannot get a loan to fix just one of them.

"They have to bring the entire structure up to code, not just one part," Washburn said. If the house has a sagging roof and faulty electrical wiring, both must be fixed.

With a \$25,000 limit per loan, more money might be available depending on the amount owed on the house's mortgage, and whether the work planned must be done to correct zoning or safety violations.

The loans are interest free, and if the homeowner stays in the

house for 10 years after the work is done, the debt is completely forgiven.

If the homeowner moves out, or dies, within 10 years, Washburn said, the estate must repay the debt. The loan, however, is discounted 5 percent each six months, so if a person moves after five years, he has to pay back only half the money.

"There's a lot of federal approvals you have to go through (before actual work can begin)," Washburn said. "The village does all the paperwork. The homeowner just has to wait."

In addition, the village has more than \$100,000 available from last year's fund received through the same program, Washburn said.

Wheeling officer suspended

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling police officer has been suspended for 10 days for missing a court date, something he has been reprimanded for in the past.

Officer Adrian Russell admitted to charges that he had missed a scheduled court appearance in Skokie on May 17. According to charges filed by Police Chief Michael Haeger, Russell has been suspended four times in the past three years for missing scheduled court dates.

Russell, a 10-year veteran of the department, has also received written reprimands for failing to appear in court, and for writing citations with court dates falling during his vacation.

Russell's attorney, Hyman Riebman, said his client had misread the court schedule.

Haeger's original charge against the officer contained four counts, saying he had violated three different sections of the police department rules and regulations: unsatisfactory performance, performance of duty, and knowledge of rules and regulations. Through negotiation, Haeger agreed to drop all but the unsatisfactory performance charge if Russell admitted to the allegations that he had violated that part of the rules and regulations.

The exact dates of Russell's suspension have not yet been set.

Three officers will be interviewed

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

8-16-88
Three Wheeling police officers, finalists in the running for a promotion, will be interviewed by the Wheeling Fire and Police Commission tonight.

The three are the top scoring officers who recently took a written sergeant's exam, which the department

held to fill two vacancies at that level. About 20 officers took the written test last month.

The closed-door session interview is just one step in the process of moving up through police department ranks. The three-member board will interview each candidate for 45 minutes.

After the oral interview with the commission, candidates must also go

through an "assessment center," test, said Police Chief Michael Haeger. The test, done at the police department by an outside agency, gives each candidate a series of exercises designed to determine leadership and management skills.

The candidates must also pass a polygraph, psychological exam and physical exam, Haeger said.

The written test is given periodically

to maintain an active list of eligible officers in case a current sergeant either retires, dies, is promoted or leaves the department.

The salary range for a Wheeling police sergeant is \$32,903 to \$41,000. Starting salary for an officer is \$25,826.

The interviews will be held from 6 to 8:15 p.m. Tuesday night. A regular commission meeting will follow.

Business owners oppose 1% utility tax

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

8-15-88
Opposition to Wheeling's proposed 1 percent utility tax is growing, with the business community joining senior citizens in voicing dissent.

Wheeling Chamber of Commerce officials are saying that many of their members do not want the village to enact the tax, which would add 1 percent to gas, electric and telephone bills in the village. The chamber's board of directors will discuss the tax Tuesday, to decide whether they want to formally oppose it.

The proposed tax would replace vehicle stickers as a way to get money for road repairs.

Announcements about the tax were carried in the chamber of commerce newsletter, the village newsletter and local newspapers. The initial lack of reaction from business owners was interpreted by chamber officials as a lack of opposition.

"That's definitely changing," chamber Executive Director Jackie Pollack said.

She said the apparent apathy was probably due to "misunderstanding of the tax. People didn't know much about it."

At an informal meeting last week held to discuss the tax, business owners said they would rather see an increase in the sticker tax than a utility tax.

Vehicle stickers cost \$10 per

year, as they have since 1973. Village officials say the fee system is inefficient and costly to administer.

Officials estimate the utility tax will cost the average homeowner about \$14 per year.

However, business owners fear it will be more costly for them.

"For some, it's going to be absolutely astronomical," Pollack said.

Village Manager Craig Anderson agrees that businesses will pay more if stickers are replaced with a utility tax.

"No tax is necessarily fair and equitable," he said. "This would indeed cost some people and businesses more than the stickers. For some homeowners, it will be less costly."

Wheeling plan panel backs town-house plan

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

8-15-88
The Wheeling Plan Commission has recommended that plans be approved for a three-unit town house at the corner of Hintz Road and Maple Lane.

A group of six-flat buildings neighbors the property to the south. A similar building had been planned for this lot, but because of its size, the developer decided to put a three-

unit building in.

The two-story building will contain three town houses, each with a two-car garage. The commission approved the plans by a 6-1 vote, with commissioner Terry Steilen voting against the project.

Plan commission Chairman Paul Eisterhold said the commission was concerned that the driveways were not very aesthetic, but decided that, "this plan was the best they could do with the situation."

Because the lot is small and narrow, there is little room for variation. Also, it is zoned for multi-family development, so that someone could come in and put a building with more units on the lot.

"If we rejected this, someone could put a six-plex in there," Eisterhold said. "Also, we preferred having individual owners rather than rentals."

The development will share a driveway with the six-flat building

to the south, to provide more open space.

"This was the lesser of all evils," Eisterhold said. "I'd like to see more green space, but on that lot it is just not possible."

The two-bedroom, two-bath units will be built two stories tall. Two of the units will have 2,000 square feet of space, the third will have 1,600 square feet.

The plans must now be approved by the village board.

Wheeling debates village clerk's status

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

8-16-88
Wheeling village trustees are divided on whether to change the village clerk's position from an elected to an appointed position.

Trustees discussed the possible change Monday night. Village President Sheila Schultz said she would like to see the position changed to a full-time appointed position. Current clerk Janet M. D'Argo agreed the position should be full-time. D'Argo currently is elected to a part-time position.

Trustee James Whittington said he was "leaning toward an appointed position, but part time."

State law requires that a referendum be held to change the

clerk's status, and village leaders say they want to get the question on this November's ballot.

The board will hold a meeting next week to discuss the issue further. The board may vote on the change so the question can be submitted to the county before the Sept. 13 deadline for this year's election.

Voters elect the village clerk, along with the village board trustees and village president. The clerk has no power to vote on village issues, and the job includes keeping track of documents and licensing and taking minutes at the village board meetings.

D'Argo is paid \$4,800 annually. Her four-year term will expire in April. She is assisted by two deputy

clerks. Village manager Craig Anderson suggested that the deputy clerks could take over most of the clerk's duties.

If the change is approved by both the board and Wheeling voters, the question of who will hold the new position remains. The board could decide to hire a new clerk, or could simply give the clerk title to another village employee.

Schultz said she thought the clerk ought to be a "representative of the village."

Whittington said if the clerk was both a village employee and a public relations representative, "it raises the question, who do they report to? The position becomes a two-headed monster."

Road projects to bring tie-ups

By Keri Wyatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The summer's dry weather has kept construction on schedule for most of Wheeling's road projects, but fall may bring more traffic tie-ups.

One big project this year is the realignment of the intersection of Dundee Road, Northgate Parkway and Boehmer Road. The two side streets currently intersect Dundee Road at right angles, about 250 feet apart. They will be connected at a 62-degree angle to form one road, with a traffic light at Dundee.

So far, the work has been underground, or on the side streets. The

bridge over the Wheeling Drainage Ditch has been moved, although some of the work was slightly delayed because of trouble with underground utility wires, according to Community Development Director Michael Klitzke.

"We're trying to get as much work done on Boehmer and Northgate as possible before closing lanes on Dundee," Klitzke said.

Work on Dundee is scheduled to begin in mid-September, and Klitzke said he anticipates major traffic problems.

"It's going to bottleneck," he said. "Dundee will be narrowed to one lane each direction," while the work is being done, for about six weeks.

The major thoroughfare is currently two lanes each direction, plus a center turning lane.

Klitzke said traffic problems will be exacerbated by the work being done on other village streets.

"Since there are several projects going on, we had a meeting and made everyone aware that there are other people out there working on other roads," he said.

Trying to coordinate work on Dundee with construction on Hintz Road is especially important because the two are parallel.

"If we have a temporary midday complete closure, we don't want them happening at the same time," Klitzke said. "It might happen, but



we're trying to avoid it."

Klitzke said he expects the lanes to reopen about six weeks after they close.

"We're trying to coordinate major closures on other roads in town, such as Hintz," he said. "Once we start on Dundee, it should be in the ballpark of about six weeks. We're just hoping the weather holds."

Delayed fire district ruling puts off election

By Keri Wyatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A delay in a court decision on whether the fire districts of Wheeling Township and Prospect Heights will be consolidated means that another election, if one is called, will not happen in November.

A Tuesday status hearing on the question was delayed until Oct. 7, too late for the question to appear on the November ballot if so ordered by Cook County Circuit Court Associate Judge Francis A. Barth.

A March referendum failed to decide the question. Prospect Heights officials are hoping the consolidation passes,

which will give the Prospect

Heights fire protection district jurisdiction over — and property taxes from — the whole city of Prospect Heights and the unincorporated areas between Prospect Heights, Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

The Wheeling Township Fire Protection District, which has no equipment or fire stations, currently contracts out for fire protection over its area, which includes part of Prospect Heights and most of the unincorporated area. The largest contract holder is the village of Wheeling, which opposes the consolidation.

The Prospect Heights fire protection district currently covers the rest of Prospect Heights, about

two-thirds.

Ruth Krugly, attorney of the Prospect Heights fire district, said the request for delay was not designed to prevent a November election.

Because state law requires voters in each fire district to independently approve the consolidation, the disputed referendum hinges on two key precincts that lie partially in each fire district. The votes in those precincts were apparently not separated by district, obscuring the results.

Wheeling village officials, who have opposed the merger, say another referendum is unnecessary, because the question apparently failed by a small, 200-vote margin in the Wheeling Township district.

Dead ducks create foul problem

By Sandra D'Ybal
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Ducks that have mysteriously died at a lake in a Wheeling apartment complex caused a foul-smelling problem Saturday.

The problem started Thursday when about 30 ducks were found floating in the large retention lake at the Wine Tree complex on Pleasant Run Drive, near Palatine and Wheeling roads. Police said then that the birds perished during a storm that brought wind gusts of 60 mph and tore roofs from apartment buildings.

But on Saturday, more duck corpses were floating in the lake, and police now said poisoning could be a possibility.

Residents who discovered the duck carcasses were dismayed.

"We could not get anyone (Saturday afternoon) to dispose of them and they smell horrendous," said Kathy Glorio, 45, of 408 Pleasant Run

Drive. "The police told us to throw them in a dumpster. But could you imagine throwing your dead dog in a dumpster?"

Wheeling Police Acting Shift Cmdr. Eric Larson said police collected bodies they found when they received a complaint Friday morning. He said more dead ducks were collected Saturday night and that the village public works department would collect the rest as soon as possible.

Apartment association manager Pat Massaccesi said the association hired someone, referred to her through the Prospect Heights animal warden, to collect 18 ducks Saturday.

Glorio and resident Debra Peterson, 35, of 410 Pleasant Run Drive, used rubber gloves Saturday and plastic bags to collect some of the decomposing birds from where the current had pushed them to the southwest corner of the lake.

The two women, one covered with mud from head to foot, collected 12 carcasses and put them in a large garbage bag.

Even more upsetting than the stench, Peterson said, was seeing the multitude of lifeless ducks. "That was the worst part," she said.

And the residents are worried about what caused so many of them to die.

"I don't think it was the storm," Peterson said. "I saw two dead ducks before we even had the storm. I think there's something wrong with the lake."

Dr. Terry Osborn, a Prospect Heights veterinarian who offered to cremate the ducks after Peterson called him, said, "There are public health implications" involved in the situation.

Osborn said an autopsy "would not really be productive" because the ducks have been dead for several days.

Village clerk not interested in full-time job

By Keri Wyatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Regardless of whether the Wheeling village clerk position is an appointed or elected one, current clerk Janet D'Argo says she doesn't want it.

The village board is considering asking voters to make the job an appointed one, as opposed to elected. To do that, trustees must put the question to Wheeling voters via a referendum.

The village board will vote on whether to include the question on this November's ballot at a meeting scheduled for 8 p.m. tonight.

D'Argo has served as clerk for nearly four years; her term will

expire in April. D'Argo has told the board that she believes the position should be an appointed one, and the person filling it should work and be paid full-time.

However, D'Argo told the board she would "not be the least bit interested" in a full-time clerk's position, although she supported the idea of having one in the village.

D'Argo said Friday she will not seek re-election in the spring, either.

"This was a one-shot thing in my life," she said. "I was invited to do it. I've enjoyed almost every minute. But I've done my time."

D'Argo works full-time at a local bank in addition to her part-time work as clerk. The village

clerk is responsible for taking minutes at village board meetings, keeping all the records, documents and licenses of the village.

"If I were 10 or 15 years younger," D'Argo said, "I'd get down on my knees and beg for it. As a full-time job, it would be very interesting."

Village Manager Craig Anderson suggested that the clerk's title be given to an existing staff member, and the duties delegated to one or more deputy clerks.

Village President Sheila Schultz said a full-time position where the clerk would carry out the duties of the office and also act as a representative of the village would be "the best of both worlds."

Voters to say if clerk's elected or appointed

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling voters will be asked to decide this November whether the village clerk's position should be changed from an elected to an appointed position.

The Wheeling village board voted 5-1 to put the question on the referendum ballot in the upcoming election. State law requires voter approval for any change in the form of government.

Trustee Judy Abruscato voted against the resolution "because I don't have enough of a job description. The clerk should be elected."

Syke Horcher, speaking on behalf of the Wheeling Chapter of the American Association of Retired

Persons, said the organization was adamantly opposed to changing the clerk's position. In a lengthy prepared statement Horcher lambasted the board, village staff and several other issues.

Horcher said the AARP will try to get a "companion referendum to abolish home rule powers for the village," if the board puts the clerk question on the ballot. Current clerk Janet D'Argo works about 15 hours per week, with the assistance of deputy clerks. Village president Sheila Schultz said D'Argo's duties could be "absorbed" by the current staff, although "there will probably have to be a readjustment of duties in the front office" at village hall.

Administrative Assistant David

Kowal recommended that rather than hiring a full-time clerk, the village should make one of the existing deputy clerks take over the clerk's duties. He noted that this would "increase efficiency in the clerk's office but not increase costs."

Although the village budget calls for two deputy clerks, one of those positions is currently empty. "There might be a new person in there, if this passes, but it won't cost any extra money because at the present time, the office is short in terms of budgeted personnel," Schultz said.

D'Argo is paid \$4,800 annually. Her four-year term will expire in April, but she has stated that she does not want to be clerk again.

Tall trees top Pal-Waukee safety study

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Tall trees near Pal-Waukee Airport will be the subject of a study aimed at making the airport safer.

Airport officials claim that some of the trees on nearby Cook County Forest Preserve land are so tall they are a hazard to pilots.

And forest preserve officials have asked airport authorities to conduct a detailed survey of the trees in the forest preserve near the airport.

"The forest preserve wants a sur-

vey of the trees," Airport Manager Fred Stewart said. "I've asked Crawford, Murphy and Tilly (the airport's consulting engineering firm) to see if they can do this. I've also asked the forest preserve people to recommend firms that they have used."

While forest preserve officials have agreed to allow a survey of the forest just off the end of Runway 24, they have made no promises about taking down what they call a "unique and precious resource."

The survey would map out the

size, location, species and height of all the trees in a 1,000-foot "clear zone" area at the end of the runway. Forest preserve officials say 16 acres of sugar maples, red oaks and hackberry trees are part of an established forest there.

Stewart said he has been open to meeting with the forest preserve officials since January but first heard their opinion on the situation at a public hearing last month.

The airport will be responsible to pay for the survey.

"I don't know what this will cost

yet," Stewart said. "But it will be eligible (for funding) under the federal program."

Even if the survey finds the trees exceed federal height standards for clear zones, the airport cannot just go in and cut down or trim the trees. Unlike private property surrounding the airport, the preserve is exempt from eminent domain condemnation, according to Greg Kinczewski, Cook County Forest Preserve attorney.

It has been estimated that there are about 7,000 trees in the approach area to Runway 24.

SUBURBAN REPORT

Pal-Waukee Airport to relocate intersection

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Pal-Waukee Airport officials have approved a plan to relocate Wolf and Hintz roads that will destroy 10 houses.

The final plan, a combination of five different plans which were previously suggested, will bring Wolf Road through part of Wolf Run Estates, a subdivision to the southeast of the intersection.

Homeowners there have been pushing the board to make a decision.

"Make a decision, any decision, so we can get on with our lives," said homeowner Leah Zeldes.

Once the decision was made, Zeldes was unhappy to learn her home is one that will be taken.

The intersection must be moved away from the end of Pal-Waukee's main runway to create a "clear zone" for planes and com-



ply with federal safety standards.

The plan requires the airport to get control of 17 acres along the south leg of Hintz Road. The airport will have to buy two commercial buildings as well as the 10 houses in Wolf Run Estates.

Before it can be started, the plan must be approved by Prospect Heights and Wheeling, which jointly own the airport. Engineers

then will begin an environmental impact assessment which must also be approved by the highway authorities and the Federal Aviation Administration. All together, it could take years.

"I'm disappointed after waiting so long, that I have to wait more," Zeldes said. "This decision didn't really resolve anything. It's very unfair, to put us on a map that says our houses are going to be torn down, but then leave us in limbo."

Four acres will be available for "aviation-related development" between the airport and Wolf Road, according to Warren Knoles, consulting engineer on the project.

Commissioner Carey Chickerno, of Prospect Heights, "in a spirit of partnership," suggested that the land be returned to the Wheeling property tax rolls once it was redeveloped.

FAA grants Pal-Waukee \$4 million

Pal-Waukee Airport has been offered a \$4 million federal grant for land acquisition.

Airport Manager Fred Stewart said the airport applied for \$7.1 million in February.

"The FAA has offered us part of the grant we applied for," he said. Pal-Waukee Airport commissioners voted unanimously Wednesday night to accept the grant. Prospect Heights and Wheeling, which jointly own the airport, now must vote to accept the offer.

The money is part of a federal program designed to bring the air-

port up to federal safety standards. It is the fifth such grant the airport has received since it was purchased by the two towns in 1986.

"We routinely apply every year for these grants," Stewart said. "You don't get what you don't ask for. We will be submitting another application shortly for next year."

To receive the grant, the airport must contribute 10 percent, or about \$444,444, Stewart said. Although Prospect Heights and Wheeling jointly own the airport, tax dollars from those towns are not used for matching the grants. Stewart said

airport revenues will be used for the airport's share of the grant.

The land being bought will not be used to enlarge the airport. Instead, the airport is buying the property surrounding it in order to remove obstructions and create "clear zones" for safer approaches and take-offs.

Generally, grants are set up so that the federal government pays 90 percent, the state pays 5 percent and the airport pays 5 percent. However, on Pal-Waukee's first four grants, the state paid 10 percent — essentially loaning the airport its 5 percent share — because it had not yet started to generate revenue and ap-

plied for several grants at once. On the fifth grant, the cost was split between the three funding sources.

However, starting with this grant, the airport will pay 10 percent until it repays the \$1.15 million loaned to it by the state.

The grant is a line of credit, rather than a lump sum award, Stewart said. As each property is purchased, the federal government pays its share and the airport pays its share.

"This grant does not complete the list of parcels we originally identified," Stewart said. "But we're getting close."

Pal-Waukee plan includes new taxiway

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Development of a "taxiway" system at Pal-Waukee Airport that would make the airport more efficient and increase its capacity tops the airport's newest five-year growth plan.

The taxiways are one aspect of an ambitious plan that contains \$46 million in additions to the municipal airport in Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

Taxiways are strips of pavement, running parallel to the runways, that planes use when moving on the ground before takeoff or after landing.

The airport now has only a few such routes, which forces planes to

taxi on runways. This prevents other planes from landing on those runways at the same time.

The five-year plan, developed by consulting engineer Steven Moulton, is a wish-list of projects to improve the airport. If approved by Prospect Heights and Wheeling, joint owners of the airport, it will be submitted to the FAA and the state for funding consideration.

Each year, Moulton explained, the list is revised and resubmitted. Completed projects are removed and new projects are added.

Moulton admits, "It would take some extraordinary funding to accomplish (\$46 million in projects) in five years. It may take 20 years to do everything on the list, but this just puts them in a logical or-

der, according to priorities."

He said if the list has not been submitted to the state each year, and funding suddenly becomes available, it is harder to get.

The first item on the list is an additional taxiway from the southeast end of the airport to the north area of the main runway. This would keep the main runway clear for landings and takeoffs.

"A parallel taxiway system would increase the capacity of the airport," Moulton said. He said it could take several years to have a taxiway on each side of the three main runways.

He also said that the taxiway could become a temporary runway during the reconstruction and raising of the main runway.

November finish set for airport expansion

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Renovation and expansion of the Priester Aviation, Inc. headquarters at Pal-Waukee Municipal Airport is expected to begin next month, and company management says it will be completed by November.

The work will cost between \$200,000 and \$250,000, President Charles Priester said. "It will be mostly internal changes," including new carpeting, waiting areas and new bathrooms in the building commonly known as Hangar 2.

"It definitely needs it," John Ostrowski, Priester's manager of airport operations, said. "We have a bad reputation across the country for our building. It's ugly. The washrooms are a disaster."

The renovations will include a pilots' lounge, flight planning room, expanded restrooms and a "red carpet room, that will be a first-class passenger waiting area," Priester recently told the Pal-Waukee Airport Commission.

Many "transient" corporate jets, which do not have their own headquarters at Pal-Waukee, fly in and use Priester's facilities. So far this year, the company has served about 40,000 corporate jet flights.

Often, pilots must wait at the airport while corporate executives go to meetings in Chicago or the suburbs. To serve them, Ostrowski said, the company will add a pilots' lounge and a flight-planning room where pilots can map out the next leg of their journey. A passenger waiting area, snack shop and rental car service also are planned.

The hangar, which will be called the Priester Executive Terminal, after renovation, is located near the southeast corner of the airport.

Ostrowski said the company will start work "as soon as we get building permits," probably by mid-September.

Priester Aviation will operate out of portable trailers until the work is completed. "We're going to evacuate the building so the workmen can get in there and do their thing," Ostrowski said.

Wheeling officials query source of oil slick

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

An oil slick in the Heritage Park retention pond had Wheeling police, fire, public works departments working in a round-the-clock clean-up effort Sunday night and Monday.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger said a private hazardous materials company also was called in to skim the unidentified oily substance from the pond and dispose of it.

"We're not sure where it came from," Haeger said.

"We're assuming it came from the industrial area along Wheeling Road, because drainage from there goes into that retention

pond."

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency currently is conducting tests on water taken from the pond and comparing it to samples taken from several places upstream from the pond.

"We're considering it a hazardous spill," Haeger said, but he added that there is no danger to local drinking water supplies.

Police were alerted to the situation at about 5 p.m. Sunday when a resident noticed geese and ducks in the pond were covered with an oily substance. The Illinois Department of Conservation was called in to help care for and clean up the animals. Haeger said none suffered injury or problems from the substance.

Clean-up efforts still were going on Monday, Haeger said. He noted that he expects to receive the EPA test results "in the next few days." EPA officials could not be reached for comment.

If it is possible to trace the oily substance back to its source, Haeger said, it could be possible to file charges.

"We'd be contacting the state's attorney if we find out where this stuff is coming from," he said. "It's against state statutes, but I don't know yet what the charges would be."

Heritage Park is located on Wolf Road, just south of Dundee Road. The pond, located on the west side of the park, is adjacent to the village municipal complex.

Botulism is blamed for duck deaths

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Botulism — stemming from too many residents feeding their waterfowl friends at the lake of a Wheeling apartment complex — is being blamed for the death of nearly 50 ducks.

Authorities from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agen-

cy said the ducks died from botulism, a disease caused by a toxin that can be found in water contaminated with feces from waterfowl. The toxin is produced by a bacterium that grows in water contaminated with feces from waterfowl.

Chamber members met with village officials before taking a position on the tax. Despite this, questions still remain.

"They weren't sure about com-

puters that use phone lines, or car phones," Pollack said. "But it seemed like that was going to be taxed."

Village President Sheila Schultz would not say whether the business group's position would influence her vote.

"I still think the utility tax is the most efficient way to collect revenue," she said. "And the vehicle sticker is a poor way. But I'll still come up for a vote sometime next month."

Meanwhile, chamber member Ernie Hauser said the tax could cost his firm \$4,000 annually.

Hauser is operations manager for Reynold, an aerospace manu-

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Chamber criticizes utility tax

The Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry has denounced a proposed 1 percent utility tax as "unfair to both the business and residential community," and suggested that the village vehicle sticker fees be increased instead of replaced with the utility tax.

The chamber, which had previously avoided taking a position, also criticized village estimates on revenue from the tax and costs to residents as being too low.

The sticker tax revenue pays for road repairs. Village officials say the sticker system is inefficient and costly to administer.

Jackie Pollack, executive director of the chamber, said the chamber would rather see the vehicle sticker increased, because it would tax road users for road repairs.

The stickers have cost \$10 since 1973.

"We didn't want to make a statement until we really studied it," Pollack said. "But the more we looked into it, the more inequitable we thought it was."

She noted that in addition to representing 320 businesses, "we're very concerned with the welfare of the entire village."

Chamber members met with village officials before taking a position on the tax. Despite this, questions still remain.

"They weren't sure about com-

Botulism is blamed for duck deaths

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Botulism — stemming from too many residents feeding their waterfowl friends at the lake of a Wheeling apartment complex — is being blamed for the death of nearly 50 ducks.

Authorities from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, called to investigate the mysterious passing of the ducks found floating in the drainage pond in the Wine Tree complex, said human kindness is the culprit.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger says EPA officials determined that people feeding the ducks caused more of them to flock to the small lake.

"The feeding attracted some sick ducks," Haeger said. The botulism was spread by feces of the sick ducks, Haeger said. Other ducks were ingesting the infected duck waste when food was thrown nearby.

"The water got pretty yucked up," Haeger said.

Several dead ducks washed up on shore, prompting residents to call the police. Other residents, wearing rubber gloves, gathered the corpses, but had trouble finding someone to dispose of the bodies.

About 30 ducks died last Thursday, and another 18 were collected Saturday at the complex, near Palatine and Wheeling roads.

Police are sending notices to all apartment complex associations that have retention ponds, Haeger said.

"We're asking them to tell people not to feed the ducks," he said, "and asking them to post 'Do not feed the ducks' signs by the pond."

He said the water is not dangerous to humans and that other life in the pond has not been affected.

"The fish are fine, the frogs are fine. There are even a few ducks there who didn't get sick."

Dr. Terry Osborn, a Prospect Heights veterinarian, has offered to cremate the ducks.

"This is not a new problem for the Illinois EPA," Haeger said.

Work set to begin on Hindu temple

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Hindu sect is hoping to pour a foundation for a new temple in Wheeling before winter sets in.

The Wheeling Plan Commission has approved plans submitted by the International Swaminarayan Sat-sang Organization. The group will seek the approval of the Appearance Commission Sept. 7 and the village board later in the month.

Jash Patel, president of the group's board of trustees, said he would like to receive the village board's final approval within a month.

"We are hoping to get the foundation in the ground before winter," he said. "That's the goal I have right now."

The temple's first services would be held next summer during Fourth of July weekend, if all goes according to schedule, Patel said. "That's a long weekend, so people from out of town can come in for the opening," he said.

Earlier this month, the group purchased two acres in Wheeling, located just east of Northgate Parkway at the end of 12th Street.

Acting Village Planner Chris Washburn said the village is planning to build a diversionary channel for the Wheeling Drainage Ditch through the property, so the group agreed to dedicate a 90-foot wide strip of land for the channel.

Depending on federal funding, the village expects to build the channel in four or five years, Washburn said.

There are only about 10 swaminarayan temples in the United States. Two are located in the Chicago suburbs of Lemont and Aurora. The congregation that is moving to Wheeling has been meeting in a Skokie Park District hall since it was organized in 1983.

The temple, a one-story domed structure, would consist of a main meeting hall and two other rooms.

Washburn said capacity would be limited to 390 people, a stipulation which was necessary because the main hall will not have chairs or pews. Hindus worship sitting on prayer rugs spread on the floor.

Swaminarayan services are loosely structured, but very reverent. Lay leaders, like Patel, often lead the prayers. Actual Hindu priests from India visit the congregation occasionally.

One of the top religious leaders from India will be visiting the temple for its opening ceremonies.

Barn moving will slow traffic in Wheeling

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Traffic on Dundee Road in Wheeling will be disrupted this morning as a large barn lumbers down the street.

The barn, traveling toward its future as a historic museum in Chamber Park, will be moved after the morning rush hour, starting at about 9:30 a.m.

Jay Haack, of R.J. Haack Construction, is the general contractor overseeing the move. He has hired an expert house-moving company to move the barn from its current location at Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue to Chamber Park, on Wolf Road.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael

Haeger said Dundee will be completely closed between Milwaukee Avenue and Wolf Road "for as long as it takes to move the barn." He said he is planning to assign three to five police officers to the scene to help direct traffic and control crowds.

Dundee Road traffic will be detoured south on Wolf Road to Manchester Drive, then to Milwaukee Avenue. Once the barn is on Wolf Road and heading north toward the park, Dundee will be open again.

Haeger said the department is not detouring traffic from Wolf Road. "We're not going to worry too much about Wolf Road," since it is less heavily traveled, he said.

The barn, which will be renovat-

ed to house a collection of antique horse-drawn carriages and a sleigh, stood Tuesday poised at the curb of Dundee Road in anticipation of today's move.

Haack said everything is ready to go, and utility companies will start preparation at about 7 a.m. Wednesday morning. "There's no good time to move it, but 9:30 a.m. seems the most reasonable," he said. "Traffic is going to be screwed up, but we're trying to make it as smooth as possible, with the least disruption."

Moving the building requires cooperation of more than a dozen agencies, Haack said. "It's like a (rocket) lift-off," he said. He estimated that the move should take about an hour.



A moving experience

An old barn, which will be renovated and turned into a museum for antique carriages, moves slowly down Dundee Road toward its new home at Chamber Park in Wheeling. The barn blocked traffic on Dundee for about a half hour Wednesday morning.

Daily Herald Photo/Gilbert Boucher

Tax break may lure company to Wheeling

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

An Evanston machine refurbishing company will move to Wheeling if the village grants the owner a property tax break.

The village board is expected to approve the tax break at a meeting Tuesday.

If approved, this would be the 19th such tax exemption granted in Wheeling since 1986 under a Cook county program designed to com-

pete with the lower business property tax rates in Lake and DuPage counties.

Bob Hoffenberg, owner of Victory Machine Exchange Inc., said he wants to build a 10,000-square-foot warehouse on his recently-acquired property at 311 Egidi Drive. He expects the project to cost about \$355,000.

The company buys used machinery, takes it apart, cleans it, replaces broken parts and resells it, Hoffenberg said.

The business would employ three

to four full-time employees, though that number could double or even triple in a few years based on the firm's success, company officials said.

Wheeling Finance Director Robert Fialkowski is recommending the board grant the tax break. He said the village does not lose money by granting the exemptions, because without them, "The businesses wouldn't be here. They generate more tax revenue than vacant land, so it's a gain."

Companies receiving the exemption are taxed at 16 percent of their property's value for eight years. The rate then goes up to 30 percent for the next four years, and then returns to the original 40 percent, village officials say.

Fialkowski's recommendation states he believes "it is beneficial to the community to attract this company to Wheeling."

The board is expected to vote on the issue 8 p.m. Tuesday at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling.

Wheeling fireworks display set Saturday

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The biggest fireworks show Wheeling has ever had is scheduled for the Labor Day weekend.

Many Wheeling residents were disappointed two months ago when dry weather forced Wheeling to celebrate the Fourth of July without a fireworks display. The explosives that sat quiet on July 4 will light up the sky over Heritage Park on Saturday night.

Melrose Fireworks, the company that handles the fireworks at Sox Park, is operating the show.

Fire Chief Bernie Koeppen said he expects no problems, but will have an engine standing by as a standard operating procedure.

"That grass is nice and green," he said. "Also, there isn't going to be the crowd control problem. We won't have thousands of people like we would have on Fourth of July."

Judy Abruscato, chairman of the Fourth of July Committee, said the committee is hoping residents will make a night of it.

"People can come to the park at about 5:30 p.m. or so, and bring a picnic supper," Abruscato said.

The Heritage Park snack bar will be open for snacks and soft drinks.

About 100 members of the Wheeling High School marching band will perform at 7:15 p.m.

"It will really be nice," Abruscato predicted. "People can bring

blankets or chairs, sit and eat their picnic supper, and listen to the music."

Prior to the fireworks display, the Wheeling Park District Rocket Club will demonstrate some of its model rockets.

The big show begins at dark, which Abruscato predicts should fall at about 8:15 p.m. "It will be the biggest show we've ever had," she said.

The fireworks display cost about \$8,000. The money for it was donated by residents, St. Joseph the Worker Church and Orval Kent Food Products Inc.

Heritage Park is on Wolf Road just south of Dundee Road. Admission to the show is free. No alcohol is allowed in the park.

Wheeling to vote on 25% levy increase

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling property owners can expect their property taxes to go up next year, if the village passes its proposed \$5.7 million levy Tuesday night.

A public hearing on the 1988 property tax levy will be held at 8 p.m. Tuesday at village hall. Wheeling is planning to collect 25 percent more in taxes than it did this year. The increase is due to the addition of more police officers, operations and maintenance employees and other staff members to keep up with the growth of the village, Finance Director Robert W. Fialkowski said.

Taxpayers are invited to the

public hearing to ask questions or to speak in favor of or against the proposed levy.

The 1988 levy determines property taxes to be collected in 1989. A higher levy translates into increased property taxes for village residents. However, Fialkowski said he does not expect excessively higher tax bills for residents because there will be more property owners to pay the new levy.

After the public hearing, the village will vote on the levy and two tax abatements. A portion of the money owed on bonds will be paid using balances in two village funds: the bond and interest fund and the tax increment financing fund. This means the net levy will

be \$5,781,458, a 25.05 percent increase over last year.

Because of growth in the village, tax rates this year were surprisingly low. The village's property tax is just one item on residents' tax bills. This year, a Wheeling homeowner living in the average-priced house of \$84,436 paid about \$166 in property taxes to the village.

The increased levy will bring the rates back up again next year, Fialkowski said, adding he expects the growth to continue, which will keep rates comparable to prior years. As the village grows, more services are needed, as demonstrated by the increase in police officers and other employees.

Trustees to vote on 1% utility tax tonight

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees will consider enacting a 1 percent utility tax at tonight's village board meeting.

The proposed tax has stirred up considerable controversy in the village for several months. The tax, which would add 1 percent to all electric, gas and telephone bills, would replace the current vehicle sticker fee as a source of revenue for road repairs.

Both the Wheeling chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons and the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry have spoken out against the tax. Vocal opponents have even threatened retaliation at the

polls next April, when Village President Sheila Schultz and Trustees William Rogers, Joseph Rajczak and Elizabeth Hartman are up for re-election.

Schultz has been a strong supporter of the tax, but said she was "still pondering" which way to vote. "I'm still convinced it's efficient and appropriate," she said. "But you have to look at the general acceptance level."

Hartman said she has been against the tax "for quite a while" and is planning to vote against it. "If we're trying to lure businesses to the village, it seems counterproductive to saddle them with a large utility tax," she said. She also cited predictions for "spiraling electric costs" in the future

that would make the tax costly.

Trustee James Whittington said he is "leaning very strongly against it. . . One of the big hang-ups I have with it is that we don't have a clear connection between taxing necessities like utilities to pay for roads."

Officials estimate the tax would cost the average household about \$14 per year. If the tax is not approved, the board will consider raising the vehicle sticker fee from \$10 to \$20. The late fee for the stickers also would be increased, from \$15, to \$25. Although the tax currently includes a discount for seniors, the new sticker fee schedule would not include this discount.

Wheeling turns down proposed utility tax

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In an apparent response to political pressure, Wheeling trustees voted down a proposed 1 percent utility tax Monday night. After six months of deliberating, trustees unanimously rejected the tax, which would have added 1 percent to all telephone, electric and gas bills in the village.

Wheeling's senior citizens, particularly members of the local chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons, led the fight against the tax, which was proposed in February to replace the vehicle sticker tax to fund road repairs.

The Wheeling AARP, a vocal

and politically active group, was soon joined by local business owners, who said the tax was unfair.

"When it was first proposed, it seemed like a good idea," Trustee William Rogers said. "Since then, we've had a lot of input," mostly opposing a utility tax.

"I don't think this board should decide for people which way they want to pay, if we can raise the same amount of money," by raising the vehicle sticker fees.

Officials estimated the tax would cost the average resident about \$14 per year. The Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry claimed that figure was inaccurate and noted that businesses would pay much more than that. Some local business owners

said the tax would cost them several thousand dollars each year.

Edward Maine, Chamber of Commerce president, said, "The tax shifts the burden to the businesses and does nothing to help residents."

Rather than enact a new tax, the board agreed to keep using the vehicle sticker system, even though it has been criticized as costly and inefficient. However, the cost of the stickers is expected to double. The board will discuss the changes at a workshop Monday.

Stickers have cost \$10 since 1973. The fee currently includes a discount for senior citizens, who pay just \$3 per sticker. Under the proposed new fee schedule, there is no such discount.

Work set to begin on Hindu temple

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Hindu sect is hoping to pour a foundation for a new temple in Wheeling before winter sets in.

The Wheeling Plan Commission has approved plans submitted by the International Swaminarayan Sat-sang Organization. The group will seek the approval of the Appearance Commission Sept. 7 and the village board later in the month.

Jash Patel, president of the group's board of trustees, said he would like to receive the village board's final approval within a month.

"We are hoping to get the foundation in the ground before winter," he said. "That's the goal I have right now."

The temple's first services would be held next summer during Fourth of July weekend, if all goes according to schedule, Patel said. "That's a long weekend, so people from out of town can come in for the opening," he said.

Earlier this month, the group purchased two acres in Wheeling, located just east of Northgate Parkway at the end of 12th Street.

Acting Village Planner Chris Washburn said the village is planning to build a diversionary channel for the Wheeling Drainage Ditch through the property, so the group agreed to dedicate a 90-foot wide strip of land for the channel.

Depending on federal funding, the village expects to build the channel in four or five years, Washburn said.

There are only about 10 swaminarayan temples in the United States. Two are located in the Chicago suburbs of Lemont and Aurora. The congregation that is moving to Wheeling has been meeting in a Skokie Park District hall since it was organized in 1983.

The temple, a one-story domed structure, would consist of a main meeting hall and two other rooms.

Washburn said capacity would be limited to 390 people, a stipulation which was necessary because the main hall will not have chairs or pews. Hindus worship sitting on prayer rugs spread on the floor.

Swaminarayan services are loosely structured, but very reverent. Lay leaders, like Patel, often lead the prayers. Actual Hindu priests from India visit the congregation occasionally.

One of the top religious leaders from India will be visiting the temple for its opening ceremonies.

Barn moving will slow traffic in Wheeling

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Traffic on Dundee Road in Wheeling will be disrupted this morning as a large barn lumbers down the street.

The barn, traveling toward its future as a historic museum in Chamber Park, will be moved after the morning rush hour, starting at about 9:30 a.m.

Jay Haack, of R.J. Haack Construction, is the general contractor overseeing the move. He has hired an expert house-moving company to move the barn from its current location at Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue to Chamber Park, on Wolf Road.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael

Haeger said Dundee will be completely closed between Milwaukee Avenue and Wolf Road "for as long as it takes to move the barn." He said he is planning to assign three to five police officers to the scene to help direct traffic and control crowds.

Dundee Road traffic will be detoured south on Wolf Road to Manchester Drive, then to Milwaukee Avenue. Once the barn is on Wolf Road and heading north toward the park, Dundee will be open again.

Haeger said the department is not detouring traffic from Wolf Road. "We're not going to worry too much about Wolf Road," since it is less heavily traveled, he said.

The barn, which will be renovat-

ed to house a collection of antique horse-drawn carriages and a sleigh, stood Tuesday poised at the curb of Dundee Road in anticipation of today's move.

Haack said everything is ready to go, and utility companies will start preparation at about 7 a.m. Wednesday morning. "There's no good time to move it, but 9:30 a.m. seems the most reasonable," he said. "Traffic is going to be screwed up, but we're trying to make it as smooth as possible, with the least disruption."

Moving the building requires cooperation of more than a dozen agencies, Haack said. "It's like a (rocket) lift-off," he said. He estimated that the move should take about an hour.



A moving experience

An old barn, which will be renovated and turned into a museum for antique carriages, moves slowly down Dundee Road toward its new home at Chamber Park in Wheeling. The barn blocked traffic on Dundee for about a half hour Wednesday morning.

Daily Herald Photo/Gilbert Boucher

Tax break may lure company to Wheeling

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

An Evanston machine refurbishing company will move to Wheeling if the village grants the owner a property tax break.

The village board is expected to approve the tax break at a meeting Tuesday.

If approved, this would be the 19th such tax exemption granted in Wheeling since 1986 under a Cook county program designed to com-

pete with the lower business property tax rates in Lake and DuPage counties.

Bob Hoffenberg, owner of Victory Machine Exchange Inc., said he wants to build a 10,000-square-foot warehouse on his recently-acquired property at 311 Egidi Drive. He expects the project to cost about \$355,000.

The company buys used machinery, takes it apart, cleans it, replaces broken parts and resells it, Hoffenberg said.

The business would employ three

to four full-time employees, though that number could double or even triple in a few years based on the firm's success, company officials said.

Wheeling Finance Director Robert Fialkowski is recommending the board grant the tax break. He said the village does not lose money by granting the exemptions, because without them, "The businesses wouldn't be here. They generate more tax revenue than vacant land, so it's a gain."

Companies receiving the exemption are taxed at 16 percent of their property's value for eight years. The rate then goes up to 30 percent for the next four years, and then returns to the original 40 percent, village officials say.

Fialkowski's recommendation states he believes "It is beneficial to the community to attract this company to Wheeling."

The board is expected to vote on the issue 8 p.m. Tuesday at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling.



A flat-bed truck carefully maneuvers the historical carriage house around the corner of Dundee and Wolf roads.

On the move: Historical building finds a home

With a quick snip of some utility lines, the Sicks carriage house was off and on its way to a new home.

After sitting comfortably for the past 96 years on Dundee Road, just west of Milwaukee Avenue, the carriage house, which former resident John Sicks called just "a barn," was moved last week to the Wheeling Park District's Chamber Park on Wolf Road.

There, the nearly century-old building will become a neighbor to the existing historical museum, formerly the first village hall, and the original Community Presbyterian Church, built in 1865. Plans currently call for the building to be renovated to mirror the architecture of the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Staff photos
by Bill Oakes



Ilse Workman watches the move with her 2-year-old son, Jimmy.



Spectators await the arrival of the carriage house at Chamber Park.



Workers place the 96-year-old building on its new foundation.

Courtesy 9-8-88

Alarm ordinance needed

When a light goes on in the Wheeling Police Department's dispatch board indicating that a burglary may be taking place at a business or residence, police have no idea if it's the real thing or not. And even though 99 percent of the alarms that go off in town are false, officers have to respond to every alarm as if a break-in was occurring.

But when officers rush to the scene only to find that the alarm was set off by a careless store employee or a home system that isn't working quite right, it's truly a waste of their time — and the taxpayers' dollars. And, more important, officers who could be patrolling elsewhere in the village are taken away from other duties.

If the situation happened once or twice a day, it wouldn't be a serious problem. But it doesn't. Alarms go off five or 10 times a day in Wheeling, and many times officers find themselves reporting to the same residences and businesses over and over again. In the first six months of this year, Wheeling police have responded to more than 1,000 false alarms.

Wheeling isn't the only suburb where an overabundance of false alarms is creating some problems. But other communities have tried to alleviate the situation by fining alarm owners who are habitually having problems with their alarm systems. We'd like to see Wheeling take similar steps.

In Buffalo Grove, business owners and residents are fined \$25 if their alarms falsely go off more than twice within a six-month period. If an alarm is triggered because of a power outage or because of utility work, that isn't counted. Buffalo Grove police say the threat of a fine prompts residents to make certain their alarm systems are working right and business owners to make sure that employees are properly trained on how to turn the alarm on and off. An ordinance similar to the one in Buffalo Grove would no doubt help reduce the number of false alarms in Wheeling as well.

Courtesy 9-8-88

Wheeling rejects plan to move intersection

Plans to relocate the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads to increase safety at Palwaukee Airport didn't get off the ground Tuesday.

Asking for more information on economic matters tied to the movement of the roads, Wheeling trustees disagreed with a recommendation by the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission and rejected the commission's plans for the relocation of the intersection.

The intersection must be relocated to meet Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety standards. According to FAA rules, in order for Palwaukee to continue to service the commercial air traffic that is considered vital to the airport's economic vitality, a larger clear zone must be created at the northwest end of the airport's longest runway.

After months of study and debate, the airport commission recommended Aug. 24 that the intersection be moved far enough west of the runway to include an on-airport site for commercial development for an airplane-related business.

SUPPORTERS OF THE plan said the creation of a commercial business district on airport property would compensate for any loss of commercial property in the village itself.

But trustees Tuesday, after discussing the issue in executive session, voted unanimously to reject the plan. Village President Sheila Schultz said trustees

want to know which community, Prospect Heights or Wheeling, would be entitled to annex property taken during the condemnation process necessary for the road relocation.

She said trustees also want more information on sales tax revenue generated by the airport.

Palwaukee Municipal Airport is owned jointly by Prospect Heights and Wheeling. Although owned by the two communities, almost all the money spent on improving the airport has been contributed by the federal and state governments. The airport commission is an advisory board made up of representatives from Wheeling and Prospect Heights. While the commission can make recommendations on airport issues, its recommendations must be approved by the Wheeling Village Board and Prospect Heights City Council.

ROBERT STRAUSS, THE only Wheeling member of the airport commission to support the plan, said he told trustees in executive session that the plan was a good one. "They listened to what I said," Strauss said after the meeting, "that it would be a benefit to the airport and a long-term benefit for the village."

Disagreeing with Strauss and the Prospect Heights members of the airport commission, Trustees Elizabeth Hartman and William Rogers, who also are commission members, both voted against the recommendation.

Courtesy 9-8-88

Suspect enters not guilty plea

A Wheeling man plead not guilty Tuesday morning to charges that he tried to intimidate Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger.

William J. Albrecht, 36, who also faces seven charges of aggravated criminal sexual abuse, was charged last month with intimidation after allegedly telling Haeger he would kill six boys unless the police department investigated several youths Albrecht suspected of damaging his car and threatening his family.

Albrecht's plea was entered before Cook County Circuit Court Judge Marcia B. Orr after a Cook County grand jury handed down the indictment on the intimidation charge, a spokesman for the Cook County state's attorney's office said.

Albrecht is also facing seven charges of aggravated criminal sexual abuse in connection with incidents involving six boys between the ages of 12 and 16. A grand jury indicted Albrecht in July, alleging that Albrecht sexually abused the boys between February 1987, and April 1988.

The intimidation charge came after Albrecht allegedly phoned Haeger Aug. 11 to complain about harassing phone calls and scratches to his car.

Both the molestation charges and the intimidation charge have been combined. A hearing in the case has been set for Oct. 3 in Cook County Circuit Court in Skokie.

Courtesy 9-8-88

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Courtesy 9-8-88

Health fair set for Saturday

The Wheeling Board of Health is sponsoring its annual health fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Lynn Plaza shopping center at McHenry and Dundee roads.

Physicians and representatives from various medical and health organizations will be at the fair to distribute information and answer health-related questions. Screenings for cataracts, glaucoma, diabetes and high blood pressure will be conducted. Blood donor pledges will also be accepted.

"Individuals who are educated in health issues and know the signs of illness, what treatments are and where treatment is available are the basic building blocks of a healthy public," said Dan Adams, village sanitarian. "This year's health fair has been organized to build the basics for good health in Wheeling."

Trustees kill utility tax, eye sticker fee hike

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees pulled the plug on a proposed utility tax Tuesday night.

Saying residents would prefer other methods of taxation, trustees ditched the idea of a utility tax and then quickly considered doubling the vehicle sticker fee, which the utility tax was supposed to replace.

Initiated by village staff as a way to more efficiently generate revenue for the Wheeling's road and bridge fund, the utility tax would have placed a 1 percent tax on all phone, gas and electric bills in the village.

Finance Director Bob Flalkowski said increases in spending for the road and bridge fund have forced the village to rely more heavily on property taxes to bolster that fund. The utility tax would have relieved some of that burden, he said.

BUT TRUSTEES UNANIMOUSLY decided to not ask the utility companies to play tax col-

lector. Instead, they will be looking to generate just as much revenue — possibly even more — as the utility tax would have by hiking vehicle sticker fees.

"When we started this debate, it seemed like a good idea. Some still think it is a good idea," Trustee William Rogers said. "And the citizens have indicated to this board that they don't mind paying more for the road and bridge fund. . . And I really don't think this board should decide which way they're going to be taxed if it's going into the road and bridge fund."

After Trustee Joseph Ratajczak recommended the creation of the utility tax and the removal of the vehicle sticker fee, he and the five other trustees all voted against the proposal.

A crowd of more than 80 people, made up of mostly senior citizens and village business leaders, vigorously applauded following the vote.

SENIOR CITIZENS AND businesses had opposed the tax, saying it would place an unfair burden on

them. Both groups recommended that trustees increase the vehicle sticker fees, which have remained at the same levels set when they were first created 15 years ago.

Senior citizens on fixed incomes said the chance of future increases in a utility tax, which by state law can be raised to 5 percent, was too high to warrant approval of the new tax.

Business leaders, on the other hand, questioned the village staff's math and said the business community alone would pay nearly three times as what Flalkowski projected the entire village would pay.

Ed Main, the president of the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry, told trustees he also doubted the estimates on the amount of utility taxes a "typical" homeowner would pay. He said the \$14 estimate was far too low.

AFTER THE VOTE, Main was pleased. "I think it's a victory for the whole community," Main said. "I'm just delighted for the vil-

lage."

The village now collects about \$240,000 in vehicle sticker fees, less than one-fifth of the \$1.09 million revenue in the 1988-1989 road and bridge fund, which pays for the maintenance of village streets, sidewalks, curbs and gutters. The balance of the fund is picked up by property taxes and from payments from the water and sewer fund.

Without any increase in the vehicle sticker fee, Flalkowski is projecting a 13 percent increase in the amount of property tax dollars needed for the road and bridge fund in 1989.

A 1 percent utility tax, Flalkowski said, would have generated about \$360,000, 50 percent more than the existing vehicle sticker fee. He said Tuesday the new vehicle sticker fee schedule presented to the board would generate \$400,000 for the road and bridge fund.

FLALKOWSKI SAID THAT IF the board adopts a vehicle sticker fee schedule that would generate

Wheeling blocks relocation of intersection

By Keri Wyatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The ultimate location of an intersection near Pal-Waukee Municipal Airport remains in limbo, after Wheeling trustees rejected and Prospect Heights councilmen approved a plan to move it.

Wheeling officials say the relocation of Wolf and Hintz roads, recommended by the Pal-Waukee Airport Commission, would have an adverse economic affect on Wheeling.

The roads must be moved to create a "clear zone" at the north end of the main runway, to bring the airport up to Federal Aviation Administration safety standards.

The plan is a combination of five

previous proposals presented to the Pal-Waukee Airport Commission. The commission is made up of members from both Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which jointly own the airport. Action by the commission must be approved independently by both towns.

The plan, which would bow both roads out away from the airport and move the intersection west of its current location, would take Wolf Road right through the Wolf Run Estates subdivision and require acquisition of 17 acres along the south leg of Wolf Road.

Trustees say it would take prime commercial property out of Wheeling, which would hurt the village economically.

"We won't give up the develop-

ment rights to that land," Village President Sheila Schultz said. "We have to protect the financial interests of the village of Wheeling."

When the commission finally recommended the plan last month, the two Wheeling trustees on the commission voted against it. However, Wheeling resident Robert Strauss, voted in favor of it.

Strauss said he told the board the plan would "benefit the airport and would benefit the village of Wheeling in the long run" because development on the acquired land would generate sales tax and property tax revenue.

The plan cannot be submitted to the FAA and Illinois Department of Transportation for approval until both towns approve it.

Wheeling levy rises by 25%

Wheeling property owners can expect their property taxes to go up next year, as a result of a 25 percent increase in the village's tax levy.

The 1988 levy, which determines property taxes to be collected in 1989, was unanimously approved by the village board.

The village will levy \$5.7 million. Each taxpayer's share will be determined next summer, when the county computes the village's overall assessed valuation and the tax rates.

The main reason for the increase is the addition of more police officers, operations and maintenance employees and other staff members to keep up with the growth of the village.

Finance Director Robert W. Flalkowski said.

A 25 percent increase in the levy does not mean tax rates will increase by the same percentage. Flalkowski said he does not expect excessively higher tax bills for residents because there will be more property owners to pay the new levy.

Because of growth in the village, tax rates this year were surprisingly low. The village's property tax is just one item on a resident's tax bills.

Utility tax —

(Continued from page 5)

more than \$240,000, trustees could abate, or decrease, the amount of property tax dollars needed for the road and bridge fund. He said trustees could also decide to spend that money on other funds.

Although trustees aren't expected to decide on the size of the vehicle sticker fee hikes until Monday, initial proposals call for the cost of a passenger car sticker to double, from \$10 to \$20. Sticker fees for recreational vehicles, motorcycles and trucks are all expected to increase.

Flalkowski said there are about 16,000 passenger cars and 2,000 trucks registered in the village.

Marvin Horcher, a representative of the Wheeling chapter of the American Association of Retired People, said doubling the passenger car fee might be hasty.

"A SIMPLE calculation is that a \$5 increase across the board would bring in \$360,000," Horcher said. That is the same amount the utility tax would have generated.

Village staff are also recommending trustees increase the late fee for buying the stickers from \$15 to \$25. Also suggested was an increase in the minimum penalty from \$25 to \$50.

Thursday, September 8, 1988

Plans advance for Hindu temple

By Keri Wyatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Hindu sect's plans to build a temple in Wheeling are moving ahead rapidly.

The Wheeling Appearance Commission has given a positive recommendation to the proposal, leaving only one more step in the process before construction can begin.

The village board is expected to review the plans submitted by the International Swaminarayan Satsang Organization at its next regular

meeting, Sept. 19. With the approval of the plan commission and now the appearance commission, the group needs only the village board's OK before proceeding with the project.

Jash Patel, president of the group's board of trustees, said he hopes to pour a foundation for the temple this fall and open it for services by next summer.

Patel said the International Swaminarayan Satsang Organization has been meeting in a Skokie Park District hall since the group orga-

nized in 1983. Looking for a permanent place to worship, the group purchased 2 acres of vacant land just east of Northgate parkway at the end of 12th Street.

The temple, which Patel is designing, will be a one-story domed building with a large, open central hall and two other rooms.

Patel said there are at least 40 to 50 Indian families living in Wheeling. The majority of Indians, about 80 percent, are Hindu, though not all of them belong to the Swaminarayan

sect.

Patel says his goal is to have the plans approved and construction well underway before winter. Another goal is to be accepted by the community.

"We want to be a part of the local community," he said. "we don't have any political element. It's strictly a cultural and religious group."

If the board approves the plans, Patel estimated that he will be able to hold opening ceremonies at the temple over the Fourth of July weekend next summer.

TCI cable feeling community static

By DAVE MCKINNEY
Daily Herald Staff Writer

It's 11:02 a.m. on a Wednesday, smack in the middle of normal business hours during an average work week. Try to call TCI of Illinois to report a problem with your cable television service, and this is what you may get:

Five rings, and then a mechanically-produced voice answers: "At the present time, all lines are busy. Your call will be answered in the order it was received."

You wait. No music, nothing. Finally, at 11:09 a.m., a human voice breaks the silence: "TCI, how may I help you."

Periodic reception problems, a growing chorus of Northwest suburban leaders say, are made worse by the fact one has to wait seven minutes and longer — high by industry standards — to make a complaint in TCI's case.

TCI, the nation's largest cable television provider, is at the butt of community complaints. Based locally in Mount Prospect, the company gives service to more than 50,000 residents living in nine towns. The company has been so unreceptive to complaints, officials say, villages are left with no alternative but to threaten fines to spur better service.

Upgrade deadline

The Northwest Municipal Cable Council — representing Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Des Plaines, Hanover Park, Mount Prospect, Prospect Heights, Wheeling and Park Ridge — recommended to its members to give the company 45 days to upgrade its service or to begin imposing

Cable television subscribers

Town	June 1987	May 1, 1988*	June 30, 1988
Arlington Heights	9,312	9,972	9,863
Bartlett	2,234	2,424	2,399
Des Plaines	6,847	7,072	7,002
Hanover Park	4,534	4,612	4,540
Mount Prospect	7,258	7,440	7,278
Prospect Heights	1,625	1,712	1,677
Schaumburg	9,365	9,714	9,588
Streamwood	3,608	4,086	4,044
Wheeling	4,064	4,473	4,448

* Date of completion of TCI takeover from Cablenet
Source: Northwest Municipal Cable Council

\$200-a-day fines.

No other cable distributor in the area — Lake County's Centel and Cox Cable Communications or Continental Cablevision in Cook County — finds itself under the gun like TCI. In fact, most have established warm or at least amicable relationships with the towns they service.

"TCI has been telling us forever that they'll improve things," says Schaumburg Trustee Kenneth L. Gogue. "They've told us that over and over, but they have not performed. That's the big problem... Everyone's totally lost their confidence in TCI."

But TCI General Manager Mark Hess, who has been in the job for three weeks, says things will change. More people will be hired to man phones to reduce average waits to three minutes, and new equipment will be added to improve reception, he said.

"Our biggest concern is the customer. We want to give them better

service," Hess said. "I'm concerned with the customer more than I am with the individual municipalities."

With the summer's record heat, Commonwealth Edison power surges and blackouts have brought havoc to the company, causing numerous outages, he said. Also to blame are cut cable wiring, done accidentally by developers, he said.

Clear complaints

The cable council, a branch of the Northwest Municipal Conference, has acted somewhat as a clearing house for complaints. Since May, when most of TCI's management was put in place following the company's 1987 buy-out of Cablenet, calls have jumped significantly over last year, said Carole C. Stannard, executive director of the council.

In the 12 months from May, 1987, to April, 1988, the council dealt with 398 complaints. So far, in only three months — from May of this year through July — about 500 disgrun-

ted TCI subscribers have called Stannard's Arlington Heights office to complain, she said.

The increase in complaints seems to correspond with a drop-off in subscribers that started in May. In all of the towns that belong to the council, cable subscriptions have dropped off by between 1 and 2 percent.

In the company's two largest markets, Arlington Heights and Schaumburg, more than 100 households in each village dropped TCI from May to June, the most recent date for which figures are available.

In Arlington Heights, 9,972 subscribed to TCI in May. A month later, subscriptions dropped to 9,863. In Schaumburg, 9,714 subscribed in May, but only 9,588 were signed up with TCI in late June. Two of those to drop the cable service because of poor reception were Schaumburg Trustees Raymond E. LeBeau and Carl G. Niemann.

Keeps records

Stannard keeps records on how many complaints are filed and how TCI deals with them. She also performs periodical checks on how long it takes the company to respond to calls on its service lines.

"On my inventory, when we could get through — when it wasn't busy or when it wouldn't ring continuously with no one answering it — the average wait was about five minutes," Stannard said. "Ideally, it should be less than two minutes. That's an industry standard."

"It seems the problems really started happening in May," Stannard added. "The correlation to that is

See CABLE on Page 3

CABLE: Towns tune in to blast firm's service

Continued from Page 1

that's when TCI management was put into place."

"I'd say it's unfair to relate the two," Hess responded. "With local municipalities, TCI has the reputation of an ugly beast because we're the largest cable company in the country. We get the impression that we try to push people around because we're big, but that's not true at all."

The clock has already begun ticking for TCI. The Hanover Park village board adopted an ordinance last week that will allow fines against the company if service and reception isn't improved by late October.

No lost contracts

While towns stand by their various escape clauses written into franchise agreements, the fact is TCI has not lost any contracts nationally. For a town to attempt such a maneuver would only mean high legal costs and long court delays, often not enough to outweigh service and reception problems, cable experts said.

If Hanover Park and the other council towns actually do impose fines against TCI, they won't be the first suburbs to do so. Earlier this year, besieged by similar service and reception woes with TCI, officials in Skokie fined the company more than \$38,000.

The Skokie fines primarily stemmed from a loss of service for

more than a week in January to nearly a quarter of the town's 7,000 cable subscriber. But James Szczepaniak, the village's public information officer, said the village also complained of "inadequate" or "unprofessional" customer service representatives; failure of TCI to keep records of complaints or to provide installation for everyone in town who requested it.

So far, though, the village has not received the money and is investigating possible legal action, Szczepaniak said. One important note, he added: Service and reception levels have improved "drastically" since Skokie trustees moved to impose fines, and complaints to village hall have dropped off from a high of 121 calls to village hall in January to seven in May.

Subject of scorn

Certainly, TCI has been more the subject of scorn than perhaps any other local cable television provider. Continental Cablevision, based in Elmhurst, has provided reliably good service for Elk Grove Village, Buffalo Grove, Palatine, Hoffman Estates and Rolling Meadows, said Elk Grove Village Trustee James P. Petri, who is the village's cable television representative.

There had been some friction between the towns and the company earlier this year prior to a new long-term franchise agreement with Continental, which last year bought out American Cablesystems.

Construction to begin on town-house project

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A town-house building will be constructed at the corner of Hintz Road and Maple Lane in Wheeling.

The Wheeling village board is giving developer Martin Susala the go-ahead, and construction is expected to begin this month.

A group of six-flat apartment buildings lie to the south of the new development site. In the early 1980's, when those buildings were completed, the property also was slated for six-flats, which were never developed. Since then, it was purchased by Susala for a separate development.

In 1981, the village zoning code changed, making a six-flat too dense for the one-third of an acre site. Even putting three units on the site requires a variation to allow a smaller lot. "Any development would require a variation," Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said, because

lot size requirements have changed.

The village board, following the recommendations of the village staff and the plan commission, unanimously approved the variation requests and the site plan.

The three town-house units will be in one two-story building. Each will have two bedrooms, two baths and a two-car garage.

Klitzke said the developer is "ready to go" ahead with construction. "They will be proceeding right away," he said.

Susala also is planning to build a fence and hedge along Hintz Road to provide privacy for the building.

The building will have access off Maple, via a shared drive with the apartment buildings to the south.

Houses lie to the north of the property, across Hintz Road. Klitzke noted that the town-house building "provides transition between single-family development and six-flat apartments."

Senior raps Porter's Pavilion appearance

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. John Porter is planning a "Senior Citizen Forum" at the Pavilion Senior Center in Wheeling next weekend.

But the rules of the Pavilion Senior Center prohibit partisan programs, and one senior citizen, a member of the Wheeling American Association of Retired Persons, says she is offended by Porter's planned appearance.

Because AARP functions as a "political action group" and charges dues, it has been denied use of the center as a meeting place.

"I think it's rather incredible," said AARP member Pat Walsdorf.

"The AARP can't use the Pavilion because we're politically oriented. This is very offensive to me."

However, other AARP members and village officials say they will welcome Porter to the senior center, and that the forum is non-partisan.

"He's an incumbent congressman," said Community Development Director Michael Klizke. "He puts this on every year. It's an educational thing, not a political thing. We've turned down other people who wanted to speak because they were running for election."

Porter, who has represented the 10th Congressional District since 1980, is running for re-election this November, said Porter's press secretary, David Kohn.

"It's perfectly natural to invite a representative to come and speak about issues that concern us," AARP Secretary Robert McIntyre said. "More importantly, he should come and listen to us."

Kohn said the annual forum series usually is held in several locations within the district. The first meeting will be in Wheeling from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Sept. 17. Admission is free, and the meeting is open to the public. Two other meetings, in North Chicago and Highland Park, also are planned for the weekend.

"The congressman will bring the seniors information about current legislation that's affecting them, such as Medicare or Social Security," Kohn said.

Buffalo Grove buys site for drainage facility

BY KRIS KOPP
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Residents on Jackson Drive in Wheeling and University Court in Buffalo Grove soon will see some relief from flooding problems, as construction plans for a \$500,000 drainage facility move ahead.

Buffalo Grove officials have finalized their purchase of a three-acre site from Wheeling Township Elementary District 21. The strip of land is needed to build a detention basin.

Village Engineer Richard Kuenkler said they now will seek bids for the job and expect to start work within a couple of months.

Construction of the drainage facility will alleviate years of flood-

ing problems residents of both University Court and Jackson Drive have experienced.

"It's (flooding) a long standing problem down there," Kuenkler said, adding that Jackson Drive residents who originally were opposed to the idea are now in full support. "Drainage projects are hard. People don't always understand, but in the end those people were all satisfied."

Buffalo Grove paid about \$86,000 for the three-acre strip at the north end of Jackson Drive, just south of Tarkington School in District 21.

The 14-foot drainage basin Buffalo Grove officials plan to build will be located on that piece of land, although it is officially locat-

ed in Wheeling.

The basin will collect runoff water from the University Court area and is expected to remain dry except during heavy rains.

Jackson Drive residents were afraid the new drainage facility would increase flooding problems on their own street, as the water from University Court also would be draining into their neighborhood.

However, Buffalo Grove officials say the basin will benefit residents of both villages.

Buffalo Grove board members have taken out a \$2 million tax-backed loan, a portion of which will pay for the drainage facility.

Liquor store accused of selling to minors

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling liquor store that has been open less than a year is facing its third and fourth charges of selling liquor to minors. If found guilty, the store could lose its license.

J.C. Liquors, 1061 Lake-Cook Road, was fined \$1,000 and closed for 10 consecutive days in April, after its owners were found guilty of selling liquor to minors in two incidents three weeks apart.

At the next Wheeling Liquor Commission hearing, J.C. Liquors again will face charges of selling liquor to minors, again in two separate incidents. The hearing is scheduled for Sept. 26.

Police Chief Michael Haeger is requesting the commission "revoke or permanently suspend" J.C.'s liquor license, according to the hearing petition.

Village Prosecutor Steven Handler said mentioning such punishment in the petition does not mean he actually will seek such a harsh sentence.

"It just reserves our right to request it," he said.

The petitions to be heard later this month charge that employee Marylou Regan sold a 12-pack of beer to a 19-year-old Buffalo Grove youth, and in a separate incident, co-owner George Thomas sold a six-pack of beer to Michael Ullrich, 18, who allegedly presented a fake identification card.

Store co-owner Philip Skaria declined to comment on the charges, or on the store's policy for checking identification.

Handler said the minors involved "were not working for the village or on behalf of the village." However, the 19-year-old Buffalo Grove youth who was charged in the first incident will not be prosecuted, Handler said, because he is now cooperating with the village. He declined to release the youth's name because he will be a village witness.

Criminal charges against Thomas, Regan and Ullrich will be heard in Wheeling branch court Tuesday, separately from the liquor license hearing.

Wheeling hires new village planner

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling has hired a new village planner, four months after Richard Greenwood resigned from the post.

Robert Sullivan, a free-lance real-estate appraiser, has accepted the job and will start work Sept. 19, said Wheeling Personnel Officer David Kowal.

Sullivan, who will draw a \$36,777 annual salary, will be responsible for reviewing plans for development in the village, working with developers and making recommendations to the plan commission and village board.

Since Greenwood resigned to take a job in the private sector in May, his assistant Christine Washburn has taken over as acting planner.

Washburn applied for the job, along with 34 other hopefuls. Although she was one of three finalists for the position, Washburn will return to her old job of assistant planner when Sullivan starts work.

Sullivan has been an independent appraiser of commercial and residential property for three years. He is associated with Purcell and Phillips Real Estate Appraisers of Oak Brook and Urban Real Estate Research in Chicago, Kowal said.

"Prior to that, he worked in the

planning department in the city of Evanston," Kowal said. "He worked on Evanston's storefront renovation project." Sullivan worked in Evanston from 1983 to 1985. He also has worked as a planner for Will County, from 1980 to 1983.

While all village staff members are hired by the village manager, a staff committee screens resumes and picks out who will be interviewed. Kowal said he worked with Community Development Director Michael Klitzke and Village Manager Craig Anderson to select the finalists.

Anderson said he hired Sullivan

because "he is well-qualified in experience and well-qualified in education. He spent a number of years working in the public sector, and he has a breadth of experience."

Anderson said Sullivan holds two master's degrees, one in planning and in business administration.

"I think he will fit in well with our community development department," Anderson added, "and with the community at large."

In addition to Sullivan's experience, Kowal said, because he is an independent appraiser, "he can start in a relatively short amount of time."

Construction begins on Hintz town house

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The day after they received approval for a three-unit town-house building in Wheeling, developers Martin Susala and Joe Szanati broke ground and began construction. The partners expect to have residents moved in within two months.

Susala said the building, located at the corner of Hintz Road and Maple Lane, will be ready for occupancy by Nov. 15.

Szanati said he plans to pour the foundation this week, and then, the following week, teams will spend just two days putting up the two-story building.

"We're using computer design," he explained of the quick construction schedule. "We bring pre-cut pieces in on a truck, and assemble them. It should take about two days. Most of the cutting and fabricating will already be done. We'll bring in four semi-truck loads of pieces." It will take a few weeks to "finish and trim" the building, Szanati said, and also to find buyers. One of the units has already sold for \$102,500 in a "ground-breaking special."

"We knew the bank was going to assess them at more than that, but we offered the special price," Szanati said. "The end units were appraised at \$118,000, so buyers will already have equity when they move in."

Each town house will have two bedrooms, two baths and a two-car garage. Szanati said the remaining end unit is available for \$113,500, and the middle unit, which was appraised at \$114,000, is on sale for \$110,000.

A group of six-flat apartment buildings lie to the south of the site. In the early 1980s, when those buildings were completed, the property also was slated for six-flats, which were never developed. Since then, Susala and Szanati purchased the one-third of an acre site for a separate development.

Wheeling increases sticker fee

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

9.14.88
Wheeling officials are increasing the rates for village stickers, doubling the charge for passenger cars to \$20.

Officials say the increase, the first since 1973, is needed to keep up with the rising cost of maintaining village streets.

Early this year, village staff members had suggested imposing a 1-percent utility tax as a replacement for the stickers, saying it could be collected more efficiently and raise more money.

However, strong opposition from the business community and the Wheeling chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons led the village board to vote down the proposed utility tax last week. Instead, the board agreed to raise the sticker prices, but delayed voting on the amounts until Monday.

The AARP led the fight against the utility tax, but members said they were not satisfied with the increase in sticker rates, even though the group had advocated raising sticker prices rather than imposing a utility tax.

Passenger car stickers currently cost \$10, but senior citizens were allowed up to two stickers per "individual or married couple," at just \$3 each. The new ordinance, which will go into effect Jan. 31, allows only one discounted sticker, and the cost has been raised to \$10.

Robert McIntyre, secretary of the Wheeling AARP, told the board the senior rate should have been doubled, just as the regular rate had, which would make it \$6.

Village President Sheila Schultz said she thought the senior citizen discount under the new schedule was "a good gesture on the part of the board. A 50 percent discount is generous."

The new schedule also includes rates for trucks and trailers, but is less complex. The old rate schedule included 14 different fees for various sizes of trucks and trailers. The new schedule has only five different fees, ranging from \$30 to \$150.

The new truck and trailer fees will go into effect next summer, when the current stickers for those vehicles expire.

Police eye computer system

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

9.14.88
The Wheeling Police Department is considering buying into a computer system that law enforcement experts say will help them catch criminals faster and more accurately than has ever been possible.

Police Chief Michael Haeger is asking the village board to allocate \$16,298 each year for three years, as its contribution for a \$1.7 million computer known as the Automated Fingerprint Identification System, or A.F.I.S.

The Northern Illinois Crime Lab, an evidence processing laboratory in Highland Park, analyzes evidence for 42 different North Shore and Northwest suburban police departments, including Wheeling.

The A.F.I.S. computer would be

housed at the crime lab, which is located on the top floor of the Highland Park public safety building.

The police department spends \$16,298 a year for membership in the crime lab — an amount that would double if the village hooks up with the A.F.I.S. system — and receives help in reading fingerprints and analyzing other evidence.

Haeger said the new computer can "read" a fingerprint taken from the scene of a crime and compare it with all the prints it has on record. In a matter of seconds, the computer can spew out a list of suspects.

"What takes the computer about five seconds would take 50 years for a person to do by eyeball," Mike Bonamarte, director of public safety for Highland Park, and chairman of the A.F.I.S. commit-

tee for the crime lab, said. "It would be impossible. But with the A.F.I.S. system, it is possible." "Will we be able to access other systems?" Trustee Anthony Altieri asked.

Bonamarte said agreements already have been set up with Chicago and Milwaukee, which have their own A.F.I.S. systems, so that fingerprint information could be shared.

The annual charge for each community is based on a population formula. An advisory board made up of area business leaders also is contributing money for the system. For example, Abbott Laboratories has contributed \$50,000 for the system, and Turtle Wax Company has pledged \$30,000.

The board will decide whether to join the system at a future board meeting.

Despite cloudy future, road repair begins

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

9.15.88
Street repair has begun in the Wolf Run Estates subdivision in Wheeling, though all or part of the neighborhood could be demolished in three or four years.

Pal-Waukee Airport officials have proposed moving Wolf Road away from the airport to create a "clear zone" at the end of the main runway, to comply with federal safety standards.

A plan now under consideration would bring Wolf Road directly through Wolf Run Estates. However, those plans, which have not yet been finalized, could take several years to carry out.

"No matter what happens with

Wolf Road, those streets need to be repaired now," Wheeling Township Highway Commissioner John Ayres said.

Part of Wolf Run Estates is in Wheeling, the rest remains unincorporated, though surrounded by the village. As a result, the village is repairing some of the streets, and the township is responsible for the rest.

Village crews are now repaving Kerry Lane, Dean Avenue, Lynn Lane, Ande Lane and part of Cindy Lane. The village expects to spend about \$15,800, Robert Gray, superintendent of operations and maintenance, said. He said the village also cleaned out and regraded the ditches to improve drainage in the area.

Ayres said the township has hired a contractor to repave Carol Avenue, Debra Lane and the remainder of Cindy Lane, once the village work is done in about two weeks. The township's portion should cost about \$5,000, Ayres said.

The cooperative project between the two governments provides a sharp contrast to the battle between Wheeling and the city of Prospect Heights over the subdivision's ultimate fate.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which jointly own the airport, must each approve projects such as the Wolf-Hintz relocation independently. The two towns currently are at loggerheads over the project.

Part of Milwaukee Ave. to lower speed limit

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

9.15.88
A high accident rate and numerous driveways along Milwaukee Avenue between Wheeling and Prospect Heights are prompting the Illinois Department of Transportation to lower the speed limit there.

The speed limit between Palatine and Hintz Road is currently 45 mph, but will be lowered to 40 mph in a few weeks, IDOT Traffic Engineer Carl Kowalski says.

Kowalski said technicians in unmarked cars use radar guns to measure the speed of 800 cars on the road and determine a "prevailing speed."

The prevailing speed on Milwaukee between Hintz and Palatine roads is 50½ mph, Kowalski said, even though the posted limit is 45 mph.

"Normally, we post the speed limit at about the same as the prevailing speed," he explained. "But this part of Milwaukee Avenue has hidden hazards. We give point values to certain hazards, such as driveways, intersections, large businesses, pedestrians." Those hazard points are plugged into the formula for determining the speed limit.

"The accident rate for that part of Milwaukee Avenue is higher than the state average for similar roads," Ko-

walski said. "We reduced the speed 10 percent for that and 10 percent for driveway conflicts. The more driveways there are, the more potential for conflict."

In determining what limit should be posted, Kowalski said, "the only thing that is really constant is the motorist. They are casting their own votes for the legal maximum speed limit by the speed they drive when we observe them."

Part of the reason drivers may speed on that stretch of Milwaukee Avenue is that it lies in two jurisdictions, which rarely run speed checks. Kowalski said he is asking police to help enforce the new limit because he expects that about 91 percent of

the drivers will go 40 mph or faster.

That portion of Milwaukee is patrolled by Cook County Sheriff's Police, which also protects Prospect Heights and part of the surrounding area with two police cars per shift.

One small portion of the road, across from the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant, is in Wheeling's jurisdiction. But Police Chief Michael Haeger said, "We do not make an effort to run radar in that area." He said he referred IDOT's request for stepped-up patrol in the area to the county police.

"We'll have a car out there when we can," Cook County Sheriff's Lt. Ray Olson said. "But we're undermanned."

Handgun bill receives support of local police

Courtesy
 Wheeling and Buffalo Grove police chiefs are supporting proposed legislation that would give authorities more time to investigate the backgrounds of people who want to purchase handguns.

By Mike Wilkinson
 Staff Writer

Proposed federal legislation that would give Illinois police an additional four days to decide who should own handguns is finding favor with local politicians and police chiefs.

Supporters say the national seven-day cooling off period provided by the bill — Illinois currently requires three days — would give law enforcement officials time to more thoroughly investigate whether applicants should be allowed to own a gun. Convicted felons and people previously hospitalized for mental health illnesses are not allowed to purchase handguns.

But the Illinois State Rifle Association (ISRA), which is affiliated with the National Rifle Association, says the bill would punish law-abiding citizens and wouldn't stop criminals from buying guns.

Congress is expected to vote this week on an omnibus drug bill that includes the gun control amendment.

"SOMETHING HAS to be done to get the abuse of handguns under control," Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said. "Unfortunately, handguns have been involved in a number of situations we've been involved in."

"If we can stop one of these incidents, (like) Laurie Dann, this bill would pay for itself," Haeger said.

In May, Laurie Dann, who had been treated for mental illness prior to buying three guns from a Glenview gun shop, walked into a Winnetka elementary school and shot six students, killing one. Later that morning, she wounded another man before she turned her gun on herself. Police have said it is unclear whether Dann's mental health treatment would have precluded her from owning a gun.

Under current Illinois law, all gun owners must have a state firearms identification card before they purchase a weapon. Then, when buying a handgun, they must wait 72 hours before taking possession of the gun. The Illinois limit is 24 hours for rifles and shotguns. Some states have no waiting periods.

ALONG WITH THE seven-day wait before taking ownership, the proposed legislation would require gun shops to send a copy of a firearms purchase application to local police, which is already being done in Illinois. The bill does not require police to investigate each applicant.

Buffalo Grove Police Chief Leo McCann said police often can only do a cursory name check of local and state police files. If the applicant's name is found in state files, police then try to

"Something has to be done to get the abuse of handguns under control."

— Michael Haeger
 Wheeling police chief

"If it (the initial check) triggers something, it gives us a chance to do an in-depth investigation and see if that person is suitable to have a handgun," Haeger said. That extended check could allow police to positively identify whether the applicant has been convicted of a felony before they are issued a gun, Haeger said.

HAEGER SAID THE current three days provides police with a limited opportunity to check local and state files. With some applications coming into police departments the day after the application for a firearms identification card, police can perform only a cursory check of the applicant, Haeger said.

Lake County Sheriff Clinton Grinnell, who supports the legislation, said the proposed law could also stop many crimes by giving gun buyers the chance to "cool off."

"I think that most of your crimes are crimes of passion," Grinnell said. "The cooling off period is a good thing."

Although the both state and national firearms associations complain that gun laws should be made at the state level, police argue that without a national law, people could purchase handguns in states where gun laws are less strict.

IN ILLINOIS, YOU must first receive a state firearms owner identification card before you can purchase a gun. McCann said enactment of the new bill could find fewer people trying to avoid the state's gun laws by traveling to neighboring states.

But the state rifle association, which has thousands of members throughout Illinois, says the proposed "cooling off period" would not have stopped someone one John Hinckley, who attempted to assassinate President Reagan in 1981, from getting a gun.

Supporters of the proposal claim closer scrutiny of Hinckley's application would have detected a false address and could have meant denying him a Maryland gun permit, a claim that is disputed by the ISRA.

"If the police had to look at them that carefully, they'd need seven years to check them all out," said Charles Wilt, legislative committee chairman of the ISRA. "We'd have to be stupid as well as the police don't have the time to do that."

He liked what he'd heard. "I said I would listen to what they had to say."

2 towns hope to reconcile differences

By KENN WYATT
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials have called a summit meeting to move toward peace at Pal-Waukee Airport, the joint property of the two towns. Key issues at the Sept. 28 meeting will be economic considerations, particularly those created by the proposed relocation of the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads.

Attorneys and administrators from the two towns will sit down at the bargaining table with Airport Manager Fred Stewart to seek a compromise on the Wolf-Hintz project, which was rejected by Wheeling and approved by

Prospect Heights. The intersection must be moved west and the roads bowed away from the airport to create a "clear zone" at the end of the main runway to comply with federal safety standards.

When Wheeling trustees unanimously voted down the plan recommended by the Airport Commission, they asked Village Manager Craig Anderson to set up the meeting with Prospect Heights. Anderson said that before the two towns can resolve their differences over the road project, they must discuss other economic issues: distribution of sales tax revenue from buildings on the airport and annexation of unincorporated land acquired for the airport.

"As property is acquired, it should be annexed to one town or another," Anderson said. "Also, most of the sales tax is generated in the south end of the airport. How do we fairly distribute the sales tax from these businesses?" Anderson noted that elected officials in each town still must approve any compromises reached at the Sept. 28 meeting.

Stewart said he supports the commission's recommendation for the intersection. "We've attempted to answer every question that's been raised by the commission. Until new questions are asked, we can't provide any more answers. My job and the job of the consultant is to inform and recommend," he added.

Courtesy 9-15-88
Store charged with selling to minors — again

A Wheeling liquor store already facing penalties for repeatedly selling alcohol to minors is once again in hot water with the village.

The Wheeling Liquor Control Commission will conduct a hearing Sept. 26 on charges filed by Police Chief Michael Haeger against J.C. Liquor Store, located in the Lexington Commons shopping plaza on Lake-Cook Road.

Haeger is charging that George Thomas, a cashier at J.C. Liquor Store, sold a six-pack of beer to 18-year-old Michael J. Ullrich in July. Haeger is asking the commission, made up of Village President Sheila Schultz and the village board, to consider revoking the store's class A-1 liquor license.

Village Attorney James Rhodes said commission will decide at its Sept. 26 meeting what action — if any — will be taken against the owners of the store.

At that meeting, the commission will also hear additional charges that J.C. Liquor employee Marylou Regan, of Wheeling, sold beer to a 19-year-old Buffalo Grove man.

For Regan, it was the second time she was charged with selling alcohol to minors. Previously, she was found guilty of selling alcohol to minors in February.

That charge, employee Phillip Hol to minors, r commission fined \$1,000 and ordered 10 consecutive da

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some corners have to be cut, Levenson said. The congregation felt it was more important to have a full-time cantor rather than hire a secretary to help run the synagogue or start a highly-taxing building fund.

"FORGET THE building and the secretary," Levenson said. "I felt it would be better to have a full-time cantor. (Cantor Jan Mahler) is a delight. She is very strong and I felt that we should not just have a soloist, who are not always Jewish and can't read

Seniors, businesses beat back utility tax

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

An enraged business community and a stubborn group of senior citizens said, "No thanks."

Village trustees, who received too few correct answers, said, "Not now." It might have just been a bad time for a good idea.

With a proposed municipal utility tax given the deep-six last week, discussion of one of the most controversial issues in Wheeling is over, although opponents suggest the tax — considered a good way to raise revenue — may be resurrected in the future if the village is caught in a fiscal crunch.

PROPOSED AS A replacement to the vehicle sticker fee, which raises money for the village's road and bridge fund, the utility tax would have placed a 1 percent charge on all gas, electric and phone bills in the village.

Considered a more efficient way to raise money for road and bridge maintenance, village staff members sought the tax because it would have also raised more revenue than the vehicle sticker fee and lowered the amount of property taxes needed to balance the fund.

But after debating the tax since springtime budget talks, village trustees unanimously voted against it Sept. 6. Instead, they have decided to double the vehicle sticker fees on most village vehicles. (See related story this page.)

Trustee Joseph Ratajczak called the utility tax a good way to raise revenue. But, because it was targeted to pay for road and bridge maintenance, the connection between the tax and its use was too thin, Ratajczak said.

"IF WE had proposed a utility tax just for raising money, I don't see what direction the opposition would have taken except 'We don't want another tax,'" Ratajczak said.

Several days after the utility tax was defeated, opponents of the measure praised the board's action, but reserved future judgment should the tax be proposed again.

Larry Deitcher, owner of Wheeling-based owner of Midwest Data Services, Inc., said the improved business climate Wheeling has cultivated by issuing property tax breaks to industry would have been undercut by the utility tax.

"It was like the village was saying 'Hey, business, we want to have you,' but on the other hand saying 'Now that you're here, we're going to tax you,'" said Deitcher. He said his company, a Wheeling communications company, would have paid hundreds of dollars in utility taxes had the measure been approved.

THE VILLAGE HAS issued the tax

Vehicle sticker fees to double

With little fanfare, Wheeling trustees Monday finished the job they had started last week and raised vehicle sticker fees.

Car owners will see their sticker costs double, from the current \$10 to \$20, while sticker fees for trucks and trailers increased by more modest amounts.

Senior citizens will get a 50 percent discount on the purchase of their first sticker. Stickers for additional vehicles will cost seniors the full \$20. The new sticker fees will go into effect when the current stickers expire in January.

Trustees had considered enacting a 1 percent utility tax on all phone, electric and gas bills to replace the vehicle sticker fee. But after a number of senior citizens and the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry opposed the tax, trustees last week dumped the idea and instead agreed to raise the vehicle sticker fees.

REVENUE FROM THE stickers helps fund the village's road and bridge fund, which is used to pay for road, bridge, sidewalk, curb and gutter maintenance. The current sticker fee schedule is expected to generate about \$240,000 for the fund.

Finance Director Bob Flalkowski said the new fee schedule should generate about \$400,000 annually. The additional revenue is expected to lower the amount of property tax dollars needed to fund village road repairs, he said.

Rising repair costs had forced the village to rely more heavily on property taxes, Flalkowski said. The utility tax would have also generated more than the current fee schedule.

Besides doubling the passenger vehicle fee, the new fee schedule cut the number of truck categories from 10 to four and the number of trailer categories to one.

The cost of licensing a pickup truck would now cost \$30, up from \$20. The rates for heavier trucks either stayed the same or went up slightly as the number of categories was reduced. Sticker fees for cars had not increased since 1973. Rates for trucks were last adjusted in 1986.

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Utility tax —

(Continued from page 5)

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For Deitcher, who rents communications lines throughout the Chicago area, that meant hefty bills for the phone use, even though most of the calls are generated outside of Wheeling. "When I started adding up the bills, I said, 'This is a killer,'" Deitcher said.

Other Wheeling businessmen got out their calculators and came to the same conclusion: The utility tax would dramatically increase the cost of doing business in Wheeling. For the Orval Kent Food Co., one of Wheeling's largest employers, the tax would have cost about \$10,000 a year.

"ONCE THE business and manufacturing industries understood the tax and what it took, they were unanimous (in their opposition)," Orval Kent spokesman Jon Talbot said.

But large manufacturers wouldn't have been the only ones hit by the tax. "We found that it would be a very

New fingerprint system will help fight crime

Area law enforcement agencies are teaming up to purchase a high-tech fingerprinting system that is expected to play a major role in fighting crime. Buffalo Grove has already agreed to finance part of the cost of the system; Wheeling officials are expected to decide soon whether they want to sign up.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Local police are hoping a new variation of the magnifying glass will help them rub out messy criminals who have left their "signatures" at crime scenes.

Members of the Northern Illinois Crime Lab, which serves most of the northwest suburbs, including Wheeling and Buffalo Grove, are looking to purchase a high-tech fingerprint identification system that would allow them to compare fingerprints from crime scenes to those of thousands of criminals.

"In terms of technology, it's the most significant thing in our business since the mobile radio," Buffalo Grove Police Chief Leo McCann said.

Currently, police can only compare fingerprints manually. And before any fingerprints can be studied, police must have a suspect in mind.

THE NEW SYSTEM, called the Automatic Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), would allow police to take fingerprints taken from an object at a crime scene, called "latent" prints because they usually aren't put there on purpose, and compare them to an entire population of criminals' fingerprints already entered into the system.

"That's a tremendous benefit to law enforcement agencies," Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said. "It's also a tremendous deterrent to the criminal element."

Forty-one communities from the North Shore to the Chain of Lakes are contributing a portion of the \$1.8 million to purchase the system, according to Andrew Principe, director of the crime lab. Principe said he hopes to order the system within a year. He said the system could be operational by November 1989.

Wheeling's share of the cost would be nearly \$49,000. The village board is expected to decide whether to contribute to the fund. Buffalo Grove has already agreed to spend nearly \$64,000 on AFIS. Contributions were determined by population, Principe said.

WHEELING TRUSTEES MONDAY were briefed on the AFIS by Haeger, Principe and Highland Park Public Safety Director Mike Bonamarte.

The system will enable participating police departments to submit any latent fingerprints they have from unsolved cases, going as far back as 20 years, to see if they can match the prints to a suspect.

If the crime has no statute of limitations, police can then move to arrest and prosecute the suspect. There are no time limitations on first- and second-degree murder, involuntary manslaughter, reckless homicide, treason, arson and forgery. Felonies such as burglaries and robberies have a three-year limitation and misdemeanors have an 18-month limit for prosecution.

Principe said prints from those

crimes could be entered into the system and compared to the existing prints. Searching those prints at a rate of two million fingerprints an hour, AFIS searches for "hits," or positive comparisons.

"IF A person would do this by eyeball, it would take 50 years," Bonamarte said.

McCann said his department has fingerprints from about 80 unsolved crimes that would be immediately submitted to the AFIS for a search. He said he would also run fingerprints taken from the scene where the body of Chicago resident Thomas B. McKallip was found. McKallip had been shot twice and stabbed five times before his body was found Nov. 13, 1986 in his truck in Buffalo Grove.

Haeger said the Wheeling department has numerous unsolved burglaries and several assaults that would be checked by an AFIS.

AFIS work in California has been credited with solving numerous burglaries and several violent crimes. Because of the speed and accuracy of AFIS, police believe the identification of fingerprints on stolen property could put some burglars out of business.

IN SAN FRANCISCO, police claim the number of reported burglaries dropped dramatically following the installment of AFIS there.

Illinois State Police are expected to have the AFIS on line this October. The state system, because of its size, will limit its data base of fingerprints to criminals convicted of more serious crimes. The Northern Illinois AFIS will include files on lesser crimes such as burglary and robbery.

State police will also only be checking prints on major crimes. The local access of an AFIS at the local crime lab, based in Highland Park, would provide area police with a better suspect population, Principe said.

Once the crime lab purchases an AFIS, Principe said the member agencies would send more than 100,000 existing fingerprint cards to the manufacturer to establish a data base. That number would climb rapidly as member agencies cleaned their files, he said.

AGREEMENTS ALREADY signed with Chicago and Milwaukee police departments will also allow the Northern Illinois Crime Lab's AFIS access to data bases in those cities. Eventually, the system would be able to link up with nearly identical system in the country.

An advisory board comprised of business executives is also working to raise money for AFIS, Principe said. Headed by Robert Schoellhorn, chief executive officer for Baxter Laboratories in North Chicago, the advisory board has pledged to raise an additional \$500,000.

Private and community funding was necessary when the crime lab was unable to secure federal and state funding for the program, Principe said.

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taken except 'We don't want another tax,' "Ratajczak said.

Several days after the utility tax was defeated, opponents of the measure praised the board's action, but reserved future judgment should the tax be proposed again.

Larry Deltcher, owner of Wheeling-based owner of Midwest Data Services, Inc., said the improved business climate Wheeling has cultivated by issuing property tax breaks to industry would have been undercut by the utility tax.

"It was like the village was saying 'Hey, business, we want to have you,' but on the other hand saying 'Now that you're here, we're going to tax you,'" said Deltcher. He said his company, a Wheeling communications company, would have paid hundreds of dollars in utility taxes had the measure been approved.

THE VILLAGE HAS issued the tax

the village to rely more heavily on property taxes, Flalkowski said. The utility tax would have also generated more than the current fee schedule.

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"ONCE THE business and manufacturing industries understood the tax and what it took, they were unanimous (in their opposition)," Orval Kent spokesman Jon Talbot said.

But large manufacturers wouldn't have been the only ones hit by the tax. "We found that it would be a very burdensome tax and, like anything else, whenever a business is faced with a burden like that, it would have been passed on to the consumer," said Howard Bluestone, co-owner of Ace Hardware on Dundee Road.

With opposition coming from both large and small businesses, the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce put together a task force committee that studied the issue and began informing member businesses of the ramifications of the tax, Chamber Director Jackie Pollack said.

While studying the tax, the task force estimated that figures provided by the village staff were wrong, and that the business community alone may have contributed \$900,000 in utility taxes to the village. Village Finance Director Bob Flalkowski estimated the entire village would have generated \$360,000 in utility taxes.

TRUSTEES, TOO, BEGAN to question some of the figures tied to the utility tax. Trustee Tony Altieri said he questioned Flalkowski's estimate that the typical Wheeling home would pay just \$14 in utility taxes each year. He estimated he would pay more than \$20 in utility taxes.

And Trustee Elizabeth Hartman echoed Deltcher's concerns. She said the tax, while a good idea initially, affected businesses by "saving them money on the one hand and costing them money on the other hand."

Hartman said although the vehicle sticker is another flawed tax, it will have to do. "There is no one solution that can be cited as the perfect way to do it," she said.

Leona Madden, president of the Wheeling chapter of the American Association of Retired People, said even though the tax was defeated, she believes, like Ratajczak, that the issue may surface again.

BUT IF DOES, she said the senior citizens, who for now have won the battle to get the defeated, will stick around and fight the war against the utility tax.

"We might be seniors, but we're not that forgetful," she said.

And Deltcher said the business community will always oppose a utility tax. "I think it will be fought every time," he said.

North Shore to the Chain of Lakes are contributing a portion of the \$1.8 million to purchase the system, according to Andrew Principe, director of the crime lab. Principe said he hopes to order the system within a year. He said the system could be operational by November 1989.

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Handgun bill receives support of local police

Country side
Wheeling and Buffalo Grove police chiefs are supporting proposed legislation that would give authorities more time to investigate the backgrounds of people who want to purchase handguns.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Proposed federal legislation that would give Illinois police an additional four days to decide who should own handguns is finding favor with local politicians and police chiefs.

Supporters say the national seven-day cooling off period provided by the bill — Illinois currently requires three days — would give law enforcement officials time to more thoroughly investigate whether applicants should be allowed to own a gun. Convicted felons and people previously hospitalized for mental health illnesses are not allowed to purchase handguns.

But the Illinois State Rifle Association (ISRA), which is affiliated with the National Rifle Association, says the bill would punish law-abiding citizens and wouldn't stop criminals from buying guns.

Congress is expected to vote this week on an omnibus drug bill that includes the gun control amendment.

"SOMETHING HAS to be done to get the abuse of handguns under control," Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said. "Unfortunately, handguns have been involved in a number of situations we've been involved in."

"If we can stop one of these incidents, (like) Laurie Dann, this bill would pay for itself," Haeger said.

In May, Laurie Dann, who had been treated for mental illness prior to buying three guns from a Glenview gun shop, walked into a Winnetka elementary school and shot six students, killing one. Later that morning, she wounded another man before she turned her gun on herself. Police have said it is unclear whether Dann's mental health treatment would have precluded her from owning a gun.

Under current Illinois law, all gun owners must have a state firearms identification card before they purchase a weapon. Then, when buying a handgun, they must wait 72 hours before taking possession of the gun. The Illinois limit is 24 hours for rifles and shotguns. Some states have no waiting periods.

ALONG WITH THE seven-day wait before taking ownership, the proposed legislation would require gun shops to send a copy of a firearms purchase application to local police, which is already being done in Illinois. The bill does not require police to investigate each applicant.

Buffalo Grove Police Chief Leo McCann said police often can only do a cursory name check of local and state police files. If the applicant's name is found in state files, police then try to determine if the two are the same through fingerprints and other information.

"And that's something you can't accomplish quickly," McCann said, adding that he favors an even longer cooling off period than the proposed seven days.

"Something has to be done to get the abuse of handguns under control."

**— Michael Haeger
Wheeling police chief**

"If it (the initial check) triggers something, it gives us a chance to do an in-depth investigation and see if that person is suitable to have a handgun," Haeger said. That extended check could allow police to positively identify whether the applicant has been convicted of a felony before they are issued a gun, Haeger said.

HAEGER SAID THE current three days provides police with a limited opportunity to check local and state files. With some applications coming into police departments the day after the application for a firearms identification card, police can perform only a cursory check of the applicant, Haeger said.

Lake County Sheriff Clinton Grinnell, who supports the legislation, said the proposed law could also stop many crimes by giving gun buyers the chance to "cool off."

"I think that most of your crimes are crimes of passion," Grinnell said. "The cooling off period is a good thing."

Although the both state and national firearms associations complain that gun laws should be made at the state level, police argue that without a national law, people could purchase handguns in states where gun laws are less strict.

IN ILLINOIS, YOU must first receive a state firearms owner identification card before you can purchase a gun. McCann said enactment of the new bill could find fewer people trying to avoid the state's gun laws by traveling to neighboring states.

But the state rifle association, which has thousands of members throughout Illinois, says the proposed "cooling off period" would not have stopped someone one John Hinckley, who attempted to assassinate President Reagan in 1981, from getting a gun.

Supporters of the proposal claim closer scrutiny of Hinckley's application would have detected a false address and could have meant denying him a Maryland gun permit, a claim that is disputed by the ISRA.

"If the police had to look at them that carefully, they'd need seven years to check them all out," said Charles Wilt, legislative committee chairman of the ISRA. "We'd have to be stupid as a pig — the police don't have the time to check no matter what."

"BECAUSE THEY can only check the law-abiding citizens," he said. "Criminals wouldn't apply."

Wilt said the bill would hurt
(Continued on page 20)

2 towns hope to reconcile differences

By Keri WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials have called a summit meeting to move toward peace at Pal-Waukee Airport, the joint property of the two towns.

Key issues at the Sept. 28 meeting will be economic considerations, particularly those created by the proposed relocation of the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads.

Attorneys and administrators from the two towns will sit down at the bargaining table with Airport Manager Fred Stewart to seek a compromise on the Wolf-Hintz project, which was rejected by Wheeling and approved by

Prospect Heights. The intersection must be moved west and the roads bowed away from the airport to create a "clear zone" at the end of the main runway to comply with federal safety standards.

When Wheeling trustees unanimously voted down the plan recommended by the Airport Commission, they asked Village Manager Craig Anderson to set up the meeting with Prospect Heights.

Anderson said that before the two towns can resolve their differences over the road project, they must discuss other economic issues, distribution of sales tax revenue from buildings on the airport and annexation of unincorporated land acquired for the airport.

"As property is acquired, it should be annexed to one town or another," Anderson said. "Also, most of the sales tax is generated in the south end of the airport. How do we fairly distribute the sales tax from these businesses?" Anderson noted that elected officials in each town still must approve any compromises reached at the Sept. 28 meeting.

Stewart said he supports the commission's recommendation for the intersection. "We've attempted to answer every question that's been raised by the commission. Until new questions are asked, we can't provide any more answers. My job and the job of the consultant is to inform and recon-

ment," he added.

Store charged with selling to minors — again

A Wheeling liquor store already facing penalties for repeatedly selling alcohol to minors is once again in hot water with the village.

The Wheeling Liquor Control Commission will conduct a hearing Sept. 26 on charges filed by Police Chief Michael Haeger against J.C. Liquor Store, located in the Lexington Commons shopping plaza on Lake-Cook Road.

Haeger is charging that George Thomas, a cashier at J.C. Liquor Store, sold a six-pack of beer to 18-year-old Michael J. Ullrich in July. Haeger is asking the commission, made up of Village President Sheila Schultz and the village board, to consider revoking the store's class A-1 liquor license.

Village Attorney James Rhodes said commission will decide at its Sept. 26 meeting what action — if any — will be taken against the owners of the store.

At that meeting, the commission will also hear additional charges that J.C. Liquor employee Marylou Regan, of Wheeling, sold beer to a 19-year-old Buffalo Grove man.

For Regan, it was the second time she was charged with selling alcohol to minors. Previously, she was found guilty of selling alcohol to minors in February.

That charge, and a charge that employee Philip Skaria also sold alcohol to minors, resulted in the liquor commission fining J.C. Liquor Store \$1,000 and ordering the store closed for 10 consecutive days in May.

Handgun b

(Continued from page 8)
responsible citizens who wanted to purchase handguns for hunting or target practice. Because most handgun applicants are law-abiding, Wilt said the lengthened investigation period would waste police time that could be spent looking for the criminals who are buying guns illegally.

"We think it's a punishment on the law-abiding citizen and would have no affect on the criminal element," Wilt said. Criminals, he argued, have their own, illegal channels through which they purchase firearms. Those

channels don't require applying for state permits, and they would therefore escape additional police scrutiny, he said.

"That might be true of the criminals," Grinnell said of Wilt's claim. "But the cooling period is more aimed at the emotional (crime)."

"IT'S NOT a perfect solution," admitted a spokesman for U.S. Rep. John Porter (R-10th), whose district covers Wheeling and Buffalo Grove. "It won't work everytime, but it may stop some people from buying guns."

Porter's spokesman said the Congressman supports the proposed legislation because it establishes nationwide rules that would help limit the number of people who illegally own handguns.

"The problem is people can walk into a gun store in many states and walk out with a gun," the spokesman said. Applicants must indicate whether they have ever been convicted of a felony, but, if a convicted felon wants a gun, they'll just say they don't have a criminal record and can get the weapon anyhow, he said.

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Courtesy 9-15-88
A job well done

When the idea of the municipal utility tax first surfaced in Wheeling in June, it was a proposal most village board members favored. But in the ensuing months, the debate over the issue was hot and heavy, and when the smoke cleared last week, trustees voted unanimously not to impose the new tax.

The easiest thing trustees could have done was go along with the village staff's recommendation to drop the existing vehicle sticker fee and replace it with the utility tax. But village board members instead asked the staff some tough questions about the tax — the same questions they were being asked by residents. And instead of cutting short debate on the tax, they encouraged interested citizens to present their comments to the board.

When it was all said and done, trustees sided with the residents who opposed the tax instead of the staff members who favored it.

It's not at all uncommon for the elected officials of suburban governments, who are in essence part-time volunteers, to follow the recommendations of their paid, professional staff without taking a hard look at all sides of an issue. It was refreshing to see Wheeling trustees closely scrutinize this important issue before they made up their minds.

Sites sought for Wisconsin Central station

By KRIS KOPP
Daily Herald Staff Writer

9-17-88
Local officials who hope to some day see commuter service pass along the Wisconsin Central Ry. are agreeing to search for a possible train station site in their individual villages.

The proposed commuter service on the Wisconsin Central Ry., formerly known as the Soo Line, would run from Mundelein south to Des Plaines, making stops in Vernon Hills, Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and possibly Prospect Heights.

In Des Plaines, it would hook up with the Chicago-bound rail of the Chicago and North Western Rwy. Although plans for the \$42 mil-

lion commuter project have not been approved, Buffalo Grove planners are urging other community leaders to designate a strip of land for construction of a station.

"If we wait until that one day when we know service is going to be provided, the land may be built on," Buffalo Grove Plan Commissioner Stephen Goldspeil said.

Buffalo Grove officials already have designated a site in Corporate Grove, an industrial park on the northeast side of town, which they hope will someday house a commuter station.

Following in Buffalo Grove's footsteps, Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said they too will begin a search for a piece of land.

"We have already started checking out property that is vacant and there is all kinds of (land)," Anderson said.

Mundelein Mayor Colin L. McRae is no less eager to see the commuter service brought to his village.

"There is a very fine site that I think we can use in Mundelein," McRae said, adding that there would be enough space for adequate parking at the site. McRae would not disclose its location.

Plans to start the commuter service are being held up by a lack of funding and possible competition from other proposed projects in the six-county Metra jurisdiction, Metra spokesman Chris Knaption said.

Wheeling raises garbage pickup rates 4%

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

9-20-88
Wheeling residents will see an increase in their garbage removal bills next month, as a result of a 4 percent rate increase approved by the village board Monday night.

The board approved a request from Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal for a 40 cent rate increase, raising the rate to \$10.48 per month.

Tom Mazzenga, general manager for the disposal company, requested the rate hike, citing increases in operating costs. The largest increases in the company's costs were landfill rates, fuel costs and insurance costs.

About 98 percent of the garbage

collected in Wheeling is taken to the ARF Landfill in Grayslake. Dumping costs there increased by 13 percent from 1987 to 1988, Mazzenga said. "Our increases mainly reflect our higher landfill costs," he said.

Insurance costs have increased 14 percent, Mazzenga noted, and diesel fuel costs, 13 percent. "Insurance is increasing everywhere," he said. Wages and repair costs have also increased, he said.

Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal, which is owned by Waste Management Inc., is the only garbage hauler that serves the residential portions of Wheeling. It serves about 55,000 customers in the two villages.

Other companies have contracts

for industrial and commercial customers, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

The new rate will become effective Oct. 1 and would not be retroactive. Residents would see the change on the bills sent out later this month, which cover service for October, November and December.

Anderson said that the increase was smaller than last year's increase of 58 cents.

Wheeling Administrative Assistant David Kowal said nearby communities pay as much or more than Wheeling for twice weekly curbside garbage pickup. The average cost for comparable service in surrounding communities was \$11.84 per month.



Daily Herald Map

Polo Run residents hope stop signs halt speeders

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Residents of the Polo Run subdivision in Wheeling are pleased by the village board's decision to install stop signs in their neighborhood, but say they want additional signs.

Residents have complained speeding drivers use Equestrian Drive as a shortcut between Wheeling Road and Route 83. As a result of a police department traffic study, the board is putting stop signs at the corner of Equestrian and the east leg of Paddock Drive.

Resident Martin Schuster has led the fight to get stop signs on Equestrian Drive.

"When the signs are there, they are making a statement," he said. "People may or may not stop, they may or may not slow down. But we would like to request additional signs at the west leg of Paddock Drive. As drivers come around the

curve on Equestrian toward Route 83, they could tend to speed up to make the light. A stop sign for west-bound traffic might discourage them from doing that."

The board, however, approved only the three-way stop at the east end of the neighborhood.

"We're very concerned with your concerns," Village President Sheila H. Schultz told Schuster. "Our passing this does not preclude future consideration" of additional signs.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said the signs will be installed within a week, and enforcement would begin in two or three weeks. "You have to give people a little time to get used to having the signs there," he said.

The police department traffic study also recommended "enforcement during the noon rush hour" of the 25 mph speed limit on Equestrian Drive.

Third shopping center OK'd for corner

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The corner of Wolf and Dundee Roads in Wheeling soon will be home to yet another strip shopping center.

The village board has unanimously approved plans for what once had been considered a controversial center at the northwest corner of that intersection.

Since it was first proposed in May, plans for the center have undergone several revisions and delays. The center actually will be two buildings on separate lots divided by a public alley.

The two lots are held by individual land trusts. Developer Gus Tourlis is the beneficiary of both trusts.

The Wheeling Plan Commission rejected the project in May, in part because the owner refused to agree to keep both buildings under joint management. Commissioners also were concerned about traffic and sidewalk problems.

But the commission reversed its decision after the plans were revised and resubmitted in late July. Tourlis agreed then that the two buildings would be run, managed and owned by one company, a concession that got his project moving.

Most, if not all, of the issues have been resolved. Village Manager Craig G. Anderson told the board, in recommending approval for the project.

Alfred Stavros, Tourlis' attorney, said he and his client had "adopted every suggestion" from the village staff and plan commission, he said. "There will be continuity of ownership and maintenance of the two buildings."

The center will be the third strip shopping center on that corner. One already exists just west of the site on Dundee Road. Across the street, another center is under construction.

Stavros said the new center will share a driveway with the shopping center to the west to avoid having too many driveways along Dundee Road.

No tenants have yet been announced yet for the shopping center.

Wheeling board OKs Hindu temple plans

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling village board is giving the green light to plans for a Hindu temple, and construction will begin this fall.

The International Swaminarayan Satsang Organization purchased the land in August and has now received all necessary approvals for the building.

The one-story domed structure will be located just east of Northgate Parkway at the end of 12th Street.

Jash Patel, president of the group's board of trustees, showed trustees drawings of what the temple would look like. "We want to be part of the community," he told the board.

The group, which practices a branch of Hinduism, is dedicating land for a diversionary channel to the Wheeling Drainage Ditch, which will be built on the property.

Depending on federal funding, the village expects to build the channel in four or five years.

The group also agreed to help

build a bike path through the property.

Patel estimated that about 60 to 70 people would attend weekly services at the temple.

"On special events and holidays there will be more people," he said. But capacity of the building will be limited to 390 people.

Trustee William Rogers told Patel the permit granted by the board would not allow the group to start a school on the property.

"We have no intention of starting a school," Patel replied. "We are just happy to be able to pray."

Patel said he will begin clearing the "scrub trees" from the property soon, and on Oct. 20 he is planning a ground-breaking ceremony.

"We will bury a cornerstone and have a dedication ceremony," he explained. A top religious leader from India is flying in for the special event.

Patel said he hopes to have a foundation in place before winter.

If work goes according to schedule, the temple's first services will be held next summer over the Fourth of July weekend.

Hindu sect plans to open Wheeling temple

Jash Patel didn't waste any money on plane fare.

Patel, president of the International Swaminarayan Satsang Organization, a branch of Hinduism, had already bought tickets that would bring a Hindu priest from India to come to Wheeling and bless the cornerstone.

On Monday, village trustees made that Oct. 20 ceremony a good possibility by approving plans for the construction of a worship temple for the sect.

Scheduled for construction on property on the north side of Mayer Avenue at the end of 12th Street, the temple will be home for the about 60 worshippers who now meet at a Skokie Park District building.

As a provision of village approval, the sect has agreed to limit occupancy to 390. They have also agreed to install a bike path along the proposed diversionary channel designed to take water from Buffalo Grove Creek to the Des Plaines River.

Patel has already begun the process of clearing the property for the Oct. 20 ceremony. Patel said that is the only day that the cornerstone ceremony can be performed by the priest, who Patel said was the equivalent of the Catholic pope.

Board okays stop signs for Polo Run area

Residents of the Polo Run subdivision upset with heavy traffic on their streets were given some relief Monday when village trustees agreed to construct stop signs at the eastern intersection of Equestrian and Paddock drives.

Following a traffic study conducted by the Wheeling police department, Police Chief Michael F. Haeger recommended the signs be installed at the intersection.

A department study showed unusually heavy noon rush hour traffic through the subdivision, but few cars speeding down the streets. "We did not detect a big speed problem," Village Manager Craig Anderson told trustees.

More than 180 residents of the subdivision signed a petition that demanded the village take action to reduce traffic in the single-family subdivision. Several residents who showed up at a July 18 board meeting said vehicles cutting through between IL Rte. 83 and Wheeling Road were creating a hazard.

Trustees initially called for signs prohibiting truck traffic through the subdivision.

Polo Run resident Marty Shuster, who thanked trustees for the signs, said, however, that more signs should be added. Shuster said traffic leaving the western end of the subdivision caused backups onto Equestrian and that stop signs at the western intersection of Equestrian and Paddock should be added.

Other subdivisions also were given additional traffic signs Monday. Plans call for a three-way stop sign at Glenn, Carpenter and Chadwick streets in the industrial park north of Hintz Road, west of Wolf Road. Another three-way stop will be added at the corner of Alice Street and Noel, located south of Hintz Road, east of Wheeling Road.



Countryside 9-22-88

Fire chars plastics firm

A fire at a Wheeling plastics company Tuesday night left one man injured and required nearly four dozen firefighters to contain the blaze as an estimated \$25,000 to \$30,000 in damage was done to International Recovery Corp. Wheeling Department Capt. Ralph Perricone said a machine operator suffered second degree burns on his arms after the fire began near a plastic grinding and pressing machine. The machine operator was taken to Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines. Unable to reach the fire, firefighters knocked down a wall to battle the flames, he said. The building's skylights were taken out and fans were used to improve ventilation in the building and allow firefighters access to the blaze. Perricone said an investigation into the cause of the blaze, believed unintentional, will be conducted. Left, Wheeling firefighter Don Malin exits the building. Right, three firefighters adjust their equipment. (Staff photo by Kathy Tray)

Countryside 9-22-88

Garbage rates set to increase by 4 percent starting in October

Garbage pickup rates in Wheeling will rise 4 percent starting in October and raise annual bills by \$5.

Trustees Monday agreed with Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal and raised the monthly pick-up fee to \$10.48, up from \$10.08. Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal trucks make two stops each week in Wheeling.

With the increase, Wheeling would retain one of the lowest service rates in the area.

Waste Management, Inc.,

which owns Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal, provided the village with information on rising costs for personnel, fuel, insurance and parts and maintenance on company vehicles.

"That information surely indicates that this is a reasonable request," Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

Garbage rates jumped 6 percent in 1987.

Under village rules, any garbage rate increases must first be approved by the village board.

Countryside 9-22-88

Wheeling eyes rail station site

Wheeling is looking for a whistle stop.

The village, as a member of a north suburban consortium studying a new commuter rail service between Mundelein and Chicago, will soon begin looking for a spot where commuters will be able to hop on a downtown-bound train.

The commuter service is proposed for transit along the Wisconsin Central Railway line that cuts through the village.

Wheeling, along with Prospect Heights and other municipalities, are expected to bring station location proposals back to the North Suburban

Mass Transit District.

VILLAGE MANAGER CRAIG Anderson said the village will begin putting together several options on station locations in the village. He said village trustees will later make a site recommendation to NORTRAN. No timetable for the discussions was set, he said.

NORTRAN and its member communities are looking for funding for the project. Although considered one of the most feasible new transportation ideas, because the tracks already exist, the project is on hold until dollars are found

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 5)

to finance the project.

Start-up costs for the project are estimated at more than \$30 million, not including the expected \$7 million needed to build stations in Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, Mundelein, Vernon Hills and Mount Prospect. Revenues from fares would fund operating costs.

Anderson said with funding in limbo, NORTRAN and the village should be prepared should money become available.

"IT ALWAYS helps to have everything set to go if and when something breaks on it," Anderson said.

In selecting the proposed location of the station, Anderson said trustees will study traffic, accessibility and parking

concerns. The station would probably be proposed somewhere between Dundee and Palatine roads, Anderson said.

Buffalo Grove has already proposed a station site off Busch Road, about one mile north of Lake-Cook Road. Buffalo Grove Trustee Sidney Mathias said the station should cost about \$750,000 to build.

Current plans call for trains to carry commuters to Des Plaines, where passengers would transfer to the Chicago & North Western lines that lead downtown. Metra, the commuter rail service, has estimated 2,700 round-trip riders would pass through the turnstiles.

—Mike Wilkinson and Dennis Anderson

Police point to fingerprint ID system

9-22-88
BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling police department is looking to a new high-tech computer to help solve crimes and put criminals behind bars.

Police Chief Michael Haeger is asking the village board to allocate \$16,298 annually for the next three years to buy into a computer system that can read and compare fingerprints.

The computer, known as the Automated Fingerprint Identification System, or AFIS, is "the biggest thing I've seen in 32 years of police work," Highland Park Police Chief Michael Bonamarte says.

Bonamarte also heads a Northern Illinois Crime Lab committee working on purchasing the \$1.7 million computer. The Northern Illinois Crime Lab, an evidence-processing laboratory in Highland Park, serves 42 North Shore and Northwest suburban police departments, including Wheeling.

To purchase the computer, the crime lab is asking its member police departments to contribute funds, based on the population of each community.

Wheeling's contribution would be in addition to the annual \$16,298 membership fee it already pays to the lab.

The Chicago and Milwaukee police departments both have the specialized computer system. The Illinois State Police Department also is considering buying one. "But they've had some funding cutbacks, and once they get it, we know they will only be using it for major cases, such as homicides," Haeger said.

The computer would store records of all fingerprints "of people who come into the hands of police and are fingerprinted," says Andrew Principe, director of the Northern Illinois Crime Lab. This would include only those arrested, not others who must be printed for such things as liquor license applications.

If the crime lab were to purchase the computer, it would be able to have a record of not only all the print files from member communities, but would be able to access the



Andrew Principe, director of the Northern Illinois Crime Lab, closely examines fingerprint cards.

Daily Herald Photo/Gilbert Boucher

"It speeds up the process. It can search about a million prints in about three minutes. By using AFIS, you have an increase in the number of positive identifications."

— Andrew Principe, director of the Northern Illinois Crime Lab

Chicago and Milwaukee computers to check suspects there.

Currently, evidence technicians can compare two prints at a time, Haeger said. If detectives find fingerprints at the scene of a crime, they collect "latent prints."

If police have a specific suspect for the crime and if they have that person's fingerprints on file, they can visually compare the latent print to the one on file. Without a specific suspect, the fingerprints

cannot lead police to solve the crime.

But AFIS changes that, Principe said. Evidence technicians can feed a latent print into the computer. The computer reads the fingerprint and digitizes, or translates it, into a numerical code. The computer then compares the code with others stored in its memory and spews out a list of possible suspects.

"It speeds up the process," Principe said. "It can search about a mil-

lion prints in about three minutes. By using AFIS, you have an increase in the number of positive identifications."

Bonamarte said the system will revolutionize police work. "What takes the computer about five seconds would take 50 years for a person to do by eyeball," he said. "It would be impossible. But with the AFIS system, it is possible."

In addition to contributions from each of its member communities, much of the funding for the project will be provided by an advisory board made up of area business leaders. For example, Abbott Laboratories has contributed \$50,000, and Turtle Wax Company has pledged \$30,000.

See FINGERPRINT on Page 3

FINGERPRINT: Wheeling police eye computer system

Continued from Page 1

While the computer is most helpful in solving burglary cases, Haeger said it also is used in more serious cases. The "Hillside Strangler," who killed several young women in California, eventually was caught using the computer system. In San Francisco, Haeger added, 34 crimes were solved in the first four days of computer operation. Of those, 75 percent were burglaries.

"In the first year (in San Francis-

co), burglaries were reduced by 10 percent," Haeger said. "They were reduced by an additional 15 percent in the second year."

As technology increases, Bonamarte said, "we'll have electronic fingerprinting, without even using ink."

Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the board is expected to decide whether it will pledge the money at a meeting next month.

Growth takes holiday as vacant land dries up

County Beady
9-22-88
Wheeling's boom town days may be coming to an end as vacant land for commercial and residential development is rapidly drying up.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Wheeling's exponential growth is coming to an end.

And the reason is simple: The village is running out of land.

Growth in the village has slowed by more than 33 percent during the first eight months of 1988 when compared with the same period in 1987, according to figures released by the village community development department.

The value of new construction and remodeling approved by the village dropped to \$21.9 million through September, far below the \$34.3 million in building approved over the same period in 1987.

And those figures belie an even greater drop from 1986, which saw the village issue permits during the first eight months that valued \$48.8 million.

THE PERMIT VALUES, based on national building codes, indicate the value of new structures, additions and improvements. They are recorded when a builder receives a village permit for construction.

"We are locked in — we can't go out and grab a 100-acre, 200-acre (parcel) next to us," Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said. "We are surrounded by municipalities. The amount of unincorporated areas are relatively small."

Growth in industrial construction dropped the furthest. The value of work on either new or remodeled industrial buildings dropped from \$13.5 million during the second third of 1987 to \$3.74 million in 1988. But Klitzke said with little available land zoned for industrial uses, the fall was anticipated.

Overall, the value of construction tied to permits issued in 1986 was \$77 million. In 1987 that figure dropped 41 percent to \$45.7 million. With 1988 permits issued so far valued at \$21.9 million, it looks as though the decline in growth will continue.

SOME OF THAT decline could be deflected, however, if construction on two large senior housing projects are begun soon. Klitzke said plans for both

the Leisure Care project adjacent to the senior Pavilion off Milwaukee Avenue and the Addolorata Village project would add millions of dollars in new construction to the village.

Klitzke said none of the decreases were unexpected. With only a couple of large tracts of land left in the village, developers have less to work with. And with Lake County land available in abundance, the incentive to build small developments in Wheeling lessens, Klitzke said.

"There is property out there but the market will dictate when that becomes feasible to build on," he said.

Projects like the more than 900-unit Arlington Club won't be seen again, he said. But smaller, 17-20 lot subdivisions will still find developers drawing up blueprints and digging shovels into Wheeling ground.

KLITZKE SAID REMODELING and redevelopment of existing property will also replace the fervent growth as land becomes scarce. Between May and August, permits for new construction of single family homes dipped, but the amount of remodeling or additions for those homes increased 42 percent over 1987.

But as the overall village growth rate declines, problems could arise. The village, which has relied upon new construction to provide property tax revenue gains, will have to take a harder look at village finances as growth levels off.

Village Finance Director Bob Fialkowski, however, said the village's assessed value for 1988 will reflect the growth reported in 1986, one of the village's banner construction years. The other shoe won't fall until later, when 1987 and 1988 construction is tacked onto the tax rolls.

But Fialkowski's conservative growth estimates will provide the village with few, if any, unwanted shocks, he said. Last year, after he had based tax rate estimates on 5 percent growth, the county reported an increase of 11 percent. Subsequently, homeowners, who were told their tax rate might actually rise, were heartened to learn it fell by 11 percent.



Construction projects like this one at the southwest corner of Wolf and Dundee Road are quickly eating up the small amounts of vacant land left in the village. (Staff photo by Bill Powers)

HE SAID THE figures from the building permits, which don't equal the assessed value of a building, are an indication of a slowdown, but one that is difficult to gauge. "You don't actually know when those are going to come on line and be built and occupied and (put) on the tax rolls," Fialkowski said.

Village President Shelia Schultz, while concerned about the figures indicating a slowdown in growth, said

she was cautious more than alarmed. "It's just an indication of where the village is at in terms of filling in," she said.

She said the lack of big projects like the Arlington Club won't hurt the village. "The big bumps just aren't going to be there," Schultz said. "That also means the acceleration in the demand for services will level off."

SUBURBAN REPORT

Cable complaints bog down council

By ELLEN SCHMID BLIX
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Almost as many people reported cable television problems in the past month as did during all of last year, a consortium of towns served by TCI of Illinois cable company reported Wednesday.

"I've done a whole year's work this month," said Carole Stannard, executive director of the Northwest Municipal Cable Council, which has put the cable company of notice to improve service or face collective fines of \$1,600 a day.

In the past 30 days, 322 new complaints were filed with the council, which represents Arlington Heights, Wheeling, Des Plaines, and Hanover Park.

Hanover Park, Mount Prospect, Prospect Heights, Wheeling and Park Ridge. During 1987, a total of 342 complaints were filed.

However, council members and TCI officials credit the increase to a new awareness of the council and efforts to spur TCI into correcting its problems.

"It's an issue," said TCI General Manager Mark Hess. "There have been a lot of news articles, and I must have talked with eight reporters. It's been brought out more in the open."

Each town except Prospect Heights has sent a letter to formally notify TCI of the action. The \$200-a-day fines may be levied only by the municipalities holding franchise agreements. The council

will recommend whether to proceed with the fines Oct. 12.

Specifically, officials complain about the difficulty in getting through to TCI by telephone and about the number of interruptions.

Stannard's monitoring of the TCI telephone system shows that 56 percent of the time the lines are either busy or there is no answer. On calls answered, she has been on hold an average of four minutes and as long as 10 minutes.

Hess said seven new operators are being trained and others are expected to be hired soon. He said the company is aiming to man 20 phone lines during the peak operating hours of 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Also, TCI is planning to hire 12 new technical staffers, he said.

Thieves can't stomach \$475 food and bar bill

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Dine and dash took on a new dimension Saturday when a well-coiffured, obviously hungry couple spent more than two hours enjoying the renowned French food and drink at Wheeling's Le Francais restaurant.

And then left without paying. But while the waiter at the local greasy spoon might be stuck for a sawbuck, the meal consumed by the couple at Le Francais cost a little more than \$10 — like \$465 more.

"They really went for it," said Le Francais waiter Jean Paul Eskenazi.

THE COUPLE ORDERED a nice, several-course meal and imbibed four shots of cognac at \$70 a pop, said waiter George Christon, who waited on the couple. They also had a couple glasses of champagne, he said.

Then, after surely being satiated, the female culprit retired to the powder room. The man, claiming his money was in the car, retired to the parking lot. She soon followed and *voila*, they were gone.

"They looked like they were used to that (leaving without paying)," Eskenazi said. "They were very organized."

"The guy was a real con artist," Christon said. He said he lost about \$75 in tips from the "well-heeled, impressive" young couple. "He drank the most expensive cognacs."

DURING THE MEAL, Christon said

the man sent his accomplice to the bathroom several times, once as the check was arriving.

"He looks at the check," Christon said, "and he said 'my girlfriend is in the bathroom and my money is in the car.'" After the man left, Christon was told by the maitre d' that the woman had also left.

The pair then ran outside only to see the couple's white sports car leaving the lot and heading northbound on Milwaukee Avenue. They had paid the valet attendants, Christon said.

"They just burned rubber on their way out," he said.

BECAUSE THE BILL was more than \$300, the couple could be charged with a felony if caught, Wheeling police Deputy Chief Michael Hermes said. The restaurant owners intend to prosecute if the cultured thieves are caught.

Eskenazi was quick to point out that the average bill for a couple at the restaurant was not \$475. "I don't want anyone to think that that is the average here," Eskenazi said.

"We aren't a cheap restaurant, but to run up a bill like that, it was very nice (the meal)," Eskenazi said.

Although the couple drank \$280 in cognac, it could have been worse. The restaurant's wine cellar stocks bottles worth up to \$7,000, he said.

UNLIKE IN PARIS, where waiters sometimes have to pick up the tab of unpaid bills, the owners at Le Francais absorbed the loss, Eskenazi said.

Plans finally taking off to elect airport officers

By Keri Wyatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After nearly a year with a temporary chairman, the Pal-Waukee Airport commission is moving ahead on electing regular officers.

The commission is made up of representatives from Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which jointly own the airport. The commission has been led for 10 months by Anthony Altieri, a Wheeling trustee who serves as a commissioner as well. The commission has been trying to determine a method for choosing a chairman for several months.

Carey Chickerno, a Prospect Heights citizen commissioner, said he thought the first elected chairman should be from Prospect Heights.

"The city of Prospect Heights, at this point, would like to have the chairmanship, because since the beginning, the chairman has been from Wheeling. It would be a gesture of good will," he said. "I just think it's fair, in reality."

Commissioners are appointed by their respective towns to staggered two- and four-year terms. Each town appoints both village officials and citizens to serve on the commission.

Commissioner William Rogers,

also a Wheeling trustee, said the chairman and other officers should serve one-year terms to "allow more people a chance to serve." The communities would take turns holding the chairmanship each year.

The intergovernmental agreement that outlines airport policy suggests a two-year term.

"Initially, that was designed to create stability, because we didn't have an airport manager," Rogers said. "Now that we have a manager, one year is long enough."

The commission also must elect a vice chairman, treasurer and secretary. The commission agreed that the vice chairman would take over the chairman's duties in the event of a temporary absence. If the chairman left permanently, a new person, representing the same town, would be elected.

The commission agreed to have its legal committee study the issue and make a recommendation at the next meeting. The two municipalities then would have to approve the method for election of officers.

The commission would elect its officers, but in order to make the terms coincide with the commission terms, the new chairman would serve until February 1990.

SUBURBAN REPORT

Airport balancing safety, competitiveness

By Keri Wyatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Pal-Waukee Airport commission is trying to hammer out a policy that will keep airport operations safe but not be so restrictive that it drives business away.

"If we just ban landings and take-offs, we'd have a perfectly safe airport," Commissioner Carey Chickerno said. "But that would not be viable. We've got to look at safety versus being competitive with other airports."

The proposed rules and regulations cover such areas as aircraft operations, safety and refueling.

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart told the commission they would have to decide, among other

things, flight-instruction standards at the airport.

The Federal Aviation Authority sets standards for two types of flight instruction. One type — known as FAA Part 141 — is highly regulated and requires a written curriculum, classrooms, ground school and direct supervision of all students. The other instruction — called Part 61 — is much less restrictive.

The proposed rules require the more restrictive instruction except when allowed as a condition of an aviation company's permit or lease. But in the meantime, the less regulated flight instruction is typical.

Charlie Priester, president of Priester Aviation, offers both

types of instruction. "But our biggest concern is not that the instructor hold a 141 certificate, but the fact that students could be flying without supervision."

"There is a lot of instruction going on other than under the auspices of Part 141," Stewart said. "That will continue, regardless of the action of this board. Requiring Part 141 will just drive it underground."

Madeline Monaco, treasurer of the Pal-Waukee Pilots Association (PAPA), said pilots are "concerned about restrictions that are stricter than federal regulations. We all want to protect ourselves, but we don't want restraint of trade."

The proposed rules will be discussed again Oct. 19.

Wheeling planners back telephone tower

with the surrounding industrial area and will not be detrimental to nearby property values. Acosta said the firm has approval to build the tower from the Federal Communications Commission, the Illinois Commerce Commission and Federal Aviation Administration. He said the tower's height could be lowered if demand for the company's service increases.

Plan commission Chairman Paul Esterhold suggested the company erect concrete pillars around the tower location.

The request to build an antenna tower was approved unanimously and now must go before the zoning board of appeals and village board for final approval.



east of the Glenview Naval Air station. Kenneth Pollack of Chicago, a real estate appraiser, testified that the proposed use was consistent

Wheeling revokes liquor store's license

By Keri Wyatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The liquor license for J.C. Liquors in Wheeling was revoked Monday night after the owners were found guilty of selling liquor to minors on two separate occasions. The store had been previously convicted of similar offenses earlier this year.

The Wheeling Liquor Control Commission found the owners of J.C. Liquors, 1061 Lake-Cook Road, guilty of selling beer to an 18-year-old and a 19-year-old in separate incidents, then unanimously agreed to revoke the license, effective immediately.

In April, the store owners were fined \$1,000 and closed for ten

days after two similar incidents.

Alfred D. Stavros, attorney for the owners, said he will appeal the commission's decision with the Illinois Liquor Control Commission, and will also file a civil suit against the two youths who purchased alcohol for "misrepresentation and fraud."

Employee Marylou Regan was found guilty of selling a 12-pack of beer to Kenneth J. Konkey, 19, of Buffalo Grove, on June 15. Konkey was not prosecuted for purchasing liquor after he agreed to cooperate with the village. Konkey testified that he was not asked for identification but had used a fake identification card at the store previously.

"I thought I recognized him," Regan said. "I was under the im-

pression I had sold to him before and asked for I.D. then. I assumed he was of legal age."

The commission also found co-owner George Thomas guilty of selling two six-packs of beer to Michael Ullrich, 18, on July 30. Ullrich allegedly presented a fake identification card.

Thomas said he questioned Ullrich about the card, which was not a driver's license or state identification card, but then sold him the beer anyway.

Village Prosecutor Stephen Handler said he recommended revoking the license because "it seems the employees of this establishment are incapable of determining whether people are under age 21."

The Wheeling Plan Commission is backing the construction of a 100-foot radio tower on Shepard Avenue to serve local mobile telephone users.

Attorney Rolando Acosta, representing Rogers Radio Call Inc., also known as Cellular One, told commissioners the firm needs the 100-foot tower at 170 Shepard Avenue to better serve its customers.

Acosta said the need for additional towers is determined by demand for the company's services. Rogers Radio Call currently has 60 such sites, Acosta said, with the nearest ones to Wheeling located at Lake-Cook Road and I-94 and

Wheeling's planner looks to the future

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After a little more than a week on the job, Wheeling's new village planner is focusing his efforts on creating a "sense of community" in the town.

Robert Sullivan, 32, replaced Richard Greenwood, who resigned four months ago. He will draw a \$36,777 salary.

Sullivan, previously a free-lance real estate appraiser, said Wheeling needs "a town focus, a town center. Physically, there isn't anything like that in Wheeling. It's spread all over, and that doesn't give a sense of community."

Sullivan said he sees the tax-increment financing district set up

at the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road as a solution to that problem. But the project, which would revitalize the area through special tax incentives to developers, is stalled in court condemnation proceedings.

"We're a little bit frustrated," he said of the lengthy court proceedings. "But once it's done, it will make a difference. It's a major, viable corner."

He said despite a proliferation of strip shopping centers, there is a need for more retail development in the village.

"There's not a lot of (retail) in Wheeling, with the exception of neighborhood services, small stores." Bigger retail development, on a scale with Northbrook

Court, would help the village, he said, as would expanding the village's "restaurant row" along Milwaukee Avenue.

He predicted that the village's industrial base will continue to grow.

"Wheeling is one of the few communities close to the North Shore that allows small manufacturing," he said. "There are very few problems with allowing light industrial development, because most of it is in industrial parks."

"We will continue to work on providing buffer areas between industry and other areas," he said. "We wouldn't want heavy industry that is going to make a lot of noise and pollution. But light manufacturing and office is fine."

Animal clean-up law changes eyed

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Dog owners in Wheeling soon may be required to carry a "Pooper-Scooper" when walking their pets.

Wheeling health officials are working on changes to animal control ordinances that would require anyone walking their dog or any other animal to clean up after it immediately.

Current ordinances require removal of animal messes within one hour, and do not stipulate that a person must carry a shovel, bag or other means of removal with them.

Wheeling Sanitarian Daniel Adams said the proposed changes, which are still under review by the police department and the village attorney, will make the law more en-

"Dog excrement is a potentially serious health hazard. People may laugh and joke about it, but when I talk to my neighbors, they are frustrated by the problem."

— Bruce Portnoy, Wheeling Board of Health member

forceable.

"The problem is, people are not picking up after their animals," Adams said. "The language proposed will make it more easy to enforce."

The proposed changes also clarify rules for multi-family developments, such as town houses or condominiums, which have common areas owned by the entire development.

"The proposed language is designed to fix that, so we can get a conviction," Adams said.

He said when citations were issued, animal owners often would not be convicted because they argued they had intended to go back and clean up after their pets and because the current law was unclear about yards surrounding apartment buildings or town houses.

Health board member Bruce Portnoy praised the proposed changes. "Dog excrement is a potentially serious health hazard," he said. "People may laugh and joke about it, but

when I talk to my neighbors, they are frustrated by the problem."

The proposed rules, which will be voted on by the health board Nov. 22, also suggest a change in fees. Rather than the current \$20 to \$50 fine, the fine would be a minimum of \$25 and a maximum of \$500.

Portnoy suggested the minimum be raised to \$50. "It's about time the Wheeling community realized this is a serious problem, and we're going to treat it seriously," he said. "Excuse the pun, but this law may not have enough teeth in it."

But Adams said when cases go to court, if the fine is too high, "the judiciary might have a difficult time fining people."

Health Board Member Debrah Steffen said she thought \$25 was appropriate for a first offense.

Wheeling police at full-strength

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Six months after requesting additional officers, the Wheeling Police Department is "up to snuff" and back to full-strength with 47 sworn officers.

This year's village budget, which was approved in April, included six new staff members for the police department.

Chief Michael Haeger said four additional sworn officers and two civilian employees were needed to handle an increase in calls to the department.

"We're up to snuff now. We have our full quota of officers," Haeger said.

In addition to those new positions allowed by the budget, the department also had to hire additional people to fill vacancies. The force is now at its full complement of 47 sworn officers.

Officer Eric Larson, a 13-year veteran of the department, will be promoted to sergeant, pending a physical examination. He is expected to be sworn in as a sergeant Friday morning, Haeger said.

Larson, 36, was one of 13 officers who took a test earlier this year to reach the final round in the selection process.

The department's newest hire, Peter Panagakis, started his field training Monday. He will work side-by-side with a more experienced officer for 8-12 weeks, Chief Michael Haeger said.

Panagakis, unlike other new officers, did not have to attend the Illinois Police Academy, because he had received the training while an officer with the Barrington Hills Police Department.

The 1988-89 budget allowed for three new officer positions and one new sergeant position. However, the department had one vacancy at the sergeant level, which meant two officers would be promoted. The combination of vacancies and new positions meant the department had to hire a total of five officers.

The department hired one officer in April, three more in July and one more this month. No decision has yet been made as to who will be promoted to fill the remaining sergeant vacancy.

When the village board approved his plan to beef up the force, Haeger said he would add four more officers in the 1989-90 budget.

2 towns smoothing airport differences

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials say they are making progress on resolving their differences over economic issues at Pal-Waukee Airport, though they have not reached any specific solutions.

Officials from both towns, which jointly own the airport, met Wednesday for several hours to discuss the impact of a proposed road relocation, sales tax and annexation of land acquired for the airport.

The summit was called after a plan to relocate the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads was approved by Prospect Heights and rejected by Wheeling.

The intersection must be moved west and the roads bowed away from the airport to create a "clear zone" at the end of the main runway, to comply with federal safety standards.

"The consensus was that we have to try to come to an agreement on sales tax," Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said. While this was hardly news to either side, both agreed to gather figures on the economic picture at the airport. They also agreed to meet again.

"It established a dialogue," Prospect Heights City Administrator Robert Kiely said. "We understand each other better."

"We outlined questions, and agreed that we wanted to agree,

but need some figures," Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said. "Sales tax is the more viable issue. Prospect Heights doesn't have a property tax and Wheeling does, and Wheeling doesn't have a utility tax but Prospect Heights does. Sales tax is the common ground."

Prospect Heights currently collects sales tax from many of the airport businesses, such as the Hangar Restaurant.

Despite the lack of concrete results, Schultz said the meeting was "productive and worthwhile." Because of the financial impact on Wheeling, Schultz said, other economic issues must be resolved in conjunction with the Wolf-Hintz question.

Bicyclists will pedal for Pavilion funds

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

9-30-88
Bicycle riders of all ages will be wheeling through Wheeling this weekend in the 6th annual Bike-a-thon.

The annual Pavilion Senior Center fund-raiser is set for 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Riders have been gathering pledges for several weeks and getting in shape for the 10-mile course.

Workers at the Pavilion have been gathering prizes, donated by local businesses, which they will hand out to participants, Pavilion secretary Maureen Dabeck said.

"We've got about 100 prizes," Dabeck said. "Travel bags, T-shirts, coupons for meals at restaurants, dolls, games, antiques. It's great. We can hardly move around the office 'cause of all the stuff in here."

Bicycle riders can ride as many laps as they want. "Last year, two men rode 130 miles," Dabeck said.

The course starts at Wheeling High School, at the corner of Hintz and Elmhurst roads. It meanders west through residential neighborhoods in Wheeling and Arlington Heights, as far as Kennicott Avenue, then comes back to the high school. Riders pick up tags at check points along the route to chart their progress.

Dabeck said members of the Wheeling Wheelmen bicycle club, along with a number of senior citizens, have volunteered to man the check points and help organize the race.

Entry fee is \$10, or pledges totaling \$10 or more. Registration forms are available at the Senior Center, village hall, park district, Indian Trails Library and area bicycle shops.

Refreshments and route maps will be provided. For more information about the Bike-a-thon, phone 459-2670.

Carriage house not done for ceremony

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

9-30-88
Renovations at Wheeling's historic carriage house will not be completed in time for a ribbon cutting ceremony Saturday, but that won't stop Historical Society members from celebrating.

"We had hoped it would be ready this weekend," Historical Society President Lonnie Schnaitmann said. "But we'll still have a dedication."

Society members were hoping the house would be ready for Autumn Fest, to be held this weekend at Chamber Park, where the carriage house has been since Aug. 31.

"We knew it wouldn't have been ready by now," John Piazza, park

district superintendent of resource management, said. "We had a lot of rain, which put us back. Our original estimate was the end of October, and we're still shooting for that."

The old paint has been stripped from the building, and the main task at hand is to "tie the building back together," Piazza said.

"The walls have bowed out over the years," he said, "maybe about two or three inches. So the workers will take wire and wynch it in." That will bring the roof, which is sagging slightly, back into its proper position, Piazza said.

The ribbon cutting is scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday. Schnaitmann said her husband, Frank, former

president of the historical society, and Tony Abruscato, former park board president, will cut the ribbon.

"They were both in on the whole thing," she said of the two men. "They kept the two groups together and worked hard on this project. I thought they should cut the ribbon."

Piazza said the ceremony can go on, but the site "is still a construction area," he said. "We don't want the general public in the immediate area."

The festival, which will also feature food, games, pony rides and a petting zoo, will be held at Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road, from 2 to 6 p.m. Admission is free.

Wheeling shuts down liquor store

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

10-1-88
A Wheeling liquor store received official orders from the village Friday to shut its doors, permanently. But the store owners' attorney says he hopes the store will be able to open again and is appealing to the Illinois Liquor Control Board on their behalf.

The Wheeling Liquor Control Commission permanently revoked the liquor license held by J.C. Liquors, 1061 Lake-Cook Road. Village officials say it was the first time in recent memory a license has been revoked.

The commission's decision, handed down Monday, was based on four convictions of selling liquor to mi-

noors four times in the less than the one year it has been open.

Owners George Thomas and Philip Skaria say the business has not yet turned a profit, and it is up for sale. They had asked the commission to allow them to stay open long enough to sell their business and get out.

Their attorney, Alfred D. Stavros, said his appeal to the state will be filed as soon as he gets the revocation notice from his client.

Stavros said the Illinois Liquor Control Board does not review the decision, but "they just review the procedure and decide whether there was competent evidence. Then the case goes to circuit court."

Once the liquor board review is complete, Stavros said he will seek

an injunction that will allow the store to stay open until the case is resolved in circuit court.

He said he does not expect the state liquor board to find any problem with the evidence, but "I'm looking to the circuit court to say the penalty was too harsh."

Village Attorney James Rhodes said no establishment in Wheeling has had its license revoked in the six years he has worked here. While the village's harsh punishment sends a strong message to other liquor stores, he said, the action does not necessarily set a precedent for other stores caught serving to minors.

"It depends on the circumstances of each case," Rhodes said. "It's obvious that this license holder was saying, 'as long as we check ID, we

can sell to anybody.' I have a problem with an individual saying that, and with the fact that while he was training someone, he sold to a minor."

According to testimony at the liquor commission hearing, owner George Thomas sold beer to a 19-year-old who presented a fake identification card. He was training a new employee at the time.

Thomas told the commission he questioned the validity of the card, asking the youth, "Is this you?" but then sold the beer to him anyway.

"Nobody likes to put someone out of business," Rhodes added. "But they violated the special trust given to liquor license holders. They have to accept their responsibility."

Judge: Wheeling taxing district ruling soon

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The fate of Wheeling's downtown redevelopment project, cloistered in a Cook County judge's chambers for the past five months, may be revealed soon.

Circuit Court Judge Alexander White, who since last spring has been weighing evidence in the latest protest over the special tax district being used to finance the redevelopment, said Friday he will make a decision "soon, but I want it to be the right one."

The area, at the northwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, is slated for a \$8.6 million shopping center, to be funded through a tax-increment fi-

nancing (TIF) district.

TIF districts are a common incentive for rehabilitating depressed areas. Incremental increases in property taxes generated by the upgrade are used to repay loans for the project.

The village's attempts to condemn property in the area in order to build the shopping center have been the subject of legal debates for a year. In December, the courts ruled in favor of the village, defeating the business owners' allegation that tax-increment financing is unconstitutional.

The battle continued when the property owners sued again, this time charging the village did not have sufficient evidence to meet state criteria for setting up a TIF

district. Both sides have been waiting for White's decision on that charge since April.

"There are a lot of factors to consider," White said. "This is one of the first times people have challenged a TIF district. For whatever reasons, this is a strong adversarial situation. It's a unique case," White said his decision could set a precedent.

Wheeling Village Attorney James Rhodes said he believes White will rule in favor of the village. "Then we can move to step two, which is a trial for condemnation," he said.

Owners of Dunkin Donuts, Wheeling Auto Parts, Tien Tsin Restaurant and Dreiske's Florist are among those in opposition.

Wheeling Board of Health goes for blood

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Board of Health is out for blood.

The board is preparing for its November blood drive and will begin sending out post cards asking residents to donate at the next drive.

At the board's recent health fair, members were able to recruit pledges from only two donors. That situation illustrates the current blood shortage, Village Sanitarian Daniel Adams said.

"Blood supplies are low," Adams said. "The only real effective way to get someone to donate blood is to talk to them face-to-face."

Despite that, the board is planning to employ its usual recruitment tactics: send cards to residents and follow up with a "phone-a-thon" on Oct. 11 to recruit donors.

The cards must be addressed by hand, a job usually managed by health board members. Those members also call potential donors, asking them to make an appointment to donate at the drive, currently scheduled for Nov. 9.

"Is this the most time-efficient way to get people to participate?" board member Bruce Portnoy asked.

Adams said cards are sent to everyone on the village's water billing list, but the computer that gen-

erates the list cannot print out address labels. "It puts the names on the right side and the addresses on the left, and we can't change that," Adams said.

"We need new people to get into the system. I think we should try the cards and the phone-a-thon again, and then if things don't improve, we need to take a hard look at the methods we're using."

Adams said some people will not consider donating blood, despite the fact it is a perfectly safe procedure.

The drive will be held from 2:30 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 9 at the Wheeling village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. To donate or assist with the drive, phone 459-2620.

Condo residents will still hear train whistles

By DAN COIT
Daily Herald Correspondent

While train whistles have been silenced in many Northwest suburbs, Wheeling's Chelsea Cove residents will continue to hear the familiar blare.

The village board has decided to continue with the Wisconsin Central Ry.'s safety measure of providing the warnings at crossings at Dundee, Hintz and Willow roads despite a petition from the Chelsea Cove Condominium Association.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said the practice should remain enforced while road construction continues on Dundee Road, just east of Wheeling Road/Old McHenry Road, and on Hintz

terms if the trains don't blow their whistles."

Complaints from officials in Mount Prospect, Des Plaines, Vernon Hills and other villages helped persuade the Illinois Commerce Commission last month to exempt the Chicago suburbs from a new state law that made it mandatory for trains to sound a whistle at every crossing.

In a letter to Anderson, David S. Cantwell of the Chelsea Cove board called the noise "intrusive and aggravating." He also questioned the need for the practice when crossings are marked with lights, bells and gates.

Anderson said the issue will be reviewed next year after the construction projects are completed.

Road, just east of Wheeling Road.

"Our joint opinion is that this is something that should be considered, but not right now because of the construction," Anderson said. "Since the work is in such close proximity to the rail lines, you have longer lines and people tend to get impatient. At this point, we just feel it's prudent to blow the whistles."

Anderson cited the Hintz Road crossing as a potential danger spot because of the major road repairs and a temporary signal that has been felled at least once by winds.

"Although we sympathize with the residents, we don't think it would be a good idea at this time," Anderson said of the proposed ban. "We feel there may be more prob-

SUBURBAN REPORT

Road work to snarl traffic on Dundee

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The intersection of Dundee Road and Northgate Parkway in Wheeling is going to get worse before it gets better.

A construction project designed to make the intersection safer will tie up traffic on Dundee for about six weeks, officials estimate. The thoroughfare could be reduced to one lane in each direction for about four weeks.

The \$3.1 million project to realign Northgate Parkway and Boehmer Road has been under way since May. The two side roads intersect Dundee Road at right angles about 265 feet apart. Crews have been working to bring the



Daily Herald Map

Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said the village wants two lanes open in one direction and one lane the other way.

side streets together at an angle to form one road, with a traffic light at Dundee.

Most of the work on the side streets has been completed, and several lanes on Dundee will be closed starting Monday, Police Chief Michael Haeger said. Police will meet with construction contractors today to decide how many lanes will be closed and to try and determine a detour route.

"They say one lane each direction, but we don't think that will work," he said. "We're advising people to seek alternate routes, or allow 20 minutes to a half-hour to get through."

Lanes will be closed from west of the Soo Line tracks to just west of the village hall.

Wheeling police put finger on computer

BY DAN COIT
Daily Herald Correspondent

Wheeling police will have access to a high-tech computer that can read and compare fingerprints in an instant, a process that now takes hours of tedious work.

The Northern Illinois Crime Lab, an evidence-processing laboratory in Highland Park, wants to purchase a \$1.7 million computer system and is asking its member police departments to contribute.

Wheeling currently pays an annual crime lab membership fee of \$16,298. To purchase an Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), the village will have to put up an additional \$48,893.

Each community's contribution is based on population. The board agreed to help pay for the system, but decided to spread the payments out over four years, spending \$16,298 this year and \$10,865 for the next three years.

Initially, Police Chief Michael Haeger had asked the board for three payments of \$16,298 to finance the new serve.

Haeger said the computerized system combines criminal fingerprint

files from 41 municipalities and will allow investigators to identify a suspect from a single fingerprint.

The computer would give the police department access not only to print files from member communities, but also to information stored on computers in Chicago and Milwaukee. The system is expected to be operational by July 1989.

Village Manager Craig Anderson recommended spending the \$48,893. "I believe our participation is in the best interest of the village," he said.

If acquired, the new system will replace Wheeling's present manual card file system which Haeger said is outdated and inefficient.

"We have between 15,000 and 20,000 fingerprint files in Wheeling alone," Haeger said.

Identifying a suspect with the manual system is a slow and tedious process, often requiring a full set of prints. But the specialized computer is capable of taking a single print and searching nearly a million prints in just three minutes.

The computer reads the print, translates it into a numerical code and then compares the code with others stored in the system, spewing out a list of possible suspects.

Wheeling may levy fines against cable firm

Countryside 10-6-88
An increasing number of complaints from local cable television subscribers about everything from poor reception to a lack of accountability by Wheeling's cable provider has led village officials to consider fining the firm as much as \$200 per day.

Upset with the present quality of service, Wheeling may soon begin leveling fines against the company that provides cable television to village residents.

The Northwest Municipal Cable Council, of which Wheeling is one of seven members, will decide Oct. 12 whether member communities should begin charging TCI, Inc. \$200 for each day it fails to provide adequate service.

Council members have complained that since the national cable conglomerate took over last year, complaints to the council have increased dramatically. Poor reception and an inability to contact TCI officials have sparked most of the complaints, NMCC executive director Carol Stannard said.

"We don't intend to tell them how to run their business, but we do feel the customer should be able to get through to them and they should be receiving a good picture and getting what they're paying for," Stannard said.

received 26 complaints in 1987. Stannard said that figure jumped more than 100 percent to 55 so far this year. But in Arlington Heights, the number of complaints jumped about 500 percent, Stannard said.

Village residents have said calls to TCI often go unanswered or that when answered leave callers on hold for long periods of time.

TCI began serving Wheeling last August after taking over Cablenet, the village's previous cable provider. Problems with service did not become severe, Stannard said, until this past spring, when TCI took a larger role in the management of the local franchises. Previously, managers from Cablenet were running the local operations.

The NMCC's biggest complaint is that calls to TCI service lines rarely get answered. The \$200 fines would be for inadequate phone service, Stannard said.

"ADMITTEDLY THEY have been
(Continued on page 23)

IN WHEELING, THE council

Cable

(Continued from page 5)

trying," Stannard said. "They have hired people, but they seem to be losing them quicker than they can hire them to replace them.

"They just don't have the people they need to do the job," Stannard said.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said the village has been told about the problems with TCI and is working with the NMCC in an attempt to improve service.

"There are certain triggers in there and apparently those triggers must be

close to being pulled or have been pulled," Anderson said. "And the communities, the cable council, finally said enough. Either straighten those things out or we will start exercising our right to levy these fines on such and such a date."

ANY FINES WOULD have to be approved by each individual municipality, Stannard said. Wheeling originally signed a franchise agreement with Cablenet in 1981.

—Mike Wilkinson

Whistle stop request fails to get out of station with village board

Wheeling residents upset with train whistles disrupting their sleep will have to wait until next year before learning if the village will order trains to stop tooting their horns.

Residents of the Chelsea Cove condominiums, located east of Ill. Rt. 83 and north of Dundee Road, have requested the village pass an ordinance that would waive the new state requirements that trains sound their horns within 1,420 feet of road crossings.

"As residents of Wheeling dwelling in close proximity to the Wisconsin Central Railroad tracks," a letter from Chelsea resident David S. Cantwell said, "we can assure you that the sounding of these horns is intrusive and aggravating."

The trustees, however, agreed with Police Chief Michael F. Haeger and Village Manager Craig Anderson that such an ordinance not be passed now. Saying that construction on Dundee and Hlntz roads makes additional train warnings necessary, trustees took no action on the residents' requests.

HAEGER, IN A letter to trustees, said numerous problems at train crossings over the past 18 months makes the whistles necessary. Once the road construction is complete, the chief said the village should consider exempting the trains from sounding their whistles.

Trustee James Whittington, though, said the village should look carefully at any decision that would limit the safety at rail and road intersections.

"Maybe it's a nuisance, but we need to look at this situation," Whittington said. "It (the new law) was put into place because of a definite safety factor."

The Illinois General Assembly recently passed a law which called on all trains to sound their horns at grade crossings. But the Illinois Commerce Commission said individual municipalities could pass ordinances that exempted their crossings from the state rule if they met certain safety criteria.

—Mike Wilkinson

Dundee Road construction plan promises headaches for drivers

Countryside 10-6-88
Motorists trying to traverse Wheeling from east to west and back will soon be spending more time in the village.

Construction on the Northgate-Boehmer and Dundee Road intersection will close two of Dundee Road's five lanes beginning early next week, Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said.

For the first two weeks of the project, the construction will leave open one westbound lane and two eastbound lanes. The next two weeks will provide the opposite, Haeger said.

"We will be recommending alternate routes, naturally," the chief said. "But people ought to consider going all the way around Wheeling — (to) Euclid and Central (in Prospect Heights)."

"IF SOMEONE has to use Dundee, they'll be able to, but they better anticipate significant delays," he said.

A request to incorporate a "reversible" lane into the Dundee Road construction is now being considered, Haeger said. Such a lane, which would provide two eastbound lanes in the morning and two westbound lanes in the evening, would help alleviate problems, he said.

While the construction is taking place, additional police staff will monitor that area of the village, Haeger said.

While the construction is necessary to improve traffic in the area in the future, Haeger urged motorists to be patient. "It's going to take a whole lot longer (to get across the village)," he said.

WHEN COMPLETED, Northgate Parkway will have a four-way intersection at Dundee Road. Previously, Boehmer Avenue ran into Dundee Road several hundred yards farther west than where Northgate Parkway did.

—Mike Wilkinson

Bikes, furniture go on the block at police auction

Countryside 10-6-88
Bikes, used furniture and a water conditioner will be among the dozens of items up for sale Saturday at the annual Wheeling police auction.

Lost and stolen items left unclaimed over the past year will be put on display around 9 a.m. and then auctioned at 10 p.m., crime prevention officer Barbara Kobishop said.

"We need to get rid of this stuff," Kobishop said. "We're busting at the seams."

Among the items auctioned will be more than 50 bikes and bike parts, six used sofa chairs, a baby stroller and a motorized scooter, Kobishop said.

The auction will be held behind the village hall at 255 W. Dundee Road. Cash and personal checks will be accepted.

Thursday, October 6, 1988

Sullivan assumes duties as planner in Wheeling

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Courtesy side
When looking at plans for a downtown Wheeling, something that doesn't currently exist, Bob Sullivan sees potential. Tied into the row of restaurants that lines Milwaukee Avenue, Sullivan said plans for revitalizing the area are sound.

But what the village must do, and has already done, is avoid drawing up plans that are too grandiose. The current proposals, which include cleaning up existing signs, sidewalks, parking lots and lighting, are sound, Sullivan said.

"It's very difficult. You can be very theoretical, very unrealistic, but there's no point to that," Sullivan said.

So Sullivan, the village's new planner, will be the first man village developers will go to when trying to gain approval for their plans. As the Milwaukee Avenue-Dundee Road area is redeveloped, Sullivan, 32, will get first crack at steering the right projects into the right areas as the village tries to improve the area.



Bob Sullivan

village Sept. 19, taking over the spot vacated by Richard Greenwood, who resigned from his post last April. Sullivan was selected from over 35 candidates, four of whom were formally interviewed by members of the village staff. He will draw a salary of \$36,777 a

(Continued on page 25)

EVAN BEGAN WORK with the

Thursday, October 6, 1988

Local officials review safety at Palwaukee

Courtesy side 10-6-88
Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials who met last week to discuss safety at Palwaukee Airport came to at least one conclusion — the two groups have to meet again.

Administrators and public officials from both communities met Sept. 28 to try to eliminate stumbling blocks that are holding up safety improvements at the airport that the federal government and local pilots consider essential for the smooth operation of the airport.

"It was a very encouraging meeting," Village President Sheila Schultz said. "We identified what kind of documentation we must have before we move ahead."

Before the runway improvements can be completed at the airport, the two municipalities that own the airport must agree to a plan for the relocation of the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection.

THE INTERSECTION MUST be moved further west to accommodate a larger clear zone at the north end of the airport's longest runway. Without the increased safety buffer, the Federal Aviation Administration could restrict some of the airport's commercial planes from landing at Palwaukee.

Those planes, pilots say, contribute the revenue necessary to keep the airport financially stable.

But Wheeling trustees have balked at a preliminary proposal that would move Wolf Road far enough west to include vacant property on the airport that could be developed for an airport-related business.

Trustees have said the condemnations necessary for that plan would take too much land from the current Wheeling tax rolls. At a Sept. 8 meeting, trustees defeated a recommendation by the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission to make room on the airport for those airport businesses.

Also, because the road relocation plan involved condemning and annexing unincorporated township land, Schultz said trustees wanted to know into which community the land would be annexed. And the city and the village must decide how sales tax revenue generated on the airport will be split.

CURRENTLY, ALL THE revenue producing operations on the airport lay in Prospect Heights. Schultz said an agreement on how the revenue is shared would affect any future develop-

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(Continued from page 14)

year, assistant to the village manager Dave Kowal said.

Before coming to Wheeling, Sullivan was a freelance real estate appraiser and planning consultant. He previously worked as a planner in Evanston and Will County.

Kowal said Sullivan's experience with municipal planning, along with his educational background, made him an attractive candidate.

Sullivan holds an undergraduate degree in environmental health from Illinois State University, a masters degree in science degree in city planning from the Illinois Institute of Technology and a masters degree of business administration from the University of Illinois-Chicago.

NOW SULLIVAN WILL be the village's first line of defense when developers come into the village. Along assistant planner Chris Washburn and the village appearance commission, Sullivan will review projects and tell developers how the developments must look to meet village standards.

Sullivan said he will take a hard look as developers come and seek their fortunes in Wheeling. Like any negotiations, the village, he said, will play according to the rules already drawn up.

"If they (developers) are not respecting the community's needs and are not cooperating, they might not get a (positive) recommendation," Sullivan said.

Of developers who try to put a bigger building onto land that can only accommodate a smaller one, Sullivan said he understands. "They want to maximize profit on existing land," Sullivan said.

BUT, HE SAID, it is his office's job to ensure those efforts don't hurt the village. "We come in and look at what the community needs."

Part of those needs have changed over the years. Sullivan said municipalities like Wheeling are starting to connect the attractiveness of the community with their economic viability. That has meant a renewed effort at regulating signs, landscaping and the appearance of buildings.

Where haphazard rules governing buildings allowed for overdone and unsightly projects to be built, the village is now trying to correct those past errors, he said.

Thursday, October 6, 1988

Palwaukee

(Continued from page 8)

ments in Wheeling's portion of the airport.

Those issues, Schultz said, needed to be resolved by the two municipalities and not the airport commission.

"Wheeling's position is that all this (the sales tax, property tax and annexation issues) ties together," Village Manager Craig Anderson said. "There's going to be a potential economic impact on Wheeling whatever we do to Wolf and Hintz."

"It really doesn't make a difference to them if Wolf swings 750 feet west or 1,000 feet west," Anderson said, "because it's not in Prospect Heights and it's in Wheeling."

THE COMMUNITIES HAVE asked airport manager Fred Stewart to detail how much property tax revenue would

be lost or gained by Wheeling under the current road relocation proposal. Stewart is also expected to compile information on the amount of sales tax the current airport businesses generate.

—Mike Wilkinson

Work begins on Wheeling home for elderly

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer 10-8-88

After more than a year of planning, work has begun on the expansion of Addolorata Villa Home for the Aged in Wheeling.

Final plans were approved by the Wheeling Appearance Commission Wednesday, and bulldozers are preparing the site for a 100-unit apartment building while developers wait for building permits.

Rick Banas, vice president of marketing for Revere Health Care, said that 35 prospective tenants have already put down a 10 percent deposit on an "independent living" apartment. He said he expects occupancy in the

building "by early or mid-1990." Village Zoning Administrator Thomas Fennel said the building permits for the project, "should be issued shortly. They are in processing." He noted that earth moving permits had already been granted.

In addition to the 100 independent living apartments, the \$17 million project also includes 80 new skilled care nursing beds, renovations of 45 shelter apartments and a convent for the nuns who operate the facility.

Plans for the expansion were first submitted to the village in the summer of 1987. The initial plans were approved in March 1988, but were slightly revised in August. The revision was due in part to a

misallocation of a building location on the original plans, minor changes to the parking lot and substituting a dry detention area with a pond.

Addolorata Villa, 555 McHenry Road, was founded by the Servants of Mary, a Roman Catholic sisterhood.

The three- and four-story apartment building will have studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units. Rents will range from \$900 to \$1,450 per month, which includes one meal daily, transportation to local shopping and entertainment, special events and utilities excluding telephone.

The building will contain 63 one-bedroom apartments, nine studios and 28 two-bedrooms.

Wheeling to pick up more info on recycling program

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer 10-8-88

Wheeling trustees will gather more information this week to decide whether the village should begin a recycling program.

Representatives from Brown-Ferris Industries will explain the costs and operations of its recycling program to trustees during a workshop meeting at 8 p.m. Monday in village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling.

Many of the towns surrounding Wheeling already have begun curbside recycling programs, but Wheeling officials say they want to consider several alternatives before choosing one. In July, the board heard a presentation from Waste Management Inc., which owns Buffalo Grove-Wheeling

Disposal, the company that provides most of Wheeling's regular garbage pick-up.

Before deciding on a program, or deciding whether to do recycling at all, officials have said they would like to explore the options. A presentation from Laidlaw Waste Systems Inc., is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 14.

Waste Management started a curbside recycling program in neighboring Buffalo Grove in August, and in Arlington Heights last month. Special plastic bins are provided to each household, and residents participate on a voluntary basis. They must separate paper, glass and aluminum cans. The recyclables are collected in special trucks.

The board will vote on the recycling program at a later date.

Wheeling continues talk with firefighters

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer 10-10-88

Contract negotiations between Wheeling firefighters and village management continue, while both sides wait for a Illinois Supreme Court decision that will decide whether those contract talks will include lieutenants.

Both sides gathered around the bargaining table for two days last week, and will meet again Oct. 19. The last firefighters' contract expired May 1, 1986, and the two sides have been battling — at the negotiating table and in court — since then.

"We're getting through it," Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said of the contract talks, which started again in July. "Things are moving along very nicely."

In February 1986 the union voted to include the department's six lieutenants in the bargaining unit. The village refused, arguing that lieutenants

are supervisors and therefore exempt from collective bargaining.

The Illinois Labor Relations Board upheld the union's position, and contract talks broke down completely when the village appealed to the Illinois Appellate Court in March 1987.

The court ruled in favor of the firefighters in May of this year, but the village immediately appealed to the Illinois Supreme Court.

Rhodes said he expects the high court to decide sometime soon whether it will hear the case. "It's normally reviewed at the beginning of the session," which starts in the fall, he said.

If the Supreme Court decides against hearing the case, "the issue is dead," Rhodes said, and lieutenants would become union members.

In the meantime, contract talks with the rank-and-file firefighters continue.

"We've been meeting about four times a month, which is a good sign," Bart Burns, union president, said.

Police give warning: Avoid Dundee Road

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer 10-10-88

Police are urging commuters to avoid Dundee Road to miss severe traffic problems expected to begin this morning when construction starts at the Northgate Parkway intersection in Wheeling.

The roadwork is designed to make the intersection safer, but is expected to tie up traffic on Dundee for at least a month.

Beginning this morning, one westbound lane will be closed, Police Chief Michael Haeger said. The middle two-way turning lane will remain open, and the eastbound lanes will be open.

During the second half of the construction, the westbound and

turn lanes will be open while one east-bound lane is closed.

"But periodically, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., it may go down to one lane each direction," Haeger warned.

Despite scheduling extra lane closures mid-day, "rush hour should still be inconvenient," Haeger said. "The work has to be done, and we will benefit from it. Hopefully, people will be patient."

The \$3.1 million project — financed by the village, state and federal governments — to realign Northgate Parkway and Boehmer Road has been under way since May. The two side roads intersect Dundee Road at right angles about 265 feet apart. Crews have been working to bring the side streets

together at a 62-degree angle to form one road, with a traffic light at Dundee.

"We're advising people to seek alternate routes," Haeger said, "or allow at least 20 minutes to a half hour to get through."

Lanes will be closed from just west of the Soo Line tracks to just west of the village hall. Haeger said construction crews expect to have lanes closed on Dundee for four weeks. Other village officials have said six weeks is a more realistic estimate.

Because the road will be partially open, there is no official detour route. However, Hintz Road, which runs parallel to Dundee, should also be avoided because of construction.

Council will assess TCI service

By KEVIN DOUGHERTY
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Another chapter in the saga of TCI of Illinois will unfold this week when members of the Northwest Municipal Cable Council meet to assess the company's progress in improving reception and customer service.

Arlington Heights, Des Plaines and Hanover Park are poised to begin levying \$200-a-day fines against the cable company for violating its franchise agreement. Under the agreement, TCI is required to provide reasonable service to the consortium's eight communities.

The council plans to define, among other things, what is a "reasonable" time to wait on the telephone for a customer service operator. TCI recently hired 13 new operators to help reduce response times of seven minutes and longer, which is high by industry standards.

Carole Stannard, council executive director, says there still are problems getting through, but that overall telephone service has improved. Last week, operators took an average of two to three minutes to answer the phone, she said.

In August, with complaints about cable reception and poor customer service mounting, the council put the

cable company on notice to improve service or face collective fines of \$1,600 a day. A 45-day clock began ticking the day each member town sent a letter notifying TCI of the possible penalties.

Prospect Heights, which is experiencing far fewer problems, is the only community not to threaten TCI with fines. Bartlett, Wheeling and Park Ridge have set Nov. 1 as their deadline while Mount Prospect has

given the company until Nov. 11. Streamwood and Schaumburg, which are not members of the council, are also contemplating action against TCI.

Officials have repeatedly said they are more interested in results than in fine money.

"Fines will do nothing to alleviate the frustration that people have been feeling," council chairman George L. Weinand said.

Gas station craves approval to sell snacks

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A family-owned gas station in Wheeling, trying to keep up with its larger competitors, is seeking village approval to sell snacks.

Martin Oil is the only gas station in Wheeling that does not sell food because a covenant placed on the property in 1970 prohibits sale of groceries. The agreement between the owner and the village board was a condition of opening the business.

Richard Parlier, vice president of real estate for Martin Oil Marketing, Ltd., said the covenant places his company "at an unfair disadvantage. We've been trying for a long time to get the permits

We need to be competitive."

Martin Oil, which never has offered auto repair service, wants to expand its business by selling the type of food items people commonly find at mini-marts.

"Even though everyone loves mini-marts and shops at them all the time," Assistant Village Planner Chris Washburn said, "back then (in 1970) there was some concern about mixing gasoline-related items and food."

The stipulation on the property may only be removed by the village board.

"We're not going to turn into a 7-Eleven," he said. "We want to sell similar items to Phillips 66 down the street. Pop, candy bars, apple juice, milk."

In the meantime, Martin Oil's improvements, which include a bigger parking lot, landscaping and a canopy over the pump area, must be approved by the Wheeling Plan Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Appearance Commission.

The appearance commission last week asked architects to coordinate the canopy design with the building.

The zoning board of appeals and plan commission will review the project this week. All three groups make recommendations to the village board, which decides.

Martin Oil operates about 50 stores in Chicago, the suburbs and northern Indiana. All except the Wheeling store sell food items.

High court to hear firefighters union case

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Illinois Supreme Court has agreed to settle a long-running dispute over inclusion of lieutenants in the Wheeling firefighters union.

The village of Wheeling — which has refused to bargain with the officers, contending they are supervisors and therefore are exempt — sought the high court's opinion in June.

The Illinois Labor Relations Board and the Illinois Appellate Court have sided with the union in the dispute. The state's highest court agreed Friday to hear the issue, which has raged in Wheeling since February 1986.

The Supreme Court reviews cas-

es filed with it for further appeal but accepts only about 12 percent for hearing, Chief Deputy Clerk Wayne Russell said.

Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said he believes that the village will win this final appeal, and that it will set a statewide precedent.

"This shows that the issues involved are of importance to municipalities statewide," Rhodes said, "and the Supreme Court feels its direction is needed."

Wheeling Firefighters Association Bart Burns said the union is "disappointed. We function as a team at the station, at the direction of management. But when we want to approach bargaining (with management) as a team, they vig-

orously oppose it. It seems like a contradiction."

Rhodes said the court schedule will be out in about 30 days. "I think we will get a decision in this session, which ends in June," he said.

Negotiations broke down in March 1987 but resumed in May this year, with just the rank-and-file firefighters.

Rhodes said the court also agreed to hear a similar case out of Freeport, Ill., regarding police sergeants, which he said points to the importance of the issue.

Burns said the Freeport case has little bearing on the Wheeling suit, "because the supervisor definition is different. Police work is a different occupation altogether."

Police hunt motive in limo firm bombing

By DAVE OLSEN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Photo on Page 3

Police are searching for clues in two bombings early Tuesday that damaged a limousine and a building housing a Wheeling limousine firm.

Police said there is no apparent motive for the bombings, which occurred at about 2:50 a.m. at O'Hare-Midway Limo Service, 551 N. Wolf Road.

A spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms said there were two separate explosions, one that occurred just outside the front door of the building.

The second blast appears to have occurred shortly after the first near the trunk of a limo parked outside, authorities said.

No one was injured and investigators were still attempting to determine the type of explosive used.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger said someone in an adjacent building reported the explosion. He added that damage to the front of the building and the car was estimated at \$10,000.

Haeger said that it will probably be the end of the week before author-

ities know the type of explosive used and how it was detonated.

George Parker, who has owned O'Hare-Midway for about four years, said there were no threats or warnings given before the blast. He added that no one was in the business at the time.

Parker said he has "no idea" why someone would bomb his business. He added that the front door and a desk in the front office sustained most of the damage from the blast.

Business at O'Hare-Midway, which employees 350, was continuing Tuesday night, Parker said.

O'Hare-Midway is located at the rear of a large business complex in

the 500 block of Wolf, but none of the surrounding businesses were damaged, police said.

George Jacobs, who runs American Limousine and a friend of Parker, said O'Hare-Midway has been in business "for the minimum of 30 years" and he is not aware of any problems at the company.

He added that O'Hare-Midway operates with about 100 cars and is probably the second largest limo service in the suburbs.

The Cook County sheriff's police bomb squad and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms are assisting Wheeling police in the investigation.



Police hunt motive in limo firm bombing

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Daily Herald Staff Writer

10-12-88

Photo on Page 3

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Searching for clues

10-12-88

Wheeling Police Department Officer Bill Hubner looks for clues in the trunk of a limousine slightly damaged by one of two bombs set off at O'Hare Midway Limousine Service early Tuesday in Wheeling.

Daily Herald Photo/Gilbert Boucher

Madame Mayor

Countyside 10-13-88

Wheeling's Schultz still ready to get involved

Politics has traditionally been a male-dominated world, but in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove women have taken the lead in running municipal government. This week our reporters spent some time with the first lady of Wheeling, Sheila Schultz, and Buffalo Grove Village President Verna Clayton to examine the viewpoints they bring to local government.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

When Sheila Schultz sits down at a meeting table, most people probably don't know where she comes from. The large family, the church involvement, the concern for her community.

But what they see is the product of that and other activism. They see a woman who is the president of the village of Wheeling, who is active in the St. Joseph the Worker parish, someone who has taken part in political campaigns and led them. The end result is a 58-year-old who has made public service a priority.

"I think that the community has to have goals," Schultz said. "I don't have any personal goals, I have goals for the community."

Stealing away time from the later stages of raising her seven children, Schultz became active within the village in the 1960s, first as a member of the public relations commission and later as a campaign manager for an opposition party.

FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIP IN the Catholic Women's Club and as a member of the parish board of education, Schultz went on to work for change in the village and later ran

for — and won — a spot as a trustee. Once a trustee, Schultz went on to become village president, a post she has held for the past seven years.

She is past president of the Northwest Municipal Conference, the current chairman of the Solid Waste Agency of North Cook County, vice president of Northeast Illinois Plan Commission and also chairs the storm water management policy advisory committee and the transportation committee.

Wedge in between is a full-time job as the head of the circulation department at the Indian Trails Library.

A 16-hour day isn't uncommon for Schultz. And for all her troubles, including the odd week in which she might work 35 hours on village business, she draws the same \$3,000 salary for being village president.

OBVIOUSLY IT ISN'T love of the greenback that keeps Schultz going. "The satisfaction (is in) being involved and doing these things," Schultz said. "I think it's always satisfying to be a part of positive change."

Throughout her tenure as village trustee and president, and back to the

(Continued on next page)



After seven years of serving as Wheeling's first lady, Sheila Schultz is still looking for new challenges. (Staff photo by Bill Oakes)

TCI gets time to improve service

BY ELLEN SCHMID BLIX
Daily Herald Staff Writer

With one exception, members of the Northwest Municipal Cable Council voted to extend until Nov. 16 its deadline for TCI of Illinois to improve its cable television service or face collective fines of \$1,400 a day.

"I would say we've seen some progress demonstrated," said Gerald "Skip" Farley, Mount Prospect's representative to the eight-member council of towns holding franchise agreements with TCI.

The cable council, an advisory group, voted in August to put the company on 45-day notice to either improve service or face fines. Each

individual municipality holding a franchise agreement must act on its own.

That 45-day clock runs out next week in Hanover Park, Arlington Heights and Des Plaines. By Nov. 11, time also will be up in Mount Prospect, Bartlett, Wheeling and Park Ridge. Prospect Heights did not follow through with the notice, but the city's representative said it supports the action.

Since the edict came down, TCI has put seven new operators on duty and plans to hire 15 more, said Mark Hess, regional general manager for the nation's largest cable company. The staff addition has reduced the amount of time telephone calls to

service lines are put on hold from five minutes to about three minutes, Hess said.

"I think we have shown significant improvement," he said. "I still am not going to say the numbers are where we want them to be, but we are committed to change the situation."

Hanover Park, however, wants to see more than improved telephone service, said Assistant Village Manager Mark Masciola.

Casting the only vote against what would amount to a one-month delay in action by Hanover Park, Masciola said the village wants specific prog-

See CABLE on Page 3

EXCLUSUS HEADLINE

Continued from Page 1

ress by TCI in wiring a new subdivision.

"To this date, we've had no response," he said. "Unless I can be convinced something will happen between now and the end of the year, I could not recommend against financing."

Hanover Park trustees are expected to consider proceeding with a \$200-a-day fine on Oct. 31, Masciola said.

Other towns' representatives will be asking their officials to wait while the council continues to assess the company's progress. The council is developing specific standards the company will be expected to meet, such as all calls answered by four rings and a minimum hold time of two minutes per call.

A compliance committee will meet Nov. 6, and the full council is expected to make a final recommendation Nov. 16.

1986 and Ill. Atty. Gen. Nell Hartigan has just announced he is going to run for governor. (Ill. Sen. David) Barkhausen (R-30th) said he was going to run for attorney general and (Ill. Rep.) Bill Peterson was going to run for senate. Clayton said, "Because of all the shifting, I was encouraged by some very influential people to run for state representative. I really started campaigning hard for it, but then Hartigan dropped out of the race and so did everybody else. I call it my six-week campaign position," she continued. "I'd never run against Bill, we've been personal friends for years. And I don't think I would run for anything else."

She may cut a lot of ribbons, but Clayton's job does have its share of perks. "In 1983 I was invited to the White House and I met President Reagan."

out of our way to plan for growth and as we are growing to the north we are looking for larger lots with larger homes and I think we've accomplished that. I am proud of Buffalo Grove and the way it was developed. "In my mind, growth is going to happen," she continued. "The question is, 'Is it going to be in Buffalo Grove or somewhere else?' If it is going to be in Buffalo Grove, it has to be up to our standards. With (Woodlands of) Flore (just south of Port Clinton Road), it wasn't the developer's idea to have a nice addition to the community. There is no doubt in my mind if (Flore) wasn't developed in Buffalo Grove, it would have been developed somewhere else. "You have to run the village as a

"I thought that they (the nuns) really instilled in me a need to be responsible for one another."

— Sheila Schultz
President

BUT WHY CONTINUE? After years of attending meetings at all times of the day, in all parts of the area, it comes

handling the myriad of issues facing each community.

Among her goals for the community, issues such as solid waste, water pipes, cable television, Wheeling's vice is heard. "The village is so interdependent with the area, and we have so many common needs that . . . I want to be a part of that decision making," she said. "There are things that are better done together."

(Continued from page 14)

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(Continued on next page)



After seven years of serving as Wheeling's first lady, Sheila Schultz is still looking for new challenges. (Staff photo by Bill Oakes)

(Continued from page 14)

1960s when she was active with the St. Joseph the Worker parish board of education and the Catholic Women's Club, Schultz' activism has been fueled by a concern — developed while she was in parochial school — for not only herself, but for her friends, neighbors and community.

"I thought that they (the nuns) really instilled in me a need to be responsible for one another," Schultz said.

It was during the late 1960s, as a member of the group that published the village newsletter, that Schultz began to question what was going on around her. After members of the group started writing letters to newspapers concerning what they thought were abuses within local government, the village board dissolved the public relations commission.

FROM THERE, SCHULTZ became a member of the grass roots movement of a local independent party hoping to stop some of the alleged abuses being piled by the board of trustees at that time.

"Some of us who were on it (the public relations commission) were not happy with what we were seeing with the village government," Schultz said. "By that time the abuses were so blatant that if you were aware of them at all, you couldn't ignore it," Schultz said.

As campaign manager of the Wheeling Independent Party (WHIP), Schultz and company began to put their money and their energy where their mouths were. But their political inexperience cost them in 1971 when they were thrown off the ballot because of election technicalities.

They would have to wait two years before getting another crack at the current administration. "We didn't win any seats, but we raised a lot of issues," Schultz said. She said the WHIP campaign focused on flooding issues, honesty in government and on planning and zoning decisions made by the village board.

BITTERSWEET EVIDENCE OF WHIP's claims came in 1974 when several public officials were indicted for extortion.

"We were kind of vindicated with what we were saying," Schultz said.

In 1973, one WHIP candidate won a seat on the board. Following the scandals of 1974, WHIP won a clean sweep of the four available trustees' seats. "And then things really got better," Schultz said.

But after previous successes, WHIP lost their 1977 bid for village president. Ironically, it was the only year Schultz had not been the campaign manager for the party.

THEN CAME 1979, when Schultz decided it was time to step out of the shadows. She, along with WHIP incumbents John Cole and Charlie Kerr, were elected trustees.

Just two years into her four-year term, Schultz made one of the biggest moves of her political career — she decided to take a shot at the top job in the village and made a successful challenge of incumbent president Bill Hein. Following her 1981 victory, she was re-elected in 1985.

Now she continues to spend time away from her home and family...

handling the myriad of issues facing each community.

Among her goals for the community, issues such as solid waste, water supplies, cable television, Wheeling's voice is heard. "The village is so interdependent with the area, and we have so many common needs that . . . I want to be a part of that decision making," she said. "There are things that are better done together."

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**— Sheila Schultz
President
of Wheeling**

down to this: why let someone else do a job you're confident you can do?

"The motivation is really to use the experience I've developed in the last few years to work on the direction with the village," Schultz said.

In steering the village, Schultz generally receives praise from both supporters and occasionally from her adversaries. All say she listens and is earnest in her efforts to do what she thinks is best for Wheeling.

"Everybody who deals with her through government has a great deal of respect for her," Trustee James Whittington said.

SHE EARNS THAT respect, he said, through hard work, good research and sturdy leadership. "She's a strong leader, she's able to deliver," said Whittington, a trustee who ran on ticket formed as an offshoot of the WHIP. "She is there (at the meetings), she understands the issues, she takes the time to learn them."

Judy Abruscato, the only one who did not win election as a member of Schultz' party, said the village president has "unbounded energy" for her job. "I find that she is sincere and that she looks at the well-being of the community," Abruscato said.

"It goes back to the caring and responsibility for people," Schultz said. "You are affected by and responsible for your fellow man."

TCI gets time to improve service

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Proposal could delay balefill's construction

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz and other members of the Cook County committee studying solid waste disposal say recent legislation introduced by a Kane County congressman could threaten a proposed balefill that would serve the area.

By Susan Montgomery
Staff Writer

10-13-88
Countryside
A congressman from Kane County is pushing for new federal legislation that could delay construction of a \$35 million balefill planned near Bartlett and diminish the chances for Wheeling and other local communities from finding a place for their trash.

The proposal by U.S. Rep. Dennis J. Hastert (R-14th) was passed last month by the House as part of a massive public works bill, but was excluded from the Senate version of the bill.

Both versions have been referred to a congressional conference committee, which will try to work out a compromise agreement by Friday, when Congress is slated to adjourn for this session.

"I WOULD HOPE that if this provision comes through the conference that it wouldn't adversely impact" the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County's planned 200-acre landfill, said William Balling, Buffalo Grove's village manager and a member of the agency's executive board.

The agency, which serves 28 north and northwest suburbs including Buffalo Grove and Wheeling, wants to build the "balefill" (so-called because garbage would be baled before burial) on a site west of Bartlett.

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz, who also chairs the SWANC, said some agency members fear the Corps proposal could scuttle the proposed balefill. The village sent telegrams to Ill. Sen. Alan J. Dixon urging him to remove Hastert's bill from the conference committee.

"Such a study by the Corps is unnecessary, the Solid Waste Agency already is performing the most exhaustive study ever on the Newark Aquifer in order to obtain the (necessary) permit," the telegram to Dixon said.

Hastert's district includes South Elgin and part of Elgin, which are both adjacent to the balefill site. Officials from both towns say the balefill will contaminate a local water supply and pose other environmental hazards.

THE AMENDMENT is aimed solely at the balefill: It would require the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a groundwater impact study of the Newark Aquifer. That aquifer is some 90 feet beneath the balefill site.

Hastert couldn't be reached for comment Tuesday. A spokesman in his Washington, D.C., office denied that the amendment is intended to delay or halt the balefill's construction.

"We felt the federal level needed to know more about the project" and its

(Continued on page 20)

Thursday, October 13, 1988

(Continued from page 11)

impact on the aquifer "before the agency proceeds with its plans," said Bob Welling, Hastert's press secretary. "The aquifer is an important water supply for these towns."

But solid waste agency officials note they already are required to conduct a groundwater impact study of that aquifer, and submit those findings to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, as part of the state laws for approving landfill sites.

The solid waste agency has completed its \$1.5 million study, and will include it in its application for an IEPA permit to operate the balefill. "It's my understanding that this will be the most extensive study that's even been produced for a sanitary landfill in

the state," said William Abolt, executive director of the solid waste agency.

THE AGENCY'S BALEFILL project last year was endorsed by the Cook County Board, subject to approval from the IEPA and Army Corps of Engineers. The solid waste agency hasn't yet applied for permits from either the Corps or the IEPA.

Abolt said he doubted the Army Corps of Engineers has the money to conduct such a study, but a spokesman for the Corps Tuesday said he does not have sufficient information on the project to comment on its cost.

If the congressional conference committee reaches a compromise agreement, the bill would go back to the House and Senate for a vote.

Cellular phone tower proposed for Wheeling

10-13-88
Countryside
Car phone users may get a boost in service as they travel through Wheeling because of the possible addition of a 100-foot transmission tower in the southern end of the village.

The Wheeling Zoning Appeals Board Tuesday recommended approval of a variance that would allow Rogers Radiocal's tower to be constructed at 170 Shepard Drive in an industrial park, according to Village Building, Housing and Zoning Administrator Thomas Fennell said.

Rogers Radiocal intends to build the "repeater" tower because of a "dead spot" of service in the village. The tower, or cell, would be one of more than 70 the cellular car phone company operates in the Chicago area, Fennell said.

"Their indication was there was a dead spot in the area," Fennell said. Vehicles traveling through the area were reporting loss of transmission while in Wheeling, he said.

The tower, 60 feet higher than what current zoning allows, would be next to a small, 80-square foot building where some transmission equipment would be stored, Fennell said.

Nearby transmission towers and water towers are taller than Rogers Radiocal's proposed structure, Fennell said. A letter received from the Federal Aviation Administration said that agency has no problem with the tower.

The variance request is now forwarded to the village board, which makes all final decisions on zoning variances.



Tagging along

10-13-88
Countryside
Wheeling community service officer Barbara Kobishop takes inventory as community service officer Jeff Wieder tags a bike that was later put up for auction Saturday during the village's annual police auction. The sale was held at Village Hall. (Photo by Hank DeGeorge)



Hurry up and wait

10-13-88
COUNTRY SIDE

Motorists on Dundee Road in Wheeling learn firsthand that patience is a virtue Monday as traffic backs up due to construction on the busy thoroughfare. Once completed, the project will provide a four-way intersection at Dundee Road and Northgate Parkway. (Staff photo by Kathy Tray)



Bomb squad search

Countryside 10-13-88

A Cook County Sheriff's bomb squad deputy unloads equipment to inspect limousines at the O'Hare-Midway Limo Service for bombs Tuesday after an explosive device was set off at the office earlier in the day. Wheeling police reported that the office at 551 N. Wolf Road was damaged as well as a vehicle at the same location after an explosive device was set off at about 3:10 a.m. Wheeling police and the agents of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms are investigating the matter. About \$10,000 damage was reported in the blasts. No one was injured, according to police. (Staff photo by Bill Oakes)

Countryside Supreme Court agrees to hear firefighters' case

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

10-13-88
Illinois Supreme Court justices last week agreed to decide whether lieutenants in Wheeling's fire department should be included in the firefighter's union.

The village had appealed a May ruling by judges in the First District of the Illinois Court of Appeals that upheld a state labor relations board decision to allow the lieutenants in the union.

"I'm glad that they decided to review it," Village Attorney James Rhodes said. "They (the court) think it's an issue that has state-wide implications that needs a decision."

VILLAGE OFFICIALS HAVE argued that the six lieutenants in the department are part of management and by including them in the bargaining unit, their ability to function as managers would be eroded.

Rhodes said the village will argue that the lieutenants are managers. He earlier blasted the appellate court ruling, saying it ignored many of the points the village presented.

Rhodes said the village will learn within 30 days when it must file briefs with the Illinois Supreme Court. The court will hear the case during the current session.

Firefighter's union president Bart Burns said the decision to hear the case prolongs the battle the union has waged with the village since January, 1986.

"I DON'T understand why the village is so persistent in (its) opposition to having the lieutenants being a part of our bargaining unit," Burns said. He said attorney Dale Berry will argue the case for the firefighters.

After newly-enacted state legislation forced municipalities to recognize unions for police and firefighters in 1986, the Wheeling firefighters formed their own bargaining unit.

But the village declined to recognize the group because its membership included the six lieutenants. Despite an Illinois State Labor Relations Board ruling that sided with Wheeling firefighters, the village refused to negotiate with the unions.

The village then appealed that ruling to the state appellate court, disputing the ISLRB ruling on the grounds lieutenants did not match the standards for inclusion in the union.

BUT AFTER THAT court sided with the ISLRB and the union, the village in June made its appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court.

Current negotiations between the firefighters and the village will continue, both sides said. A partial agreement signed in April allows the parties to work on a contract without including the lieutenants' issue in negotiations. There have been several meetings between the two groups over the past months and more have been scheduled.

The village was notified of the court's decision to hear the case Tuesday. Burns said his group was notified Tuesday afternoon.

Officials review new recycling plan

10-13-88
Countryside
 Wheeling officials Tuesday reviewed a second proposal for implementing a recycling program in the village and learned it would cost residents more than twice as much as a previously submitted plan.

By Mike Wilkinson
 Staff Writer

Recycling proponents again courted Wheeling Tuesday, but said their program for processing the glass, paper and aluminum of village residents would cost more than twice what a previous hauler had estimated it would.

Browning-Ferris Industries representative Tom Kleczewski told trustees his firm would come into the village and remove recyclable products from residents' curbs and charge each customer \$2.50 a month for the service.

Waste Management, Inc., which now is the primary scavenger service for village residents, told trustees in July that their service would cost residents \$1 each month.

"Society is going to change," Kleczewski said. "There is very little recycling going on right now. A few years from now it'll be a habit we'll all be in."

VILLAGE OFFICIALS ARE considering a recycling program they

hope to initiate within the village. BFI was the second firm to come into the village and make its pitch. Village Manager Craig Anderson said other companies will be asked to make proposals to the village.

Because of the limits to landfilling waste, Wheeling and other communities are looking to recycling to relieve some of the burden being placed on waste disposal.

"We're just running out of places to put garbage," Kleczewski said. Companies like BFI and Waste Management are moving toward recycling, he said, because it means their landfills stay open longer.

Landfill costs have risen an estimated 25 percent the last two years, making recycling, once just good public relations, profitable, Kleczewski said.

KLECZEWSKI, DISTRICT MANAGER for the Barrington district of BFI, said recycling now takes 10 to 15 percent of the waste stream out of the landfills and back into the market place. When yard materials such as grass clippings and leaves are removed, that figure could jump to nearly 30 percent, he said.

Under the BFI plan, which will begin soon in Mount Prospect, residents would place all their glass and aluminum in two separate paper bags and their newsprint in a single container at their curb. Residents in communities where BFI is the current scavenger would pay only \$1 each

month for the recycling service.

Wheeling residents would pay more, he said, because BFI would not save any landfill space because it does not now dispose of the village's trash. BFI would only get the profits from the recycled products, and not the savings in landfill capacity, Kleczewski said.

Currently, the cost of recycling is above the \$1 monthly payment charged to residents in communities where BFI already provides service, Kleczewski said. That charge is offset by the long-term extension of the life of their landfills, he said.

BUT HE SAID the village could pressure Waste Management to reduce its charges because the firm would be the hauler that benefited from having the reduction in the village waste stream.

After collecting the recycled products, BFI would have them processed and then would split the earnings from the salable products with the village. The village would then receive a quarterly bill for BFI's service and would filter that cost down to residents through their water bills.

Participation in the program would be voluntary, trustees said, but payment would be mandatory. Although paying extra for recycling, Village President Sheila Schultz said the gain would be in the future, when the village still had a landfill for its garbage and would not be forced into higher disposal costs.

Deadline extended for TCI of Illinois

By ELLEN SCHMID BLIX
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

10-14-85
 With one exception, members of the Northwest Municipal Cable Council voted to extend until Nov. 16 its deadline for TCI of Illinois to improve its cable television service or face collective fines of \$1,400 a day.

"I would say we've seen some progress demonstrated," said Gerald "Skip" Farley, Mount Prospect's representative to the eight-member council of towns holding franchise agreements with TCI.

The cable council voted in August to put the company on 45-day notice to either improve service or face fines. The council is an advisory group. Each individual municipality holding a franchise agreement must act on its own.

That 45-day clock runs out next week in Hanover Park, Arlington Heights and Des Plaines. By Nov. 11, time also will be up in Mount Prospect, Bartlett, Wheeling and Park Ridge. Prospect Heights did not follow through with the notice, but the city's representative said it supports the action.

Since the edict came down, TCI has put seven new operators on duty and plans to hire 15 more, said Mark Hess, regional general manager for

the nation's largest cable company. The staff addition has reduced the amount of time telephone calls to service lines are put on hold from five minutes to about three minutes, Hess said.

Hanover Park, however, wants to see more than improved telephone service, said Assistant Village Manager Mark Masciola.

Casting the only vote against what would amount to a one-month delay in action by Hanover Park, Masciola said the village wants specific progress by TCI in wiring a new subdivision.

"To this date, we've had no response," he said. "Unless I can be convinced something will happen between now and the end of the year, I could not recommend against fining."

Hanover Park trustees are expected to consider proceeding with a \$200-a-day fine on Oct. 31, Masciola said.

Other towns' representatives will be asking their officials to wait while the council continues to assess the company's progress. The council is developing specific standards the company will be expected to meet, such as all calls answered by four rings and a minimum hold time of two minutes per call.

Wheeling eyes recycling program

in March and has curbside programs in South Barrington, Mount Prospect and Bloomingdale.

The BFI program would collect glass, newspapers and aluminum cans from houses. Village President Sheila Schultz said she is concerned about multi-family residences, such as condominiums or apartment complexes. Like Waste Management, BFI does not have a program for multi-family areas.

The board is scheduled to hear a presentation from another company, Laidlaw Waste Systems Inc., on Nov. 14 and will vote on which program to institute at a later date.

regular garbage hauling in Wheeling, its program would cost only \$1 per household per month. The cost of the bins is approximately the same.

Neighboring Buffalo Grove and Arlington Heights recently began curbside recycling with Waste Management.

"Recycling is not a one-shot solution to waste disposal problems," Kleczewski said. The purpose of recycling, he said, is to reduce the amount of garbage going into landfills, which are rapidly filling up and becoming more costly.

"There are no experts in recycling, because it is so new," he added. BFI began its recycling program

individually. Residents would participate on a voluntary basis, but all those in the pilot program would be charged the monthly cost.

The village would receive 50 percent of the profits from the sale of the recycled material. The plastic bins used to hold the materials at the curb cost about \$5 each, a fee which probably would be paid by the village.

In July, representatives from Waste Management of North America also presented a program. Because Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal, which is owned by Waste Management, does nearly all of the

Wheeling trustees are considering a curbside recycling program for the village, but are comparing costs and services of several companies before moving ahead.

Tom Kleczewski, district manager for Browning-Ferris Industries, recently explained his company's curbside recycling program to the board.

Because BFI is not Wheeling's regular residential garbage collector, the program will cost each household \$2.50 per month. The village would receive one quarterly bill from BFI and would have to bill res-

Wheeling considers tighter liquor law

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In its efforts to crack down on minors purchasing alcohol, Wheeling is considering adding three laws to its liquor code.

The new ordinances would prohibit minors from attempting to purchase alcohol, asking an adult to buy it for them, or possessing a false identification card or document.

Current law only prohibits liquor license holders from selling liquor to minors and minors from possessing alcohol.

"We don't have an ordinance that deals with the attempt to purchase," Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said. "We can arrest them

if they successfully purchase it, but we can't arrest them for just trying."

Problems with false identification came to light in a recent liquor license hearing in which J.C. Liquors was accused of selling liquor to minors. One minor told the Wheeling Liquor Control Commission that false identification could be easily purchased for about \$10. The store lost its license, and is appealing the decision.

The other two new laws have been under consideration for several months, Rhodes said. "Kids will be kids," he said. "There's a problem there. It's not just in Wheeling, it's all over the Northwest suburbs, all over the state."

Minors who ask an adult to buy alcohol for them will also be subject to arrest, Rhodes said. "Kids go up to Joe the wino and ask him to buy for them," he said. "They buy him a bottle of Muscatel for his trouble. That's been going on for years. But we've made that a crime, too. The changes are an attempt to plug the holes."

If a minor presents a false identification card in an attempt to purchase liquor, liquor license holders have the right to confiscate identification they believe is false.

The village board will consider the ordinance changes at a meeting 8 p.m. Monday at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

New liquor laws for minors are delayed

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials delayed action Monday on three new liquor laws aimed at drinkers below legal age.

Wheeling police have been cracking down on minors buying alcohol in the village for the past several months. Last spring, during prom weekend, police arrested seven people under age 21 walking out of one Wheeling liquor store with booze they had bought using a fake identification card.

The proposed ordinances prohibit minors from attempting to purchase alcohol, asking an adult to buy it for them or possessing a false identification card.

Trustee Joseph W. Ratajczak said the proposed section on false identification was "too generic" because it would make mere possession of a false ID a crime. "We should add something about using it with intent to purchase alcohol," he said.

"The difficulty is in having to prove the intent," of the person carrying the ID, Deputy Police Chief Gary O'Rourke said.

"Why else would you have it?" Village President Sheila H. Schultz said.

Current law only prohibits liquor license holders from selling liquor to minors and minors from possessing alcohol. Therefore, the village could not arrest or punish minors who tried to buy alcohol in

the village unless the minors were actually successful.

The board agreed to table the proposed ordinance until the village attorney, who was absent from the meeting could review it and answer questions.

False identification cards are easy to obtain and are relatively inexpensive, according to testimony given before the Wheeling Liquor Control Commission last month.

J.C. Liquors had been accused of selling liquor to minors. As a result, the store's liquor license was revoked, and the law prohibiting minors from possessing a false identification card or document was drafted. The store is appealing the revocation.

Plan commission approves car care center

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Plans for a car maintenance "convenience center" in Wheeling are moving ahead after the Wheeling Plan Commission recommended approval of the Wheeling Car Care Center.

M. Barry Russell, president of Car Care Centers of MidAmerica, Inc., told the commission the development, slated for property on Old McHenry road just north of Dundee Road, would be "upscale," and would not contain large car repair businesses or auto engine rebuilding.

"We're selling a convenient location to the tenants," Russell said. "We're stretching our tenants to a higher-quality facility." He said car care centers, a concept begun about 10 years ago on the west coast, generate less traffic than traditional retail centers. However, Russell said his company would add a turning lane onto McHenry Road to provide easier access to the center.

The commission's approval was subject to several conditions, including a limit on overnight parking in the lot. Russell assured commissioners his firm would have a strict lease to keep the center attractive. "Our lease will prevent the misuse of overnight storage of cars," he said. Russell said he has already leased out about half the space in the center. The plans must be approved by the appearance commission and the village board before building permits can be issued.

Gas station remodeling plan rejected

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Plan Commission has unanimously rejected plans to improve a Wheeling gas station.

Owners of Martin Oil were hoping to remodel their building, which has operated at 621 W. Dundee Road for 18 years, add parking and a canopy, and to begin selling snacks.

The gas station is currently prohibited from selling food because a covenant placed on the property in 1970 prohibits the sale of groceries.

Richard Parlier, vice president of real estate for Martin Oil Marketing, Ltd., told the plan commission he had "innocently accepted the restrictive covenant." Martin Oil is the only station in Wheeling that does not sell food items. "It's unreasonable," he said. "Just let us survive."

The reason for the restriction is not certain. "It may have had something to do with concern about mixing gasoline items and food," said Assistant Planner Christine Washburn. The covenant can only be removed by the village board.

But plan commissioners are concerned Parlier is not willing to improve his property enough.

"You've got a lot of green space behind the fence," Commissioner Terry Steilen said. "The fence hides it. You should highlight the green space, show it off."

Village Planner Robert Sullivan said Martin Oil does not conform to current zoning codes, but is allowed to operate under a grandfather clause that expires in 1992. "At that point, the building would have to be altered, or the use would have to be

stopped," he said.

If Martin receives approval to remodel the building and to begin selling snacks, it would nullify that deadline.

"I have difficulty with this," Commission Chairman Paul Eisterhold said. "You're getting out of amortization, and we want more in trade-off than a few bushes."

The village board is expected to consider the project on Nov. 7. Although the plan commission recommended denial, the village board has the final decision.

Shopping center improvements OK'd

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Plans to give one of Wheeling's older shopping centers a new look have been approved by the village board.

Owners of Wolf Point shopping center, formerly known as Southpoint, will add landscaping and another building.

Center owner George Savoy said he has already begun to improve the center, because he has leased out

much of the previously empty space.

Village President Sheila Schultz said she is in favor of the improvements, because the center, on the northwest corner of Camp McDonald and Wolf roads, has been "empty and unattractive."

Improvements include dividing the large retail space in the center, which once housed a grocery store, into smaller, more easily leased stores. Savoy is also adding several islands of landscaping to the parking lot, which is currently entirely

paved.

"We're also taking 10 feet of blacktop along Wolf Road and making it green space," Savoy said.

Art's Ribs, a restaurant in the center, is going to expand and remodel.

Savoy said all but 5,500 of the 35,000 square feet of retail space in the building has been leased. Construction of a 9,200 square foot addition is expected to begin in the spring.

When Wolf Point was Southpoint, it struggled. An A&P grocery store

at the center went out of business in December 1982. The Four Ways Foods store that took its place lasted about nine months before the company supplying its foods called for payment on \$200,000 worth of goods. Store owners declared bankruptcy.

Savoy and co-owner Pat Roberts took over the center about a year ago. Two stores, a furniture store and an electrical lighting fixture store, will be going into the former grocery store space, which will be divided into two separate stores.

Examining the pros and cons of clerk issue

It may not be getting the headlines the presidential election is, but a referendum on whether the Wheeling village clerk's position should be an appointed or elected is already stirring debate.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

On Nov. 8, after Wheeling voters have chosen whether George Bush or Michael Dukakis should be the 41st president of the country, they will be asked a much more local question: should the village have an appointed, rather than an elected, clerk.

Proponents of the change, including most trustees and village officials, say voters should turn over the selection of the village clerk to the village manager because it is more efficient and would give residents greater access to one of its most important public officials.

Opponents, however, say the move puts too much control in too few hands. Trustees approved ballot language in August that put the issue before voters. Officials have said the clerk would become a full-time employee starting at the end of current Clerk Janet D'Argo's term April 30, 1989.

"THE NUMBER one advantage is the people that need to contact the village clerk for information will have greatly increased times and hours to reach (the clerk)," said David Kowal, the assistant to the village manager. "Organizationally speaking, (it would be) more efficient to have (the clerk) in the office."

Village officials said the appointed clerk, if created, would take over the duties of the current clerk and those of the licensing clerk. The full-time clerk would remain the custodian of all official documents and attest to all

official resolutions and ordinances the village generates. The clerk also records the minutes of village board meetings.

In addition, the licensing duties would include processing all business licenses, maintaining an index of all licenses, assisting with vehicle stickers, liquor licenses and generating weekly agendas for board meetings, Kowal said.

The licensing clerk's position is now vacant. The new clerk would fill that spot, Kowal said. No new positions would be created, he said.

"WE'VE JUST grown to the point size-wise that it just dictates having a full-time person," Kowal said.

"The feeling of the majority of the board is that there were pros and cons . . . and that the appointed (clerk) had more advantages," Village President Sheila Schultz said.

She said trustees would have felt differently if the clerk's responsibilities included having a voice in village affairs. But because that role is diminished under the current system of government, trustees decided to put the issue before voters, Schultz said.

But members of the Wheeling chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons say the decision to make the clerk an appointed village official insulates that official from the village electorate.

"WHEN YOU have an appointed
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clerk it comes under the responsibilities of the village manager, who doesn't come under direct (control) of the voters, the electorate," AARP legislative committee chairman Syke Horcher said.

Horcher said the village has operated well under the current system. He said that if village officials fear they couldn't find a full-time clerk through an election, they shouldn't worry because there are many qualified candidates.

Village officials, however, said electing a clerk every four years could eliminate any continuity in the operation of the office.

Schultz said by making the position an appointed post, the village is also more likely to get more qualified candidates who could make a long-term commitment to the municipality.

IF THE CLERK became appointed, the village would abolish the current \$4,800 salary and the clerk would be paid between \$18,000 and \$24,000 each year, Kowal said.

Previously, before the duties of village collector were shifted to the finance director, the part-time elected clerk had a full-time job as collector. The finance director took over those responsibilities more than 12 years ago, Schultz said.

Current village clerk supports making job an appointed post

There is at least one person who wants to see Wheeling create a full-time, appointed clerk, but it's also someone who is least interested in the job.

Current Clerk Janet D'Argo, elected clerk in April, 1985, said last week that while a full-time position is necessary, she won't be the first person in line with her resume should voters decide to have the position appointed rather than elected.

"I think it's in the best interest of the village to have an appointed clerk," D'Argo said. "I think it would lend a lot more commitment to the keeping of the records."

D'Argo, 58, said the position, on which she now spends between 12 to 15 hours each week, should be made to accommodate a full-time staff person who will be there every day.

ON MONDAYS, D'ARGO said she works from about 6 p.m. until after the village board meetings. She also spends some of her lunch hours from her job at Hoyne Savings and Loan Association at the village hall. On Wednesdays, she works a full day at the village hall.

While at village hall, or when a messenger has to be sent to her office at Hoyne, D'Argo attests to all signatures on ordinances and resolutions. She also oversees the current movement of records from village hall to space in a village building on Hintz Road, between Wolf Road and Elmhurst Road.



Janet D'Argo

In defense of making the job an appointed full-time position rather than just enlarging the responsibility and pay of the elected official, D'Argo said the village could have a problem getting a full-time official through the electoral process. She said other career commitments could impede some of the most qualified candidates from seeking the position.

While the pay of the new clerk is expected to be between \$18,000 and \$24,000, several times more than her current \$4,800 as clerk, D'Argo said her current job, where she has worked for 10 years, is where she'll stay.

Thursday, October 20, 1988

Cable firm gets reprieve from villages

After taking initial steps to solve customer service problems, TCI, Inc., Wheeling's cable provider, has been given an extension before fines totaling as much as \$1,400 a day are levied against the firm for poor service.

Members of the Northwest Municipal Cable Council have extended until Nov. 16, the date by which TCI is expected to have better response times to customers calls, said Dave Kowal, Wheeling assistant to the village manager.

Following a compliance committee meeting Nov. 2, the main board of the advisory council will vote Nov. 16 whether to recommend that member communities initiate the fines, Kowal said.

"There had been some improvement," NWMCC executive director Carol Stannard said. "So we feel they were making some improvement with the situation."

Stannard said TCI has been answering phones quicker and leaving people on hold for shorter periods of time since the fines were first considered earlier this month. She said TCI officials have said they hired seven additional phone operators.

The NWMCC only makes recommendations to members. Wheeling trustees would have to vote on whether they would levy their \$200 daily fines. Seven other communities belonging to the NWMCC could also levy similar fines if the problems are not corrected.

Wheeling to take survey on station

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling is investigating several potential sites for a commuter rail station along the Wisconsin Central Railroad tracks and is conducting an informal survey to determine potential ridership.

Officials say they are optimistic commuter service someday will be available, but say it won't happen soon.

Wheeling and other communities along the former Soo Line tracks all have expressed varying degrees of interest in a commuter line in recent meetings with Metra, the commuter rail arm of the regional transportation authority. However, funding for the estimated \$40 million project has yet to be found.

Service would run between Mundelein and Des Plaines, serving 10 yet-to-be built stations.

Wheeling officials are hoping a survey in this month's village newsletter will not only help them gather information, but will educate

the public about the project as well.

Nearby Buffalo Grove has led the crusade for a commuter line, having set aside a parcel of land along the tracks for a station and parking lot.

"We don't have that situation," Village President Sheila Schultz said. "We don't have the impetus for private contribution that other towns do." A developer donated land for the Buffalo Grove station.

But Schultz said open land behind Wickes Furniture on Dundee Road is one potential station site.

"There is also open land near Hintz Road at the tracks, and also north of Dundee," she said. "Right now we are just looking at it at a staff level. We also have to look at the best use of the land."

The village is asking residents to fill out the survey to get some idea how many would use the line and park at the station.

The three-question survey asks residents if they would use the line, how many family members would use it and what method (walking, driving, bicycle, etc.) they would use

to get to the station.

"This survey is also another means of creating public awareness," Schultz said. She said residents she had talked to were generally in favor of the commuter rail line, but "most of them have a lot of skepticism that it will ever really happen."

Schultz said that "I'll-believe-it-when-I-see-it" attitude probably stems from the fact the project, which has been talked about for several years, "is not moving real quickly. Things move slowly with Metra."

However, she says she believes in the project. "It's so practical," she said. "I'm optimistic it will happen, but it's not going to happen quickly. But you have to be visionary with these things. The tracks are there, the land is there. It's a huge amount of money, but compared to some highway projects, I think it's a better option."

Survey forms are available at the Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. There is no deadline for returning the questionnaires.



"I'm optimistic it will happen, but it's not going to happen quickly. But you have to be visionary with these things."

— Sheila Schultz,
Wheeling Village president

Trustees may stiffen Wheeling alcohol laws

Constitutional
10-20-88
In an effort to stiffen penalties against minors who attempt to buy alcohol, Wheeling officials are considering adopting three new ordinances dealing with the purchase of alcohol and the use of false identification.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Hoping to beef up existing laws on underage drinking in Wheeling, trustees Monday considered new laws that would make it harder for minors to get alcohol from village stores.

Three additional ordinances were presented to trustees that would add

provisions making it illegal for minors to: solicit someone to buy alcohol for them, attempt to buy alcohol even without false identification, and illegal to possess any kind of false identification.

"We're trying to cut off any avenues we can to stop underage individuals from (getting) alcohol," Village Attorney James Rhodes said.

Concerns over the false identification provision caused trustees to table consideration of the new laws until the board's Nov. 7 meeting.

THE NEW LAWS were generated by the police department following a review of existing provisions in village codes on liquor purchase and sale,

Deputy Police Chief Gary O'Rourke said.

Rhodes said that while minors could be charged with possession of alcohol, "it doesn't stop them from trying."

Under current village laws, a minor walking into a store, picking up a six-pack of beer and trying to buy the beer — even without presenting any identification — would be committing a crime, Rhodes said.

The new laws, if approved, would give the village more tools in fighting underage drinking. By making it illegal to possess false identification, Rhodes said the village is also trying to go after the manufacturers of false identification.

IT NOW IS a crime to possess altered or forged state or federal identification. Rhodes said the new village law would include those pieces of identification manufactured to look like valid identification.

But Trustee Joseph Ratajczak said the false ID law was too vague.

"If the intent is to apply to an individual who attempts to purchase liquor, it should be so stated," Ratajczak said. "It just seems so generic."

He requested that language be added to the ordinance that said the identification was only illegal if used in the attempted purchase of alcohol. But after discussion with other trustees, the

(Continued on page 80)

Alcohol —

(Continued from page 5)

Issue was tabled pending review by Rhodes.

THE FAKE ID law was written following an investigation and subsequent revocation of the liquor license of J.C. Liquors, located on Lake-Cook Road in the Lexington Commons shopping plaza. Trustees revoked the license Sept. 26 after deciding the store was guilty of selling alcohol to minors for the fourth time in six months.

But during the investigation into two of the cases, the village found that two minors charged with alcohol offenses both had used false identification to purchase alcohol. Under the then current laws, the two could only be charged with possession and misrepresentation of age.

All of the new laws would become petty offenses with fines of up to \$500, Rhodes said. Any court hearing would be before the Circuit Court of Cook County, Wheeling branch, he said.

Pal-Waukee group seeks accord on rules

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Pal-Waukee Airport officials are still trying to pound out a set of rules and regulations for operations at the airport.

The proposed rules suggest a maximum takeoff weight of 77,000 pounds, but some officials oppose a plane even that large being allowed to fly in and out of Pal-Waukee.

Airport Commissioner William Rogers, one who opposes raising the weight limit from the current 60,000 pounds, also questions a clause in the proposed rules that would allow the 77,000-pound maximum to be extended "with permission."

"Who would give permission?" Rogers said. "This seems very open-ended."

Until the airport was purchased in 1986 by Wheeling and Prospect Heights, the weight limit on the main runway — where the largest planes would take off and land — was 60,000.

"We told the residents we would not expand the use or the size of the airport," Rogers said. "Allowing bigger, heavier planes seems to be doing that."

Commissioner Thomas Nolan, who is a pilot, told Rogers that advancing technology made some of the larger planes quieter than older, smaller aircraft.

"Weight restriction does not necessarily correlate to noise or

runway length," Nolan said.

The 60,000-pound restriction previously on the runway was specified in a permit when the main runway was built, according to Charles Priester, former owner of the airport.

"Since then," Priester said, "we've had overlays put on the runway so the weight capacity is higher."

Other issues still to be resolved in the proposed rules include:

The type of instruction allowed at the airport, limits of the airport insurance policy and rules governing financial reports from companies engaging in commercial activity at the airport.

Planning agency proposed for Lake-Cook

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling and three neighboring suburbs are considering banding together to form a regional transportation planning agency for Lake-Cook Road.

Although one trustee says the idea is "20 years too late," the Wheeling village board is expected to vote on joining the agency at its Nov. 7 regular meeting.

William G. Grams, executive director of the Northwest Municipal Conference, said establishing a Lake-Cook Road corridor agency would help alleviate problems on the thoroughfare and allow the various agencies that govern different parts of the road to work

together.

"You can't deny someone the right to build whatever he has the right to build," Wheeling Trustee William Rogers said, referring to the zoning laws of each community. "Don't you sometimes feel that you're doing this 20 years too late?"

"I'd rather start now than wait five years and then think, we're doing it 25 years too late," Grams said.

The agency would be limited to Wheeling, Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove and Palatine and would be concerned with Lake-Cook Road between Rand Road and the Tri-State Tollway. Each village would contribute to the cost of projects based on the miles of

Lake-Cook Road that lie within their jurisdiction.

Grams said the agency's first order of business would be an engineering study on possible methods of transportation along Lake-Cook, which he estimated would cost about \$400,000.

"We're looking to the Cook County Highway Department to bear most of that," Grams said. "But we are still negotiating."

If federal, state or county money were obtained for such items as an engineering study or a study of mass transportation, the communities would share the local cost. Wheeling's share would be 28.6 percent of that local portion. Buffalo Grove would have the largest portion, 57.05 percent.

Wheeling may join villages studying traffic

With traffic flow on Lake-Cook Road projected to get worse before it gets better, Wheeling is being asked to join with other communities in coordinating future development along the thoroughfare.

Village officials were asked Monday to consider contributing both advice and money to an intergovernmental agency that would study traffic options on Lake-Cook Road. A vote is expected at the board's next meeting.

The Northwest Municipal Conference has proposed that Wheeling join Buffalo Grove, Arlington Heights and Palatine to form a Lake-Cook Road Local Corridor Agency that would sponsor an engineering and design study of the road and all land one-quarter mile north and south.

The agency would be concerned with traffic and development between I-294 to the east and U.S. Route 12 to the west.

Expected to cost about \$400,000, the LCRC study would look at existing open space, project current and future traffic needs and determine where funds for such projects could come from, NWMC executive director Bill Grams said.

With most of the funding for the study expected to come from Cook County, the remainder would be picked up by the four communities. Wheeling's share has been estimated at 29 percent of the local costs.

She fights crime by being nice



Barbara Kobishop

Barbara Kobishop doesn't carry a gun, but she fights crime daily.

As Wheeling's crime prevention officer, her job ranges from teaching pre-school children about staying away from "Stranger Danger" to organizing "Neighborhood Watch" programs in the village.

"I really love the variety of people I come in contact with," she says. Many of her activities, such as fingerprinting kindergarten students or putting on "Officer Ollie" puppet shows, mean spending time with children.

"I walk into a grocery store or a school and kids will recognize me and say hi, even when I'm out of uniform. That's great."

Kobishop has been in Wheeling for about a year. She previously worked as a social worker at Maryville Academy in Des

Plaines and in the Wisconsin criminal justice system as a court advocate.

"In my other jobs, I was carrying everyone's problems home with me," she said. "It's refreshing to be in on the preventative end of things, and to think that maybe you're helping someone or

preventing future problems."

Kobishop's frequent sidekicks are McGruff, the crime prevention dog, and P.C., the remote control talking police car. "I've got an office full of toys," she laughs. "Actually, I usually am the spokesman for McGruff, since he can't talk. I also have to make sure McGruff doesn't fall over, because it's really hard to see where you're going in that costume."

In addition to kid's stuff, Kobishop will speak on a variety of crime-prevention topics to civic organizations.

"We can tailor-make a presentation to what the group wants to hear about," she said. "For example, if senior citizens want to know how to prevent assault, we'll set up something on that. It's all community service."

— Keri Wyatt

Wheeling is eyed as alternate postal site

After facing stiff opposition from Palatine officials over a proposed postal facility in that village, the U.S. Postal Service has come up with eight alternate sites for the building, one of which is in Wheeling.

By Wayne Tryhuk
Staff Writer

Homeowners who object to commercial or multi-family development in their neighborhoods are often referred to as "NIMBYS," an acronym taken from the expression, "Not in my backyard." The U.S. Postal Service Tuesday revealed a list of several communities that may soon become municipal "NIMBYS" if they oppose the construction of a mail distribution facility originally planned for Palatine within their borders.

Palatine has implored the Postal Service to build the proposed structure at one of eight locations in Lake Zurich, Elgin, Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, Lincolnshire and unincorporated Cook County instead of the proposed 43-acre site at Northwest Highway and Ill. Route 53.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said he has not been contacted by anyone from the U.S. Postal Service about locating a mail distribution facility in the village.

"Our concern would be whether it would be the best use for the property, wherever it would be located," Anderson said. "And any loss of taxes is also a consideration. But, on the other

hand, it may mean new jobs for the area. Until we are contacted, there isn't much else I can say."

Palatine has objected to locating the complex in the village because doing so could preclude Palatine taxing bodies from receiving more than \$2 million in annual property tax revenues from commercial developments that might otherwise be located there.

Village officials last week flew to Washington, D.C. to enlist the assistance of U.S. congressmen, led by U.S. Rep. Philip Crane (R-12th). At the village's urging, the congressmen had postal legislation amended to include language directing the Postal Service to "work with" the village in finding a site outside Palatine's boundaries.

ASSISTANT VILLAGE MANAGER Skip Leonard, who, along with Village Manager Michael Kadlecik and Trustee Thomas Coy, met with postal officials in Washington, said afterward that the Palatine contingent had presented Postmaster General Anthony Frank with eight proposed alternative sites.

"We did what we were supposed to do" in identifying the locations, Leonard said. "I'm optimistic. Now we have to wait for the Postal Service to evaluate them."

(Continued on page 80)

(Continued from page 17)

While Palatine officials declined to divulge what alternative sites they suggested to Frank, Meg Harris, a spokesman for the Postal Service, identified them as the following:

- 36 acres on the southwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Hintz Road in unincorporated Cook County near Wheeling;

- 35 acres on the south side of Lake-Cook Road, west of Wolf Road, in Wheeling;

- more than 30 acres on the north side of Aptakistic Road in Lincolnshire;

- 40 acres at the Covington Corporate Center in Buffalo Grove;

- 100 acres on the west side of Quentin Road, north of Ill. Route 22, in Lake Zurich;

- 44 acres on the west side of Oakwood Street, north of Ill. Route 22, in

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Courtesy

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- 100 acres on the west side of Quentin Road, north of Ill. Route 22, in Lake Zurich;
- 44 acres on the west side of Oakwood Street, north of Ill. Route 22, in Lake Zurich;
- more than 90 acres north of Shoe Factory Road, south of Interstate 90, in Elgin;
- and another site of more than 50 acres north of Shoe Factory Road, south of Interstate 90, in Elgin.

Harris said while the Postal Service would cooperate with Palatine in determining if an alternate location might be acceptable, the agency is also free to pursue plans to develop the site in the village. She said there was no deadline by which a location must be finally decided upon, but that, "once construction has begun, it's pretty firm."

THE SERVICE IS now in the process of selecting an architect for the site, Harris said.

Two of the alternate locations, Harris added, had already been considered by the service, but would be re-examined in light of the congressional directive.

Asked about the likelihood of the facility's being built outside Palatine, Harris said, "We could do it if a better site offered itself. Then there would have to be a re-evaluation of keeping the existing site or selling it."

The Postal Service purchased the property for \$9.5 million, and earlier this month authorized the expenditure of \$79.8 million for construction of the regional facility in Palatine.

20 workers overcome by fumes at local factory

Countywide
10-20-88
By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Vapors from a normally safe product used at a Wheeling plastics company sent 20 employees to area hospitals Tuesday night suffering from irritated eyes and heavy breathing.

Ambulances from Wheeling and surrounding communities responded to Maclean Molded Products, at 410 Mercantile Court, after Wheeling police were notified of the accident at 7:31 p.m.

Wheeling police said employees working the afternoon shift were exposed to noxious fumes coming from an opened a box of styrene monomer and carbon black, a product the company uses in the production of molded plastic axel covers.

"It gave off a cloud, a vapor, which indicated it was unstable," Wheeling Deputy Chief Michael Hermes said. He said 19 employees and a foreman overcome by the fumes were taken to area hospitals. Three employees were treated at the scene.

A RESIDENT LIVING west of the industrial complex was also overcome by the fumes as she exited her car, Officer Thomas Lorenz said. She declined transportation to an area hospital.

Hermes said residents of the neighboring Dunhurst subdivision were told to stay in their homes until the fumes dissipated. Southwesterly winds, Hermes said, kept the vapors within the industrial complex. No other businesses were affected, he said.

Eleven of the victims were transported to Condell Memorial Hospital in Libertyville, six were taken to Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge and three were treated at Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines. None of the victims were admitted.

Pat Jenkins, nursing supervisor at Condell Memorial, said all of the patients complained of respiratory problems stemming from the inhalation of the fumes.

STYRENE MONOMER AND carbon black is a product the company had used without incident the entire day before the accident, general manager



Hazardous materials team workers confer Tuesday night outside the Maclean Molded Products company at 410 Mercantile Court in Wheeling after 20 workers at the plant were overcome by fumes from a plastics material. (Staff photo by Kathy Tray)

Mike Fallaw said Wednesday.

"Evidently this particular package was packaged wrong," Wheeling fire department Capt. Ralph Perricone said. "It didn't operate as usual." He said employees began complaining of irritation about 15 minutes after the package was opened.

A sample of the styrene monomer was sent for testing by the Illinois State Police hazardous materials division and the Wheeling hazardous materials unit, Perricone said. The remainder of the material was sealed in two garbage bags and left at the scene, he said.

Firefighters wearing oxygen masks entered the building first and started

taking workers out of the building and treating the victims, Perricone said. "Everybody (the employees) was up (standing)," Perricone said. "They just were complaining of breathing, tearing."

ACCORDING TO PERRICONE, firefighters entering the building detected a slight haze caused by the vapor. No fumes were seen outside the building, he said.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency was notified of the incident, the first involving injuries resulting from a toxic leak or spill in Wheeling, Perricone said. He said the EPA was

concerned over the size of the vapor cloud.

A report will be filed by the department with the Illinois Emergency Services and Disaster Agency, he said.

"This is the first incident we've had (with) a hazardous material, a toxic material," Perricone said. "We've had small spills . . . but nothing where we've had to transport people."

AMBULANCES FROM MOUNT Prospect, Glenbrook, Northbrook and Wheeling transported the victims. Arlington Heights and Buffalo Grove also assisted Wheeling during the accident.

Chemical fumes sicken 20 workers in Wheeling

BY DAVE OLSEN
and SANDRA DYBAL
Daily Herald Staff Writers
10-19-88

Twenty employees of a Wheeling plastic company were treated for minor injuries Wednesday night after they inhaled vapor from a box containing a chemical used in the molding of plastics.

Firefighters were summoned to McClean Molded Plastics, 410 Mercantile Court in an industrial area near Wheeling Road at about 7:45 p.m., when the employees were affected by the vapor cloud from the box of styrene monomer and carbon black.

Wheeling Police Deputy Chief Michael Hermes said the chemical is used daily in the molding of plastics and it appears that only one package of the chemical was "unstable."

"They were working with the substance all day and they opened a new box and it gave off a vapor cloud," Hermes said.

Paramedics from fire departments including Vernon Hills, Buffalo Grove and Arlington Heights took a foreman and the 19 remaining night shift workers were taken to Condell Memorial Hospital in Libertyville, Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, and Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines.

Nursing supervisors said most of those brought to the hospitals suffered only minor injuries and were complaining of burning sensations in their eyes and breathing problems. Many were being treated with oxygen and released.

No one living in the seven to eight houses just west of the facility or working in nearby buildings were evacuated, although police instructed residents to close windows and to stay indoors.

Hermes said the vapor cloud was released from the factory and evaporated over the industrial area. Winds from the southwest blew the cloud away from houses nearby, he added.

The box, which was about the size of an apple crate, was taken by members of the Illinois State and Wheeling police hazardous materials unit to be examined, Hermes said.

Fence to be raised at Pal-Waukee

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Vandals and joy-riders who attempt to trespass on Pal-Waukee Airport soon will have a tougher time getting onto the property.

Construction of a partial security fence is scheduled to begin within a week, airport consulting engineer Dan Pape told the Pal-Waukee Airport Commission. "It should be complete within a month to a month and a half," he said.

Because there is currently no

fence around the airfield, joyriding drivers can take their cars right onto runways and taxiways, causing an obvious safety hazard to themselves and pilots. The areas where planes are tied down are also left unprotected, making theft a problem.

The fencing project, which will cost about \$94,475, will not completely close off the airport. This portion will be put in near the south end of the airport, particularly near the driveways to prevent cars from driving onto the field.

State and federal grants will pay

for the fencing. The most expensive part of the project is the electronic gates which will be installed near the driveways.

To further increase security, Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said he is going to seek proposals from security companies that would patrol the airport at night. This year's budget contains funding for such a service.

Barry Dainas, president of the Pal-Waukee Pilots Association, told the commission that one of the association's members had radios stolen

from his plane for the third time. Dainas urged the commission to move ahead with obtaining a security patrol for the airport until the fencing project is complete.

Dainas said that "when I've been at the airport at night I've never been approached, never questioned. It's an open-access airport, and we are very concerned."

Though the pilot had an alarm installed on the plane, he said, it did not deter the thief because no one was around to hear the alarm go off.

Chief: Promotion standards too strict

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger says the police department is having trouble finding eligible candidates to fill a sergeant's vacancy because promotion requirements are too strict.

Haeger says he has qualified officers, but the promotion requirements are too stringent to allow even well-qualified officers to make the grade. He is asking the Fire and Police Commission to lower the minimum passing score on promotion exams.

Officers currently have to pass each phase of the exam with a score of 75 percent or better. Haeger is recommending the passing grade be lowered to 70 percent, and that can-

didates not be eliminated at each round of testing, but judged on their cumulative average score.

In the last round of sergeants' testing, 14 officers started by taking the written exam. By the end of the testing process, which also includes an oral interview and "assessment center," which tests candidates' leadership abilities in specific situations, only one qualified candidate had survived.

Those results indicate the rules for promotion need to be changed, Haeger said, "to increase the candidate population." He said many officers were eliminated after scoring "in the 70 to 74 range" on the written test and were unable to move on to the next phase of testing.

"There are not a significant number of candidates passing the written

exam," Haeger said.

Promotion eligibility requirements are set by the Fire and Police Commission. Maurice Weittlauf, commission chairman, said he was open to possible changes but "I want to resist lowering our standards, because we don't want to fill a vacancy with just anything. I feel obligated to maintain high standards for our supervisors."

The fire department currently has the same promotion rules as the police department. Firefighters who aspire to the rank of lieutenant must pass each exam with a score of 75. Fire department officials say they would be opposed to having candidates judged on their average score.

"We're looking for minimum skill in all three areas," Fire Capt. Ralph Perricone said. "I could agree with

dropping the minimum passing grade to 70 percent, because that's the standard across the state. But for the fire department, we wish to retain the separate scores. We do not care for the composite scoring."

He stated he did not want a firefighter who had scored very high on the written exam but failed the assessment center phase to become a supervisor.

Police officer Rick Sheffler said the written exam is on material from books, which officers had to memorize. "It didn't have anything to do with being a good sergeant," he said. "It just tested how well you could memorize the books."

The commission will hold another meeting next month to vote on possible changes to the eligibility requirements.

County, township blamed in paving dispute

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Angry residents are accusing the Wheeling Township Highway Department of backing out of a promise to repave streets in their neighborhood, but township officials are blaming the Cook County Highway Department.

The township had been planning to repave streets in the Wolf Run subdivision, near Pal-Waukee Airport, though all or part of the neighborhood could be demolished within five years.

The village of Wheeling already has repaired the Wolf Run streets that lie within village limits, but the county is balking at funding the remainder because Wolf Run's

destiny is uncertain.

Pal-Waukee Airport officials have proposed moving Wolf Road away from the airport to create a "clear zone" at the end of a runway as federal standards dictate.

A tentative plan under consideration would bring Wolf Road through the neighborhood. However, the project could take several years to carry out.

"We were all set to go, and then the county said no," Township Highway Commissioner John Ayres said. "Until they know where Wolf Road and Hintz is going to go, they don't want to move ahead. My hands are tied."

The Cook County Highway Department must approve any township roadwork bid over \$5,000.

Ayres estimated the work in Wolf Run will cost about \$40,000.

Robert Holtz, President of the Wolf Run Estates Homeowners Association, said the situation "is unacceptable to us. We expect those streets to be paved. We had an agreement. You tell the boys downtown that they've kicked over a hornets nest, and we're ready to start stinging."

Ayres told the homeowners he would contact the county to try to reverse the decision.

"Otherwise, we're just going to be patching and doing shoulder work on streets that really should be completely redone," he said.

Daniel Szwaja, head of Cook County's township roads section, could not be reached for comment.

Traffic snarls return to Dundee Road

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Commuters who drive through Wheeling are again being urged to avoid Dundee Road, where construction has slowed morning traffic to a crawl.

The second phase of construction on Dundee Road began Wednesday, and police say backups on Dundee Road are now worse during the morning rush.

Lanes are closed on Dundee at Northgate Parkway. The project will ultimately make the intersection safer, engineers say, but, in the meantime, traffic is in knots.

"It was pretty horrible this morning," Police Chief Michael Haeger said. "To go from Schoen-

beck to the village hall (about a mile and a half) takes about 20 minutes. But we told people to expect delays."

When the project started two weeks ago, the east-bound lanes were both open, but one west-bound lane was closed. Now, at the halfway point of the construction, the situation is reversed.

"It's just that the delays are during the morning rush, as opposed to the evening rush," Haeger said.

However, because of traffic patterns with roads that intersect Dundee, traffic conditions are a bit worse than they have been the last two weeks.

Only one east-bound lane is open from just west of the Soo Line tracks to just west of the village

hall. This has caused traffic to back up not only on Dundee but also on McHenry and Wheeling roads. All three streets converge west of the construction zone.

The \$3.1 million project — financed by the village, state and federal governments — to realign Northgate Parkway and Boehmer Road has been under way since May.

The two side roads intersect Dundee Road at right angles about 265 feet apart. Crews have been working to bring the side streets together at a 62-degree angle to form one road, with a traffic light at Dundee.

Additional lanes may be closed periodically during mid-day construction.

Referendum to decide change in clerk's job

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

10-27-88

Wheeling officials are looking for voter support of a referendum that would change the village clerk's job from an elected office to an appointed position.

The change would make the now part-time position full-time. But officials say it would actually save the village money, because the clerk's duties could incorporate the job descriptions of the two deputy clerks currently on the payroll.

In August, the village board voted 5-1 in favor of putting the question on the Nov. 8 ballot. State law requires a change of government to be approved by a majority of the resi-

THE REFERENDUM

Wheeling Village Clerk

THE QUESTION:

Should the village clerk's position be changed from an elected office to an appointed position?

THE IMPACT:

Voters would no longer choose the clerk, but village would save about \$4,800, as clerk's duties would be assumed by existing staff.

dents.

Trustee Judy Abruscato, who singularly opposed the change, said she wanted to see a better job description and believed an elected clerk

could better represent the people.

Although trustees have not yet voted on the exact job description, this month's village newsletter asserts that "no additional position

would be created, because the job description of the village clerk would be modified to incorporate the duties currently performed by the licensing (deputy) clerk."

Village President Sheila Schultz said, "There was a consensus reached that a new position would not be created." The village budget provides for two deputy clerks, although one of those positions is currently vacant.

A new person might be hired to fill the vacancy, but this would not mean budgeting an extra salary, Schultz said.

The Wheeling Chapter of the American Association of Retired

See CLERK on Page 3

Continued from Page 1

Persons is urging a "no" vote, saying the position should remain an elected office, but noting that it should become a full-time job.

Syke Horcher, spokesman for the Wheeling AARP, said, "It would be a shame if we lose our right to elect our village clerk. Once you relinquish anything, you pay hell getting it back."

Village officials argue that an appointed clerk would be more efficient. The clerk is responsible for attending village board meetings and taking minutes. She also seals and attests all documents and acts as official custodian of those documents.

Current Village Clerk Janet D'Argo works part-time, about 15 hours per week, and is paid \$4,800 annually. Her four-year term will expire in April, and regardless of the outcome of the November referen-

dum, she has said she will not seek another term.

D'Argo is assisted by two deputy clerks. If voters approve the referendum, the job description for one of those deputies could be altered to include the duties currently handled by the clerk. This would, officials say, save the village money.

It also would allow the clerk to be available to process documents or answer questions from residents at the village hall five days a week.

The clerk is the only elected official who does not vote or introduce legislation. Regardless of how the clerk is put in office, he or she is primarily responsible for handling the village's official documents, such as ordinances, resolutions, bonds, contracts and licenses.

If the referendum is approved, D'Argo would serve the remainder of her term. In April, the village manager would appoint a new clerk.

Roadwork delay angers Wheeling residents

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

10-28-88

Street repairs in a Wheeling subdivision, originally scheduled for next week, have been delayed until spring due to a mix-up between township and county highway officials.

Township Highway Commissioner John Ayres told residents several months ago that Carol Avenue, Debra Lane and part of Cindy Lane in the Wolf Run Estates subdivision, which is mostly unincorporated land surrounded by the village of Wheeling, were going to be repaved this fall.

The repairs are part of a joint project between the village and township, with each government

taking care of the streets in its own jurisdiction.

Wheeling already has completed its portion.

But the work will not be done until spring because the Cook County Highway Department, which must approve any township road project costing more than \$5,000, has only recently approved the project.

Wolf Run Estates residents say waiting until spring "is no good."

"I'm going to let my temper cool down a little," said Robert Holtz, president of the Wolf Run Homeowners Association, "then we'll probably go right to (George) Dunne (Cook County Board president).

"It was really sloppy, telling us

we'd have new streets when they didn't have county approval," Holtz said. "It's unbelievable."

Ayres said he was surprised when county highway officials initially refused to OK the \$40,000 project. The county balked because part of the neighborhood could be demolished in a few years to make room for the relocation of Wolf Road.

The road must be moved to create a "clear zone" at the end of Pal-Waukee Airport's main runway, to comply with federal safety standards.

The most recent tentative plans, however, show the roads in the township's jurisdiction would not be affected by the relocation project.

Wheeling's blood drive continues

Herald 10-28-88

Wheeling health officials are in the midst of recruiting donors for a blood drive to be held next month and are expecting a good turnout.

The Wheeling Board of Health, which sponsors the tri-annual drives, recruited 10 new donors during an Oct. 11 phone-a-thon.

Village Sanitarian Daniel Adams said board members and other volunteers are currently in the midst of contacting previous donors, asking them to donate again. Adams said he expects to garner 80 to 100 appointments.

"It's much easier to convince

someone who has donated before to give blood again," Adams said. "They know it's a necessary and appropriate thing to do, even though not everyone is doing it. They know it is painless, and they know they cannot contract any disease by giving blood. It is absolutely 100 percent safe."

Fear of disease is one of the biggest obstacles the volunteers face in recruiting donors.

"There is still that fear," Adams said. "There just isn't any way for someone giving blood to contract a disease. The equipment used is only

used once, and it is totally sterile. The risk is not for donors, it's for people who have to receive blood transfusions."

Health officials expect the turnout at next month's drive to be higher than the last drive in July. Donations, and hence blood supplies, are usually lower in the summer. Only 87 units of blood were donated at the July drive.

"Traditionally, the numbers have been down in July, but they go back up in November," Adams said. He said he is hoping to collect between 80 and 100 units of blood.

The drive will be held from 2:30 to 8 p.m., Nov. 9 at the Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. Appointments are available but not required.

As usual, several local restaurants have donated gift certificates that will be given away as door prizes. Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza will give a coupon for a free slice of pizza to everyone who attends the drive.

Hackney's, Billy and Co. and Don Roth's have each donated a certificate good for dinner for two.

For information about the drive, or to make an appointment, phone 459-2620.

Missing Wheeling man's body found in pond

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

10-29-88
The body of a 32-year-old Wheeling man was pulled from a pond near his home Friday, an apparent drowning victim who fell into a pond during an epileptic seizure.

Jerome Ganoska, of 675 Lakeside Circle, accidentally drowned when he fell into the retention pond in the Lakeside Villas town house complex, police said.

Ganoska lived with his sister, Corinne, 38. He was last seen at about 1 p.m. Thursday at the Tahoe Pharmacy, where he had picked up a refill of a prescription for his epilepsy, police said.

Ganoska apparently had been raking leaves in the back yard Thursday afternoon, Police Deputy Chief Michael Hermes said, when he suffered a seizure.

"That's our theory," Hermes said. "When people have these seizures, they become disoriented. We think he was disoriented and fell into the pond." Police found an area in the back yard that had just been raked of leaves.

The small pond is only 50 feet from the back door of the town house.

When Corinne Ganoska came home from work, the back door was unlocked and her brother was missing.

"She reported him missing at 5:13 p.m. Thursday," Hermes said. "She knew he wouldn't have left without locking the door. We came out and did a neighborhood canvass and a ground search" but did not find the missing man.

Because it was getting dark, police put off searching the ponds until Friday morning. On the first dive, at 11:04 a.m. Friday, three Wheeling fire department divers found Ganoska's body, just 20 feet from shore.

The pond ranges in depth from 8 to 15 feet, Hermes said. Ganoska's body was found in water about 6 feet deep.

"His sister told us he had never had problems like this before during seizures," Hermes said. He said there were no marks or wounds on the victim's body and no signs of foul play.

Ganoska's body was taken to Holy Family Hospital, then transported to the Cook County Medical Examiner's office in Chicago. An autopsy is scheduled for today.

Ganoska was unemployed and had lived with his sister in the complex for about four years, neighbors said.

Atheist charges pledge violates free speech

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

10-29-88
Atheist Robert I. Sherman filed suit in federal court Friday against Wheeling Township Elementary District 21, charging that having students recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag is unconstitutional.

Sherman, director of the Illinois Chapter of the American Atheists, is a resident of Buffalo Grove. His 6-year-old son Ricky attends a District 21 school.

The suit, filed by both the elder and younger Sherman and the American Atheists, charges that the phrase "one nation under God" in the pledge violates freedom of speech.

"Any law requiring compulsory speech is a violation of freedom of speech," Sherman said.

School board member Joy Fisher says state law requires that the pledge be recited each day in public schools, and the district supports that law. Students do not have to participate, but must not be disruptive while the other students are saying the pledge.

"We believe it has definite educational value," Fisher said.

Sherman's lawsuit asks the court to declare the state law unconstitutional. The suit also seeks compensation for attorney's fees, damages for "mental distress and humiliation" and punitive damages for "abusively using government powers." The suit does not

specify an amount.

"The pledge contains the offensive, sectarian, religious editorial 'under God.' Therefore, it is not really a pledge at all," Sherman said. "It is really a 'prayer' of allegiance. In 1963, the United States Supreme Court banned compulsory school prayer."

Sherman says his son is an atheist, and the daily pledge-saying challenges the child's belief that "God is make-believe," Sherman said. "I want to decriminalize juvenile atheism," he said.

Ricky Sherman recites most of the pledge with his first grade class, but remains silent with his arm down at his side for the "under God" part.

Fright abounding as witching hour nears

10-30-88
"Tis now the very witching time of night, when churchyards yawn..." wrote Shakespeare.

Wheeling has some churchyards of its own. Will they be "yawning" this Halloween?

The Wheeling Historical Society says a ghost is reportedly seen every so often at a cemetery on Dundee Road, just east of Wolf Road. She appears in a long white dress, carrying a parasol, and is said to be visiting the grave of her husband — who murdered her.

(You might want to be sure your car doors are locked as you drive along that stretch of road this weekend.)

Of course, who really believes in ghosts?

Maybe the Wheeling woman who claims to have carried on a lengthy conversation with her former Girl Scout leader one evening. She found out later the troop leader had been dead for several years.

(ooooOOOOH! Twilight Zone music fades in and out here.)

Anybody live in Chelsea Cove? Or hang out at the Amvets hall on McHenry Road? Chelsea Cove used to be the site of an Indian Village — or was it a burial ground? On foggy nights passers-by have claimed to see America Indians and tepees along McHenry Road.

Well, every silly story has some perfectly good explanation.

The story about the Wheeling Hartmann House has an explanation: the building's haunted.

The historical society says the story originated in a movie about the prohibition era. A gangster imprisoned Robin, a young innocent girl, in the upstairs room of

Lisa Schab
Wheeling



an old Wheeling building. One day she became despondent, cut her wrists and died, but not before she wrote her name in her own blood on the wall. The story has never been verified.

A speakeasy not far from the Old Hartmann House burned down; some say that this is where Robin had been imprisoned. On the anniversary of the tragedy, a woman moves through the site, wailing and crying.

"Some Wheelingites allege that Robin's spirit haunts the Hartmann House," Historical Society officials say. "She walks through the building, sobbing and crying. Door knobs turn by themselves. Someone touches you on the shoulder and no one is there. Some say that lights have appeared in an upstairs window when the property was vacant. And the name reappears even after the wall has been painted."

It seems none of us have to go see one of the new "Halloween" or "Return of Freddy" movies this weekend. Just sit home and conjure up your own stories about the goings on here in our own, quiet, seemingly normal, little village.

You never know who you might run into as you stroll down Dundee Road... perhaps an old friend that you haven't seen in years — or perhaps an American Indian — or maybe a girl named Robin.

Happy Hallo-Wheeling.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Pal-Waukee ad-hoc panel set to meet

10-30-88
Pal-Waukee Airport officials have been debating for several months over a proposed set of rules and regulations for operations at the airport.

In an effort to get the rules off the ground, the commission has formed an ad-hoc committee to review them. The committee will meet at 3 p.m. Monday in Hangar 1 at the airport.

Pilots who fly at Pal-Waukee have spoken out against some of the rules that they claim would restrict pilots and trade at the airport more than is necessary.

Commissioners say they are just trying to make the airport safe, while keeping it competitive with other airports.

One rule that pilots have taken issue with governs flight instruction standards at the airport. The Federal Aviation Authority sets standards

The top meeting

Who: Pal-Waukee Airport Rules and Regulations Committee

Where: Pal-Waukee Airport Hangar 1, 1120 S. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling

When: 3 p.m. Monday

for two types of flight instruction. One type — know as FAA Part 141 — is highly regulated and requires a written curriculum, classrooms, ground school and direct supervision of all students. The other instruction — called Part 61 — is much less restrictive.

The proposed rules require the more restrictive flight school. However, most of the flight instruction given at Pal-Waukee is done under the less restrictive standards.

The committee, which is made up of commissioners James Nickels and Thomas Nolan, will also look at proposed weight restrictions, airport insurance and rules governing financial reports from companies engaging in commercial activity.

Suburbs recycle willingly

10-30-88
BY ELLEN SCHMID BLIX
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Sifting garbage for cans, bottles and newspaper may no longer hold the altruistic value it did in the days of peace signs and Earth Day marches.

Perhaps saving a tree is still a lofty goal of people who recycle their trash. But to many, there's a very practical concern: It might prevent a landfill from popping up near their suburban back yards.

In fact, peer pressure to recycle can only intensify as towns implement highly visible curbside programs that are backed up by a new state law demanding a reduction in the amount of garbage dumped in landfills.

Recycling the standard materials — glass, tin, aluminum and newsprint — can take as much as 14 percent of the garbage out of the landfills, officials say. Add to that the collection and composting of grass clippings, leaves and other suburban yard wastes, and the total amount dumped in landfills can be cut by one-fourth, officials project.

Locally, Barrington officials have found that nearly half of the village's garbage has been recycled since June when they launched perhaps the most aggressive curbside collection program underway in the Northwest suburbs.

Participation in local curbside programs so far has been stellar, officials report. It's easy to see on the streets in Arlington Heights' pilot areas on recycling day. Neon green plastic bins sit in front of nearly three-fourths of the houses aside the traditional filled trash bags.

The plastic bins — bright red in Buffalo Grove, yellow and green in Barrington, blue in Mount Prospect and lime green in Elk Grove Village — are new fixtures on the suburban landscape.

In most cases, the residents put



A Waste Management Inc. recycling truck makes the rounds in Arlington Heights.

Daily Herald Photo/Bob Chwedyk

Could recycling ease trash woes?

BY STEVE GORECKI
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Vanishing space at suburban landfills is being credited for spawning the evolution of recycling from an idealism of the 1970s to a realistic solution to some of the area's future waste disposal needs.

Landfills have been the most common method of disposing of garbage for nearly half a century, but diminishing capacities now are forcing communities to rethink how they should get rid of their waste, said William F. Abolt, executive director of the Northwest Municipal Conference's Solid Waste Management Planning Agency.

Remaining capacities at the seven landfill sites serving most of the North and Northwest suburbs are expected to be used up by the mid-1990s.

These shrinking capacities have driven up the cost of using landfill space and have made recycling not only an environmentally sound option, but one that is fast becoming economically sensible, too, Abolt said.

But that has not always been the case.

Landfills became the predomi-



A load of garbage is wheeled into Lake County's ARF landfill.

Daily Herald Photo/Bob Chwedyk

nant method of waste disposal in the Chicago area before World War II, Abolt said. At the time, they were seen as more acceptable than the then-common method of getting rid of garbage in open dumps.

"Prior to landfills you had open dumps and burning of garbage," Abolt said. "Then came the idea of sanitary landfills

where you covered over the garbage at the end of the day. It was seen as a way of reducing the smell and other problems. It was actually seen as an environmental 'new wave' and the most palatable option at the time."

But as environmental technology became more advanced, more

See RECYCLE on Page 5

See WASTE on Page 5

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See WASTE on Page 5

RECYCLE: Suburbs getting used to idea

Continued from Page 1

all their recyclables into a single container, which is sorted by the pick-up truck driver. The other option is a stacking bin system that requires the resident to sort.

Only a year ago, suburbanites who recycled had to load materials into their cars and carry them to a drop-off center. Now many local governments, anxious about being the next targets for new garbage dumps, are developing programs to bring the mountain to Muhammed.

"For recycling to be a success," said Lee Addleman, a spokesman for Waste Management Inc., "it has to be made as easy as possible. If I could develop a program to come into your kitchen and prepare the materials, the program would work."

Waste Management holds contracts to operate curbside recycling programs in Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove and Elk Grove Village. Addleman — who describes himself as "a '60s kid who believes in this wholeheartedly" — spends as many as 80 hours a week touring and making his company's pitch to towns exploring the curbside option.

Virtually every Northwest suburb is at least talking about recycling. Officials are being spurred into action by a new section of the state's solid waste act that requires 20-year plans for dealing with garbage, including a mandate to divert by 1996 one-fourth of the garbage that would normally be dumped in landfills.

"Think if there had been 20-year plans proposed in 1968 where we would be today," said Virginia R. Scott, executive director of the Illinois Environmental Council, which lobbied for the new legislation.

Without a doubt, recycling is the local issue of 1988.

The approach varies from town to town. Arlington Heights tabbed six neighborhoods containing 2,200 houses for a pilot program launched in September. Buffalo Grove put everyone in town on the system in August. In Elk Grove Village, curbside recycling begins Nov. 14 villagewide. Mount Prospect starts Dec. 2 with a sample of about 1,000 houses.

Arlington Heights and Elk Grove Village recycling covers plastic milk jugs, which can be ground up and used to make heavy duty plastic wood-like planks.

Barrington, which contracts with Laidlaw Waste Systems, collects and composts leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste in addition to the traditional cans, bottles and newspapers.

In Lake County, municipalities are waiting for a county solid waste agency to tell them what to do. The group is expected to recommend in January a combination of curbside programs and drop-off centers, plus the creation of an implementation agency to enforce the effort, said Bill Barron, assistant Lake County administrator.

"If the communities don't want anything to do with it," Barron said, "the agency could go into the community and do it for them or provide the technical assistance they need to start up."

In the meantime, several Lake County towns operate collection centers. Mundelein opened its first formal recycling collection center in June. Libertyville has had a drop-off site operating for two years and Lake Zurich is urging a statewide bottle deposit law to encourage recycling, but the town has no program of its own.

Statistics from Waste Management show that 49 percent of Buffalo Grove households set out recycling bins each week. In Arlington Heights, so far, drivers have counted 72 percent of the driveways sporting the bins each week. Monthly participation in Barrington is tallied at 96 percent.

Richard Mudd, manager of Mundelein Disposal, said about 20 percent of Mundelein residents take recyclables to the village's drop-off center.

Addleman said more than 311,000 pounds of recyclable materials were not dumped in landfills in one month from Buffalo Grove. About 101,000

truck was a member of the Arlington Heights Fourth of July parade. Demonstrations are being planned at shopping centers in Elk Grove Village, where start-up is just two weeks away.

But children are prime targets. "Kids put the pressure on at home for sure," Addleman said, explaining why his company is planning to blanket fourth, fifth and sixth grade classrooms.

Education and pressure is important today because recycling does not pay yet. Addleman said it currently costs between \$30 and \$35 to dispose of a ton of garbage. Paper recyclers pay about that much to buy a ton of collected newspaper. Profit on selling recyclables isn't realized until the processing costs — collection, bundling, transportation — are paid, which Addleman estimates are as much as 60 percent of the selling price.

Therefore, municipalities that have implemented traditional curbside programs are charging between \$1 and \$1.50 per household for the service. Barrington's residential garbage bills increased nearly \$4 per month, which also includes an increase in the trash hauler's regular contract.

Communities with pilot programs — Arlington Heights and Mount Prospect — are paying the recycling fee, probably until the entire village is on the system.

Buffalo Grove and Elk Grove Village are passing the cost on to residents, which has generated several complaints from people who claim they lose twice: first by the extra charge and secondly by no longer being able to turn in their own recyclables for cash.

WASTE: Is recycling a solution?

Continued from Page 1

and more of the unintended impacts of landfilling became apparent, Abolt said.

And many were not positive.

Environmentalists and those living near landfill sites are quick to point out that poorly maintained facilities can lead to contaminated water supplies and lower property values and can discourage businesses and prospective residents by giving a town a reputation for being the community with a dump, Abolt said.

That's why opposition mounts when attempts are made to open new landfills or expand those approaching capacity, Abolt said.

"Obviously when sanitary landfills came into common use, people were thinking about eliminating odor and having better aesthetics. Nobody was thinking about protecting groundwater," Abolt said. "There was not a lot of focus on these things until problems started to occur about 25 years later. People didn't realize you can't put stuff in the ground without thinking about it."

Many of these concerns have surfaced repeatedly in the past three years with the municipal conference's plan to build a \$35 million, 410-acre balefill, so named because garbage is baled before it is buried.

Most outspoken against the proposal have been residents of Bartlett, who would live closest to the facility, planned near West Bartlett Road and Route 25. The balefill was proposed in December 1985 after a yearlong site search precipitated by Cook County turning down an earlier bid for a 200-acre landfill on forest preserve land near Hoffman Estates.

The balefill triggered a pair of lawsuits against the plans, including one by surrounding communities and one by Bartlett activist John A.

Here's status of area recycling plan

Here is a town-by-town listing of recycling programs, drop-off centers or status of discussions of such programs.

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS: Started pilot curbside recycling with 2,200 homes in September, drop-offs will be opened next month outside fire stations at 3030 N. Arlington Heights Road and 2000 S. Arlington Heights Road.

BARRINGTON: Curbside began in June, includes composting; drop-off on Liberty Street west of Hough Street.

BARTLETT: Close to finalizing contract for curbside.

BUFFALO GROVE: Curbside started villagewide on Aug. 15.

DES PLAINES: Curbside recycling under discussion; drop-off center is at 1274 Rand Road.

ELK GROVE VILLAGE: Curbside starts villagewide on Nov. 14.

HANOVER PARK: Considering opening a drop-off site and starting a curbside pickup program.

HOFFMAN ESTATES: Exploring curbside recycling options; drop-off at village hall, 1200 N. Gannon Drive.

INVERNESS: No program.

ISLAND LAKE: No program.

LAKE ZURICH: Urging statewide bottle deposit law; no program.

LIBERTYVILLE: Drop-off at water treatment center, Milwaukee Avenue and Artaus Parkway.

LONG GROVE: Drop-off behind village hall on Old McHenry Road.

MOUNT PROSPECT: Pilot curbside starts Dec. 2 for 1,000 houses; drop-off center at 1921 S. Busse Road.

MUNDELEIN: Drop-off at Eagle Food Store, North Seymour Avenue and West Crystal Street.

PALATINE: Curbside program under discussion; drop-off on Smith Street south of Northwest Highway.

PROSPECT HEIGHTS: Considered, but no serious

ROLLING MEADOWS: D public works garage, 320

Road.

SCHAUMBURG: Drop-off fire station at 1435 W. St

714 S. Plum Grove Road

ing joint curbside prog

Streamwood, projected

early spring.

SOUTH BARRINGTON: proved contract for cur

gram, but no start-up dat

STREAMWOOD: Consid

curbside program with S

VERNON HILLS: Drop-

rie View and Route 22.

WAUCONDA: Drop-off a

Church of Wauconda, 20

ton Road.

WHEELING: Interview

nies to operate curbside

Stark. He is president of Citizens Against the Balefill, a vocal citizens group of about 600 residents from Bartlett, Hanover Park, Streamwood, Elgin and South Elgin.

The three-year-old plans still need to be approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

In DuPage County, the furor involves what's going to happen when two landfills close in 1993.

Abolt blames landfills' bad reputation on prior "lax education" on proper landfill maintenance. "Smoking incinerators and open dumps are more present in people's minds than pictures of well-operated facilities," he said.

It was for many of these reasons

— along with concerns about noise and litter from landfill sites — that the idea of recycling garbage developed during the environmentally aware 1960s and 1970s, Abolt said.

But at its inception, recycling was an altruistic idea, Abolt said.

It simply cost too much compared with the relatively cheap disposal of waste in landfills.

Now, however, several things are causing the cost of landfilling to approach that of recycling, Abolt said.

Among the factors driving up the cost of landfill use, Abolt said, are difficulty in finding new landfill sites, transportation costs to more distant sites, higher land costs and higher costs incurred because of fed-

eral and local anti-pollu-

tions.

The number of landfil-

cago area is expected to

a high of 87 in 1960 to

by 1990, waste experts

"All of these things r-

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In Barrington, officials savor news that 41 percent of the village's garbage could be accounted for in recycled materials.

"Participation is high," said Peter Matsukis, Barrington recycling coordinator, crediting "a good PR program and good peer pressure" for the community's outstanding success.

"We'll have to wait a year to see if it stays there," he said. "People here are conscious of what's going on."

To compare the difference between a curbside and drop-off program, consider that Barrington collects 60 tons of newspapers from its 2,950 residences. Less than half that, about 28 tons, is taken to the Mundelein collection center by its approximately 5,000 households. A garbage truck holds about seven tons of newspaper.

Critical to the success of any recycling program, officials say, is education. People need to understand the reasons for returning glass, cans and paper. Advance publicity and direct mailings help. The recycling

Prospect — are paying the recycling fee, probably until the entire village is on the system.

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Countryville 10-27-88
District 21 pledges to fight if lawsuit is filed

by Denis Anderson
Staff Writer

Despite the threat of litigation, Community Consolidated District 21 school board members say they will not yield to Robert I. Sherman's request to stop requiring his son to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sherman, a Buffalo Grove resident, said at school board meeting last Thursday that he is going to file a lawsuit this week against District 21 in U.S. District Court in Chicago asking the court to declare the state school code governing the pledge unconstitutional.

Sherman, whose son, Ricky, attends first grade in the district, said co-defendants in the suit will include District 21 Supt. Lloyd "Bud" DesCarpentrie and the principal of his son's school.

District 21 school board members say they will fight the lawsuit.

"NO CHILD is forced in District 21 to recite the pledge," said school board member Joy Fisher, who is also an attorney. "That statute itself doesn't force anyone to recite the pledge," she said.

"Secondly, we are required by law, to have the pledge recited each school day. And further, we feel, it has a definite place in our curriculum. It is the first community act of the school day. It also reminds them that they are part of a larger community, they are part of the United States community and that even though they are children they have certain rights and avenues of participation in our country. I don't think these are religious purposes, I think they are educational purposes and are entirely appropriate," Fisher said.

In 1980, the state legislature amended the Illinois School Code requiring that the Pledge of Allegiance be recited each day by public elementary school students.

"This law is clearly unconstitutional and therefore null, void and not applicable to this district," Sherman said. "The First Amendment of the United States Constitution states that government shall make no law . . . abridging

the freedom of speech.' Laws which provide for compulsory speech are in obvious contravention of the First Amendment."

SHERMAN ALSO CITES a case in 1943 where the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a similar West Virginia state Pledge of Allegiance law was unconstitutional. Sherman quoted a supreme court justice as saying, "An act compelling profession of allegiance to a religion, no matter how subtly or tenuously promoted, is bad."

Fisher said she doesn't know how Sherman's argument against the Illinois mandate will hold up in court.

"This particular Illinois law, which requires us to recite the pledge each day, has never been ruled on by the state supreme court," she said. "We are not a court and we can't preside over the constitutionality or unconstitutionality of a law as it's written unless we have guidance otherwise."

Asked her opinion of Sherman's chances of being successful, Fisher said, "It's hard to say. It's difficult to comment on his chances when you haven't seen the suit. But I think there might be enough ambiguity to govern the law constitutional. District 21, as a board, intends to comply with state statutes."

FISHER SAID SHE doesn't know how much it would cost the district to defend itself against the lawsuit. "It's not going to be cheap," she said. "But we will defend ourselves against the suit."

DesCarpentrie said Sherman's son doesn't have to recite the pledge, but Sherman says he still wants action.

"While we have attempted to work out some type of an acceptable compromise, it is not acceptable because my son still is subject to being told by the other students and by the school staff that there is a God," Sherman said. "I want my son mainstreamed. I don't want him singled out. I don't want him separated from the classroom while they do this."

"But I certainly don't want my son to either say or be told that there is a God."



Atheist Rob Sherman tells Community Consolidated District 21 Board of Education members last week he will sue the district if administrators don't stop requiring students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance each morning. (Staff photo by Kathy Tray)

We will ask a neutral third party among friends, namely a federal judge, to determine whether in fact (the law) is unconstitutional."

SHERMAN SAID HE was not surprised by the school board's reaction to the impending lawsuit.

"I think the superintendent and the principal of my son's school have treated us fairly, but this is something that has put a burden on my family," he said. "I want it stopped and I want it stopped immediately. I don't want my son to be subjected to that one more day."



Countryville 10-27-88
Going, going, gone?

Workers using heavy machinery demolish a building on the northwest corner of Dundee and Wolf roads in Wheeling Saturday afternoon. Owners of the property are putting the finishing touches on a shopping mall plan for the corner. Construction of the new buildings is expected to begin this year. A site plan for the shopping center has already been approved by the village board. Engineering and building plans still must be reviewed by the board, however, before construction can begin. (Staff photo by Bill Powers)

Countryville 10-27-88
Villages set trick-or-treat hours

Trick or treaters in Buffalo Grove and Wheeling will get the chance to double their haul this year as the two villages observe Halloween on different evenings. Wheeling youngsters are being urged by village officials to sport their costumes and collect their treats on Sunday, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Their Buffalo Grove counterparts are expected to make the candy and apple rounds Monday, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Gas leak incident prompts procedure review

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Just after 7:30 p.m. Oct. 18, the call from Maclean Molded Plastics came in: there was a gas cloud in the Wheeling building causing problems for almost all of the 23 employees working the afternoon shift at the plant.

Almost immediately the Wheeling fire department sent crews to the scene and began coordinating where ambulances would take the victims. After initial treatment of the victims and transporting them to three area hospitals, most of the department's work was done.

The product that caused the injuries, a box of previously safe

styrene monomer and carbon black, was sealed and samples were taken for further study.

None of the victims were kept overnight for observation. The company, which used the styrene monomer to produce axel covers, was open the following day.

ALTHOUGH THE INJURIES caused by the vapor cloud were minor, the event was one of the first in the village involving a toxic or hazardous material that led to multiple injuries.

Officials say the fire and police departments' reaction to the incident points out the need for more training, but also that village

emergency services can handle serious accidents.

And situated near several industrial corridors, there is a greater potential for future hazardous material incidents, fire department Capt. Ralph Perricone said.

"We're not totally prepared," Perricone said. "We're about as prepared as we can be, but we need more training."

SINCE STATE FIRE marshals set criteria on hazardous materials training, Wheeling has sent six of its firefighters to school. Perricone said the department will continue to send six firefighters to each class until the entire department

has had basic training in working with hazardous materials.

"It's not really a deficiency. One of the problems we have is we're a small department," Perricone said. "We don't have the time to devote to train for hazardous materials. We're starting to do this."

Additional firefighters will take more advanced courses, Perricone said, at the Mount Prospect fire department's training school. Before the Mount Prospect classes were offered, Perricone said department personnel had been sent to hazardous materials seminars.

(Continued on page 22)

Thursday, October 27, 1988

Wheeling Countryside

Ruling expected soon on village's downtown redevelopment plans

A Cook County Circuit Court judge is expected to decide soon whether it is legal for Wheeling to continue to acquire property for the establishment of a \$9 million downtown development project at Dundee and Milwaukee roads.

Circuit Court Judge Alexander P. White has informed the village that his decision on the legality of the village tax increment finance district is now being typed.

According to Village Attorney James Rhodes, White will decide whether the village met the criteria for establishing a TIF district. Several property owners facing condemnation have rejected purchase offers and have challenged the village over the TIF district.

The Crossroads development, planned for the northwest corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue, calls for building a 121,000-square foot shopping mall. The Dallas-based Vantage Companies developing the project.

THE CROSSROADS PROJECT is only one of several redevelopments planned for the TIF district, which straddles Milwaukee Avenue from Lake-Cook Road to just south of Dundee Road.

Under the TIF, a portion of property and sales tax revenues generated from property in the redevelopment area

will be used for land acquisition and public improvements.

To establish a TIF district, the village had to meet several requirements. White's ruling will decide if those criteria were met, Rhodes said.

The project was stalled after owners of several of the targeted parcels rejected village offers to buy their land. The village then went to court, seeking to acquire the properties through condemnation. Rhodes said the village filed lawsuits against those property owners charging eminent domain laws allowed the village to force condemnation.

LED BY THE franchisee of the Dunkin' Donuts located on Dundee Road, some of the defendants in the lawsuit filed motions challenging at first the constitutionality of the state TIF law and later the village's TIF.

Rhodes said a judge has already ruled the TIF law is constitutional. White must now decide if he agrees with a village consultant who says the TIF area meets state guidelines.

"There was no doubt that we met the criteria," Rhodes said. A clerk for White said Wednesday the decision is being processed for review.

If the judge upholds the TIF district, Rhodes said condemnation proceedings put on hold by the case will continue.

Wheeling's Lollipop Lane being readied for Christmas

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Historical Society is making a list and checking it twice, to be sure everything is ready for Santa's arrival at Chamber Park.

Every year, Santa and Mrs. Claus visit residents of Addolorata Villa Home for the Aged, then take a sleigh ride to Chamber Park, where children can visit them in "Lollipop Lane."

This year, Lollipop Lane will be open Dec. 10-18. The Historical Society is planning to decorate the park and the main Christmas tree there in a turn-of-the-century style.

Renovations of the society's carriage house, which began last month, are expected to be completed by Dec. 1, so that visitors cannot only visit Santa, but also view the display of antique carriages.

The historical museum, also located at the park, also will be open.

Lonnie Schnaitmann, Historical

Society president, said she expects about 1,000 children to visit Santa Claus during his stay in Wheeling. This will be his 16th year at Lollipop Lane.

"We'll have the 1900 Christmas tree, the carriages, hot apple cider," Schnaitmann said. "We've already started collecting decorations for the tree."

Lollipop Lane will be open weekdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., and weekends from 2 to 5 p.m. Parents may bring cameras to photograph their child with Santa. For information, contact Lonnie Schnaitmann at 537-9057.

State upholds liquor license revocation

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Illinois Liquor Control Commission is upholding a decision by Wheeling authorities to revoke a liquor store's license.

The owners of J.C. Liquors, 1061 Lake-Cook Road, lost their license after being convicted of selling liquor to minors for the fourth time in less than a year.

After Wheeling's Liquor Control Commission revoked the license last month, the owners appealed to the state in an effort to get the permanent revocation reduced to a suspension.

Village Prosecutor Steven Handler said village officials were notified Tuesday that the state had

"upheld the decision in full" after reviewing the evidence.

At the local hearing, store owners were found guilty of selling beer to an 18-year-old and a 19-year-old in two separate incidents. In April, store owners were fined \$1,000 and closed for 10 days for two similar incidents.

The job of the state liquor commission is not to determine guilt or innocence, but to determine whether there was sufficient evidence to revoke the license.

According to the state commission's order, J.C. Liquors can request a rehearing before them, which the state can either accept or deny. J.C.'s also has the option to ask the circuit court to review

the decision.

When he first filed his appeal, J.C.'s attorney Alfred D. Stavros said he would go on to the circuit court and ask for an injunction that would allow the store to remain open while its fate is being decided. He could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

"The village would vigorously contest any attempt to open that store," which was closed Sept. 30, Handler said. A successful appeal would be difficult for the liquor store, he said, "because you have a state body affirming the local decision."

J.C. Liquors has 20 days in which to file an appeal of the state commission's decision.

Prospect Heights mayor appointed to airport board

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Prospect Heights Mayor John E. Gilligan has been appointed to the Illinois Public Airports Association's board of directors.

Gilligan's presence on the nine-member board should give Pal-Waukee Airport a greater voice in issues pertaining to aviation, he said. The airport, located along Milwaukee Avenue, is jointly owned and operated by Prospect Heights and Wheeling.

"I think adding Pal-Waukee to the list of public airports (represented on the board) is a pretty significant accomplishment," Gilligan said.

Gilligan volunteered to fill a vacancy on the board earlier this year and was selected by the Pal-



John E. Gilligan

Waukee Municipal Airport Commission this fall. His term will last until April 1991.

At 99, 'Miss Mae' still loves life

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

11-2-88
Wheeling's oldest resident loves singing, children and her alma mater, Loyola University.

Mary Cavanagh, who will turn 100 in May, lives at Addolorata Villa Home for the Aged in Wheeling. She was born in Canada but grew up in Chicago and spent most of her life teaching high school math in the city.

Around the turn of the century, it was unusual for women to go to college. But Cavanagh, known now to most as "Miss Mae," was an unusual woman. After graduating from Loyola University, she went on to earn a master's degree in education from the University of Chicago.

According to her nurses, she's not only smart, she's sweet.

"She's an angel if God ever made one," nurse Kay Phillips said. She crouches beside Cavanagh's chair, her arms around the old woman, and

speaks directly into her ear.

"Miss Mae, the children are here," she says, as a way to grab Cavanagh's attention. Cavanagh's bright blue eyes fly open. "Oh, yes," she says.

Cavanagh was honored by the First National Bank of Wheeling as "Wheeling's Eldest Statesman," on Tuesday. Bank President William Bogenski gave "Miss Mae" a check for \$100 as a prize.

Miss Mae was more interested in singing the "ABC's" or hearing about Loyola.

"She was very active until about two years ago," Phillips said. "She is a good lady. She's so kind, she would go around and visit other people here. She's a class act." Cavanagh has lived at Addolorata since 1972.

The bank offered the \$100 prize to the village's oldest resident as part of a promotion for its "Happy Birthday C.D.," which offers higher rates for older depositors, Bogenski said.



Mary Cavanagh, 99, was honored as Wheeling's oldest resident.
Daily Herald Photo/Bob Turne

SUBURBAN REPORT

Rules for flying instruction considered

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

11-2-88
Flight instructors at Pal-Waukee Airport will have to register with the airport manager and remain on the airport grounds while primary students fly alone, if authorities follow the recommendation of an airport committee.

The Pal-Waukee Airport Commission, which governs the airport, has been struggling for more than two months with a set of proposed rules. An ad-hoc rules committee met Monday afternoon in an attempt to break the deadlock.

Members of the Pal-Waukee Airport Pilots Association (PAPA) have opposed some of the more

stringent rules, including the one governing flight schools.

The Federal Aviation Administration sets standards for two types of flight instruction. One type — known as FAA Part 141 — is highly regulated and requires a written curriculum, classrooms, ground school and direct supervision of all students. The other type of instruction — called Part 61 — is much less restrictive.

The original rules recommended the more restrictive Part 141 regulations, but the committee will instead recommend its own rules.

"Part 141 doesn't affect the quality of instruction," Commissioner Thomas Nolan said. "It just creates more paperwork. We've got a lot of good instructors on the

airport, and requiring 141 would drive them underground."

Commissioner James Nickel suggested the airport adopt rules similar to those at DuPage Airport, which requires registration and pilot supervision of primary, or beginner, pilots. "The big objection from the pilot community is over supervision for advanced training," he said.

The committee will meet again to go over possible insurance requirements for instructors, and to discuss other proposed rules and regulations, on Nov. 10. Their recommendation must be accepted by the Pal-Waukee Commission, made up of members from both Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which jointly own the airport.

OPINION—

Vote yes

To the Editor:

11-3-88
On Nov. 8, the residents of Wheeling will have the opportunity to decide if the Village Clerk should be appointed, rather than elected. As residents of Wheeling for over thirty years, we have seen the village grow and change. While a part time clerk could fill the need in earlier days, it's obvious that we would be better served in the future by having someone in that position all day, every day, during regular working hours.

Since the clerk doesn't vote or take part in the decisions made by the other elected officials now, the residents would not be giving up their right to choose a policy maker. The person appointed would be chosen on the basis of his or her qualifications for the ever increasing clerk's duties, not on his or

her ability to win votes.

Just as with other key village personnel, the clerk would be responsible to the village manager, who in turn, is responsible to the elected officials. He or she would continue to represent the Village publicly within and outside Wheeling.

The present and immediate past elected village clerks, who best understand the demands of the job, endorse the change to an appointed position. The actual number of positions on the village staff would remain the same, and with reassignment of duties, would add no expense.

A chance to improve the effectiveness of the village, without increasing costs, deserves a YES vote on Nov. 8.

Evelyn Meindl
Henry Meindl

Liquor store fighting ruling pulling license

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

11-4-88
A Wheeling liquor store shut down for selling to minors is fighting hard to reopen.

Alfred D. Stavros, attorney for J.C. Liquors, says his client will appeal a decision handed down by the Wheeling Liquor Control Commission and upheld last week at the state level to revoke the store's liquor license.

"We'll file for a re-hearing, which is really just a procedural step," Stavros said. The state liquor commission can accept or deny this request, and Stavros said he doesn't expect a positive response.

Once that request is denied, Stavros said he will file for a circuit court administrative review.

"The issue is abuse of discretion on the part of the Wheeling Liquor Commission," he said. "We asked for a suspension, they handed down a revocation. The judge will decide if it was abuse of discretion on their part to impose such a harsh penalty."

Village Prosecutor Steven Handler said he doubts that the circuit court will rule in favor of the liquor store, which was closed for selling liquor to minors four times in less than one year. "You have a state body affirming the decision," he said. "And the punishment wasn't for one incident, it was the cumulative effect of four violations."

Stavros said he will seek an injunction to open the store while the case is being decided. Handler said the village would "vigorously oppose" such a request.

Referenda issues take center stage in election

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Besides casting a vote for who should lead the United States into the next decade, Wheeling voters will face a series of more local questions next Tuesday.

Voters will decide whether to raise their own taxes in order to keep programs intact at local elementary schools and whether their local government should be changed.

On the Nov. 8 ballot will be a proposal for a 70-cents per \$100 assessed valuation tax increase for Consolidated Community District 21 that administrators say will maintain funding levels for existing programs and allow the district to avert a financial crunch that could lead to drastic layoffs and budget cuts.

While voters study that question, they will also be asked if the position of the village clerk, now a part-time, elected position should be changed to a full-time post appointed by the village

manager.

VILLAGE TRUSTEES AND administrators say the move will make the clerk's office more efficient while opponents say having the clerk appointed will put too much control in the hands of the village administration.

With no other local issues confronting Wheeling voters, they will then concentrate on Cook County issues and races.

Cook County races

Topping the list of Cook County races is the battle Republican Terry Gainer is waging against incumbent Democratic State's Attorney Richard M. Daley. The winner of the four-year term will be in charge of 650 assistant state's attorneys that handle 19,000 felony cases annually.

Gainer has charged the incumbent, son of the famous former mayor of Chicago, with doing a mediocre job

during his two terms in the office. Without rebutting Gainer's claims, Daley has marked out his own campaign, saying his conviction rate, derided by Gainer, is better than his predecessors' had accomplished.

VYING FOR THE once-obscure Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County are Chicagoans Aurelia Pucinski, a Democrat, and Edward R. Vrdolyak, a former Democrat turned Republican. Pucinski, now a Metropolitan Sanitary District commissioner, has said she will bring professionalism to the \$62,000 a year job.

Vrdolyak has called Pucinski a turncoat who once supported his candidacy for mayor, although she denies doing so. When not knocking Pucinski's qualifications, the South Side resident said he intends to computerize the circuit court system if he is elected to the four-year post.

A suburban Cook County resident, Republican David Wiltse, is battling

Chicago resident Joseph Berrios for the position on the Board of (Tax) Appeals, a \$43,500 a year post. The board of (tax) appeals is the last resort for property tax assessment appeal in Cook County.

Two Chicagoans are vying for the Recorder of Deeds spot, a position that will net the winner the \$50,000 a year post. Democrat Carol Moseley Braun is running against another Democrat turned Republican, Bernard L. Stone for the position.

THE RECORDER OF deeds collects, copies and files all kinds of documents for the county from bank checks, promissory notes and assessment figures to property deeds and titles.

Voters will have to weed out three men on Nov. 8 for positions on the Metropolitan Sanitary District board, which monitors the collection and treatment of city water supplies and the

(Continued on page 20)

Thursday, November 3, 1988

Wheeling Countryside

5

Yes on clerk question

In the lone referendum issue initiated by the Village of Wheeling in this election, we encourage residents to vote yes on the question of whether the village clerk should become an appointed rather than an elected post.

By making the office an appointed post, the village can make the position full-time rather than part-time and can help streamline the clerk's duties without turning over any real political power to the person appointed to this job.

Also, the move would eliminate some existing inefficiencies in the office, which often find village officials driving documents over to the house or place of employment of the current village clerk for signing.

Most important, bringing in a full-time clerk would allow for greater service to village residents while not increasing the village budget since village officials have pledged to hire a candidate from one of the existing part-time deputy village clerks.

Revoking liquor license was proper, says board

The owners of a Wheeling store whose liquor license revoked for allegedly selling alcohol to minors have struck out in their efforts to get the state liquor control commission to overturn the revocation.

11-3-88

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Wheeling officials acted properly when they suspended the liquor license of a local store for selling alcohol to minors, according to a ruling by the Illinois Liquor Control Commission.

The state action affirms the permanent suspension of the liquor license of J.C. Liquor Store, located in the Lexington Commons shopping mall on Lake-Cook Road. Village trustees, doubling as the Wheeling liquor control commission, revoked the license at a Sept. 26 hearing.

Village officials learned Tuesday that the state liquor control commission upheld their findings. E.G.P. Enterprises, which owns J.C. Liquor Store, can continue to fight the penalty further in Cook County Circuit Court within 20 days of the decision or request a rehearing before the state liquor board.

During the Sept. 26 administrative hearing, the village board revoked the license after ruling that the store had sold liquor to minors on two occasions in June and July. The charges marked the third and fourth times the store had been charged with selling alcohol to minors.

THE STORE OWNERS did not deny that they had sold the liquor to the minors.

"It makes me feel the procedure that we followed were correct and the penalty was justified," Village Manager Craig Anderson said. "We feel the penalty was justified."

J.C. Liquor Store attorney Alfred

Stavros, who earlier said he would take the case to circuit court if the state liquor board denied his request, was unavailable for comment Tuesday.

The liquor store was ordered closed for 10 consecutive days in May and fined \$1,000 stemming from charges that the store had sold alcohol to minors in January and February. Subsequent investigation by Wheeling police found the store selling to minors during the summer months, according to local authorities.

CHARGES FROM THE two incidents used in prosecuting the store were brought before the village liquor board for review. Village Prosecutor Steve Handler, Police Chief Michael F. Haeger and Anderson asked the board to revoke the license.

Stavros, at the Sept. 26 hearing, requested that the penalty include imposing a cash fine, closing the store for 15 days, and forcing the store owners to buy a machine that would photograph the identification provided by customers along with the customer.

The board voted unanimously to revoke the license.

Following the board's action and police investigations, the village's liquor laws have been reviewed and trustees are now considering adding three new provisions to the village ordinances.

THE PROVISIONS CALL for imposing fines against minors trying to buy alcohol and would make it illegal for minors to possess false identification.

Endorsement summary

The following is a summary of previously published Pioneer Press endorsements in contested races for Tuesday's General election. In all contested races, committees of Pioneer Press editors met with and interviewed candidates. These committees made their recommendations to our editorial board, which made the final decision on the choices which appear here.

U.S. Congress, 10th District..... **John Porter**
Illinois Senate, 27th District..... **Virginia Macdonald**
Illinois House, District 54..... **Bernard Pedersen**
Illinois Constitutional Convention referendum..... **No**
Illinois voting age wording change..... **Yes**
Illinois tax redemption time..... **Yes**

Cook County State's Attorney..... **Richard M. Daley**
Cook County Circuit Court Clerk..... **Aurelia Pucinski**
Cook County Recorder of Deeds..... **Carol Mosley Braun**
Cook County Board of (Tax) Appeals..... **David Wiltse**
Metropolitan Sanitary District..... **Terrance O'Brien**
..... **Joseph Gardner**
..... **Raymond Kay**

Wheeling Village Clerk question..... **Yes**
School District 21 referendum..... **Yes**

Wheeling Countryside

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Wheeling District 21

In Wheeling Township Elementary District 21, voters will be asked Tuesday to approve a 70-cent increase in the education tax fund, from a current \$1.80 per \$100 assessed valuation to \$2.50.

The Daily Herald recommends a YES vote.

This large district — which draws its 5,600 students from Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, Mount Prospect and Arlington Heights — has a \$3 million budget deficit. Authorities blame declining state aid and a leveling local property values for creating the shortfall. The school board has fought the deficit by borrowing money and selling properties, but officials say those measures no longer suffice. Because of declining enrollment, the district has closed buildings and cut back its staff.

Programs have not been trimmed, but officials say such cuts might occur soon if voters reject a tax increase.

The owner of a \$100,000 home now pays the district \$383 in property taxes, with \$269 tabbed for the general education fund. The school board has passed a resolution promising that only 45 cents of the 70-cent increase would be levied until at least 1994. The 45-cent hike would increase that same homeowner's tax bill to \$450.

Voters in District 21 last approved a tax increase in 1971.

Wheeling clerk

In Wheeling, voters will be asked by referendum Tuesday whether the village clerk's job should be changed from an elected office to an appointed position.

The Daily Herald recommends a YES vote.

Wheeling's clerk is now elected and works part time. If the proposed change is approved, an appointed clerk would work full time. The full-time position would not cost taxpayers additional money, because the new position would incorporate the duties of two deputy clerks currently in the village budget.

The village chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons opposes the change, saying the change would amount to disenfranchisement.

But while the clerk plays an important role, democracy will not be diminished if the person who fills it is appointed instead of elected. Unlike other elected officials, the clerk does not introduce legislation or vote on village business. The clerk is primarily responsible for taking minutes of village board meetings and handling and maintaining the municipality's official documents.

There's no reason for those duties to be politicized. In several suburbs, including Arlington Heights and Mount Prospect, clerks are appointed. That arrangement works well in those villages and most likely would work well in Wheeling.

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Pal-Waukeee eyes large craft ban

By Keri Wyatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Pal-Waukeee Airport officials are trying to keep commercial jets and other large aircraft from using the airport by recommending weight limits for planes at the airfield.

While there are currently no weight limits at the airport, one airport commissioner is suggesting that 50,000 pounds be the limit. William Rogers, who represents Wheeling on the Pal-Waukeee Commission, opposes a higher weight limit for fear that larger, noisier jets will use the airport.

The 50,000 pound limit was suggested in the original building permit for the main runway, Charles

Priester, president of Priester Aviation, said.

However, a rules committee is recommending the limit be placed at 77,000 pounds. Since an airplane's weight depends on the amount of cargo and fuel it is carrying, the limit would be based on maximum weight. This would prevent heavier planes from coming in with lightened cargo or fuel loads.

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said airport officials do not want converted commercial jets or exceptionally large planes at the airport, and that the 77,000 pound limit would keep that type of plane from landing at Pal-Waukeee.

"If we drop (the allowable weight) to 60,000, we put some customers off

the field," Commissioner Thomas Nolan said.

For example, the Gulfstream G-4 jet, flown by many corporate users at Pal-Waukeee, has a maximum gross take-off weight of 71,700. While a relatively large plane, it is comparatively quiet compared with older and smaller planes. It is currently the heaviest plane on the field.

Rogers is against allowing larger planes, particularly the Bac-111, to fly into Pal-Waukeee, because it is a large and noisy plane. However, because of improving technology, weight does not necessarily correspond to noise, Stewart said.

"There has to be an educational process," Commissioner James

Nickel said. "We need to explain that a 77,000 pound limit excludes the Bac-111."

Commissioner Robert Strauss said putting the numbers on paper, to show which planes would be allowed and which would not, would help other members of the commission to understand the weight limit.

"I think 77,000 pounds is reasonable," Nolan said. "But I'm looking at the politics of getting it passed."

The rules committee will recommend this and other proposed rule changes to the entire commission at the Nov. 23 meeting. The commission is made up of members from Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which jointly own the airport.

Nolan leaving airport commission

By Keri Wyatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After serving just two months on the Pal-Waukeee Airport Commission, Thomas Nolan is stepping down.

Nolan, a Prospect Heights resident, is moving to Twin Falls, Idaho, where he has accepted a job as an assistant public defender. His predecessor also served two months before resigning to move out of town.

An attorney who formerly worked

as a labor leader and represented the Electrical Workers Union, Nolan also holds a private pilot license.

"I've really been enjoying the commission," he said, but couldn't pass up the opportunity to move west. "I've been looking for a job. I'd hoped to find something in Chicago, but that didn't happen."

His employment with the labor group ended June 30, and since then, "I've been catching up on doing things around the house," he said.

Nolan will move to Twin Falls on Nov. 12. While the town is small and isolated, "it's only about 60 miles from Sun Valley. It's really beautiful out there," he said.

Nolan was appointed to the eight-member commission in September, after commissioner Ralph Shepstone also left Prospect Heights, moving to Japan, where his wife had landed a teaching job.

Pal-Waukeee is jointly owned and operated by Prospect Heights and Wheeling. Since Nolan represented

Prospect Heights, Mayor John E. Gilligan will appoint someone to serve the remainder of Nolan's term, which expires in 1991.

Gilligan said he hopes to appoint someone before the next commission meeting, scheduled for Nov. 23.

He said he will seek someone "with knowledge of the aviation business. Not necessarily a pilot, but someone who understands aviation. They have a language all their own, and it helps if they speak the language."

Car-care center plans to go before trustees

Herald 11-6-88
The Wheeling village board will review plans for a car care "convenience center" this week.

The center, the first of its kind in Wheeling, would offer several types of maintenance and light repair services in one location.

The board will meet at 8 p.m. Monday at Wheeling village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling.

Last month, the Wheeling Plan Commission recommended approval of the project.

The center, similar in design to a

THE WEEK AHEAD

strip shopping center, would contain businesses such as an oil and lube shop, transmission service, auto parts store and a car rental office.

The center would be located on the west side of McHenry Road, north of Dundee Road and the Tom Todd Chevrolet dealer.

M. Barry Russell, president of Car Care Centers of MidAmerica, Inc., says his development will generate

less traffic than a traditional shopping center. However, the company is paying for a left turn lane on McHenry Road to provide easier access to the center.

The building, which Russell describes as "upscale," would be made up of store fronts and auto bays with roll-up garage doors. Regular retail uses would also be allowed in the center, but if they occupy more than 25 percent of the space, the garage doors would have to be replaced with permanent walls.

The top meeting

Who: Wheeling village board

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

When: 8 p.m. Monday

Airport wants businesses to open records

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Pal-Waukee Airport officials are considering adopting a policy that would require businesses at the airport to open their financial records to airport management.

The proposed rule could lead to imposing fees for airplane storage rental based on a company's gross receipts. The airport currently charges a flat fee.

"We're looking toward establishing a fee structure," Commissioner Thomas Nolan said, when asked why the airport commission would be interested in financial records.

Charlie Priester, president of Priester Aviation, one of the largest businesses at the airport, says

he doesn't think the airport has the right to examine his financial records. "For any outside group to come into any local business and say 'We want to see the books,' it becomes an unreasonable request."

Such requirements should be negotiated in a lease, where both sides have some say, rather than imposed as a rule, Priester said. He also said he does not support basing fees on a company's gross receipts. "Why establish a fee structure based on that?" he said. "It has no bearing."

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said he suggested the rule because "you are providing a facility with public funds. You have to

make sure no one is taking advantage of operating here" by charging too much for services.

The airport is jointly owned and operated by Prospect Heights and Wheeling.

The proposed rules, which will be discussed at a Nov. 23 meeting of the Pal-Waukee Commission, stipulate that companies doing business at the airport with annual gross revenues of more than \$50,000 would be required to submit a list of those receipts to the management.

Companies with gross receipts over \$100,000 per year, such as Priester, would have to submit full financial statements, which would include profit and loss statements.

Wheeling sets car-care center in motion

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Plans for a car maintenance "convenience center" in Wheeling were approved by the village board Monday.

M. Barry Russell, president of Car Care Centers of MidAmerica Inc., said the Wheeling Car Care Center, which would be designed like a strip shopping center, would not be used for heavy car repair or body work. Rather, Russell said, prospective tenants include an oil and lube shop and a car rental office.

The development will be built on a vacant piece of land on Old McHenry Road, just north of Dundee Road. To accommodate traffic

moving in and out of the center, developers have agreed to add a turning lane on Old McHenry Road, along with storm sewer, sidewalks and curb and gutter improvements.

Village Attorney James Rhodes said the left-turn lane would probably not be constructed by the developer himself, since it is a county road. The developer would simply promise to pay for the improvements.

The building, which Russell described as "upscale," would be made up of store fronts and auto bays with roll-up garage doors. Regular retail uses would be allowed in the center, but the garage doors would have to be replaced with permanent walls.

Trustee William Rogers said he would like to see a berm along McHenry Road.

"When you raise the property, you elevate the autos above the sidewalk," Rogers said. "You're going to be looking at radiators of cars. You have to start looking at reducing the ugliness of all those cars."

Russell said there would be "substantial landscaping" along the front of the property, using dense yew bushes and burning bush.

"This is a high-end project," he said. Russell said construction of the project would begin in three weeks and the center would be open for business in June.



'Tis the season

Santa? Already? Yes, Jolly Old St. Nick visited Wheeling this weekend, spreading holiday cheer to youngsters like Shannon Morrisey, 8, who was doing some Christmas shopping at the Pavilion Senior Center Holiday House Boutique. Santa and Mrs. Claus, a.k.a. Joe Ochs and Willie Franta, added to the holiday spirit at the fund-raising craft and bake sale.

11-8-88
Daily Herald Photo/Mark Welsh

Blood drive held today at village hall

Countryside 11-9-88
The Wheeling Community Blood Drive will be held from 2:30 to 8:30 p.m. today at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Donations are desperately needed, said Village Sanitarian Daniel Adams. Voluntary donations are the only source of blood, Adams said.

"If you do not give others may find themselves without blood when needed," he added. "And if they do not give, you may be without."

The act of donating blood is safe

for the donor. No disease can be caught from giving blood, because needles and other equipment used is completely sterile, and are disposed of after one use.

Several local restaurants are offering coupons for dinners for two as door prizes. Also, Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza has donated coupons for a free slice of pizza for everyone who attends the drive.

Stop by the village hall, or call 459-2620 to donate.

REFERENDUM WRAPUP COOK COUNTY



	Yes	No
Wheeling Township Elementary District 21		
To increase the maximum education fund tax rate from \$1.80 to \$2.50 per \$100 assessed valuation to erase a \$782,000 deficit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Village Of Wheeling		
To make the village clerk's job an appointed, rather than an elected office.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Village Of Buffalo Grove:		
Advisory. To build a \$3 million cultural arts center with an annual operating budget of \$100,000.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Des Plaines		
To reduce the size of the city council from 16 to 8 aldermen.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
City Of Prospect Heights		
To annex a 40 acre parcel in Northfield Township.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Elk Grove Township Rural Fire Protection District		
To elect, rather than appoint, fire district trustees.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bartlett Public Library District		
To increase the tax rate from 15 to 25 cents per \$100 assessed valuation to improve library services and restore cuts.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Elgin Area Unit District 46		
1. To increase the maintenance fund tax rate from 37.5 cents to 66.5 cents per \$100 assessed valuation to eliminate a \$1.7 million deficit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. To borrow \$24.5 million to build three new schools in Bartlett and additions to eight schools.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Des Plaines voters cut size of council in half

BY MADELEINE DOUBEK
and KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Northwest suburban voters in Cook County had mixed reviews for a number of local issues on the ballots in their communities.

Voters in several municipalities Tuesday faced referendum questions, ranging from funding education to reducing the number of aldermen in Des Plaines.

- Unofficial vote tallies showed residents in Des Plaines voting by a 2 to 1 margin to cut the size of the city council from 16 aldermen to eight. With all precincts reporting, the vote was 11,725 to 6,053 to reduce the council.

- In Wheeling Township Elementary District 21, voters narrowly rejected a 39 percent tax rate increase in its education fund. With all precincts reporting, the unofficial vote was 9,679 to 9,291 to reject the increase.

- In the Elk Grove Township

Rural Fire Protection District, voters approved a change to elect fire district trustees. With all precincts reporting, the unofficial vote was 1,078 to 245 to elect trustees.

- Village of Wheeling voters rejected a plan to appoint rather than elect the village clerk. With nearly all the vote tallied, the unofficial count was 5,536 to 2,852 to keep electing the clerk.

The clerk is responsible for keeping track of village records and documents, including minutes of board meetings.

- And in Northfield Township, eight voters deadlocked 4 to 4 so that Prospect Heights cannot annex some land.

The debate over the size of the city council in Des Plaines has drawn divergent opinions during the past year.

Most aldermen — joined by residents from the city manager

See COUNCIL on Page 3

COUNCIL: Vote puts aldermen out of work

Continued from Page 1

citizens' group — campaigned to keep their jobs, but other residents from Citizens for Responsible Government said a smaller council would be more efficient and professional.

"The people have decided. They showed these elected officials they want a voice. They're fed up with them and they do want a change," council cut proponent Richard Grzebeniak said.

Voters in Wheeling were against changing the village clerk's position from an elected to an appointed post. The proposed change would have allowed the village manager to appoint the clerk.

In District 21, election returns had voters rejecting a 39 percent education fund tax increase.

The district draws its students from Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, Mount Prospect and Arlington Heights. The increase was proposed to correct a \$3 million budget deficit caused by cuts in state aid and a leveling of local property values.

Voters were asked to raise the education fund tax rate to \$2.50 from \$1.80, per \$100 of assessed valuation. That would boost the tax bill for the

owner of a \$100,000 house to a maximum of \$488, from \$383.

District 21 Superintendent Lloyd "Bud" DesCarpentrie said he expects the district will bring its request before voters again in the next election. "We're not all that disheartened," he said. "We got an indication of support."

DesCarpentrie said the district lost votes of "known supporters" due to an apparent lack of enough voting booths at two precincts in the Villa Verde Condos.

Backers of the referendum in the Elk Grove Township Rural Fire Protection District said electing new fire trustees would be the best way to end disputes over what areas must be included in the district.

Ever since Des Plaines annexed its Waycinden Park subdivision in 1985, the fire district board has refused to strike the westside subdivision from its tax rolls. The stalemate has meant residents in the 500-house subdivision pay taxes to the fire district even though they also pay taxes to Des Plaines for fire protection.

In an effort to resolve the disputes, Mount Prospect officials negotiated an 11th hour agreement with the fire district to provide fire



Bob Gerry, Bill Myers and Superintendent Lloyd "Bud" DesCarpentrie go over returns in District 21.

Daily Herald Photo/Peter Newcomb

and ambulance service to unincorporated Elk Grove Township. As a result, the Waycinden residents will be able to disannex from the Elk Grove Rural Fire District, regardless of the election outcome.

An unexpected eighth resident turned up in Northfield Township where seven voters were expected to decide whether to allow Prospect

Heights to annex their houses and a strip of commercial property along Milwaukee Avenue.

The 4 to 4 vote means the city will not be able to annex the 40 acres, but Alderman Jerry Meyer said he plans to contest the results. "There's some impropriety here. Why somebody came out underneath a blanket is amazing to me," he said.

Road work finished before winter

By MARY ROWITZ
with staff reports

11-10-88

What would winter be like without maneuvering cars through road hoppers, blocked lanes and endless delays?

For a change, many suburban motorists may find out.

In most towns, road construction projects are either finished or nearing completion.

"It may be one of the first winter where drivers can worry more about the weather than road construction," said Wally Kos, program development section chief with the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Even the village of Schaumburg — which embarked this year on its most ambitious road improvement program ever — has sealed its last layer of asphalt.

Engineers credit the lingering summer dry spell with allowing them to finish the work in record time.

"The weather is the single biggest obstacle we face," Kos said. "We were incredibly lucky this year because all the dry, hot days gave us a real jump."

Still, officials in some towns are eyeing the calendar. With some big projects still in the works, the weather will decide if the work gets finished before the roads are covered with blankets of snow or postponed until next year.

"The whole thing hinges on the weather," said Dan Jermano, assistant engineer in Hoffman Estates. "If it gets cold and the asphalt plants close, then we're out of luck. If the weather stays good, we should have no problem finishing it."

Here's a look at the status of some of the major road projects in the Northwest suburbs:

Arlington Heights

Workers plan to finish laying asphalt on five sections of residential streets this week. Projects are on or ahead of schedule because of the lack of rain during the summer, Engineering Director Mark Schoeffman said.

Buffalo Grove

A road improvement project at the intersection of Arlington Heights and Dundee roads was completed at the beginning of September. The intersection now has dual left-turn and right-turn lanes. The \$700,000



Northwest suburban road crews, here working on Dundee Road in Wheeling, are concluding one of the most successful seasons in history, thanks mainly to the long, dry summer.

Daily Herald Photo/Vincent Piarri

project was a joint effort between Buffalo Grove, Arlington Heights, the Cook County Highway Department and the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Des Plaines

Work was completed last month on Lincoln and Wicke avenues from Center Street to River Road. The one-mile stretch of roadway was reconstructed and widened from 22 feet to 28 feet after it was heavily damaged during last year's floods. The project cost \$1 million, some of which was covered by emergency federal funds.

Crews finished work last week on Algonquin Road from Lee-Mannheim Road to Fifth Avenue. The \$1.2 million project includes reconstruction, widening and new curbs and gutters. A left-turn lane and other improvements also were added at the intersection of Algonquin and Lee-Mannheim Road.

Elk Grove Village

Asphalt has been replaced with

concrete on Nichols Boulevard from Pratt Boulevard to Landmeier Road in the industrial park. Storm sewers also were replaced.

Also, crews expect to finish this week the extension of Biesterfield Road to Wise Road in Schaumburg. That project will be completed simultaneously with the widening from two to five lanes of Plum Grove Road, from Nerge Road to Julie Drive.

Hanover Park

Hanover Park spent about \$300,000 this year to repave about three miles of residential roads.

The village also took out a \$2.2 million loan to pay for one-time road projects this year, most of which are finished. They include the reconstruction of Old Barrington Road, from Oak Street to Ontarioville Road, and the realignment of Ontarioville Road to connect with Bear Flag Drive at Lake Street.

The only projects not completed are the reconstruction of Center Avenue from Lake Street to Laurel Av-

enue, the extension of Maple Avenue west from Church Street to Center Avenue and the extension of Church south from Maple to Lake Street, said Village Engineer William J. Beckman. Maple Avenue also is being widened between Pine and Church streets, and storm sewers along Maple are being improved.

Those projects should be finished within several weeks, Beckman said.

Hoffman Estates

The village has finished its entire street resurfacing program for the year. It covered about 4.25 miles of roads and cost about \$665,000, all of which came from state gas-tax revenue. All that needs to be done is some restoration work at a few sites, said assistant village Engineer Dan Jermano.

The biggest resurfacing projects included a half-mile stretch of Hassell Road and a three-quarter mile section of Huntington Boulevard. The Huntington project — which accounted for \$300,000 of the \$665,000

See ROADS on Page 3

Continued from Page 1

two-lane project.

Separate from the resurfacing program was the village's construction of two new streets at the site of the future Siemens Gammasonics and Ameritech headquarters at Central and Barrington roads, just north of the Northwest Tollway. Each of the roads, one running north-south and the other east-west, is one-quarter mile long. About 25 percent of the work is done, while the rest should be completed before bad weather sets in, Jermano said.

Island Lake

Only two road projects were planned for the village this year and both were completed. Eastway Drive from Route 176 to Burnett Road and Fern Drive from Eastway Drive to Hyacinth Terrace were repaved.

Lake Zurich

No road work was done this year. The village recently hired a new public works director, who is compiling a list of roads that need to be repaired.

Libertyville

The village still needs to complete some patching projects on residential streets, but officials expect no problems in getting the work completed before winter, said Director of Public Works Stephen Magnusen. Concrete can be put down in 30-degree weather as long as it is covered, he noted.

Long Grove

The village has repaved a large section of Cuba and Krueger roads and Robert Parker Coffin Road from the bridge to Old Route 53. The vil-

lage also finished realigning the intersection of Gilmer Road, Oakwood Road and Route 83.

Mount Prospect

Crews will not finish work on the heavily traveled intersection of Rand, Kensington and Elmhurst roads near the Randhurst Shopping Center until next spring.

The \$685,000 project includes building left- and right-turn lanes on Rand Road and building a new traffic lane there. Areas along Elmhurst and Kensington roads near the intersection are being improved as well.

Palatine

All road projects are on schedule, said Palatine Public Works Director Andrew S. Radetski.

Crews should finish rebuilding Illinois Avenue from Quentin to Plum Grove roads by winter, a \$1 million project. Resurfacing Palatine Street, a \$700,000 project, also should be finished this year.

Crews are almost done reconstructing the intersection of Northwest Highway and Hicks Road. They are waiting for street lights and are fixing the railroad crossing.

Rolling Meadows

All city projects are finished except for a sidewalk under Route 53 on Kirchoff Road, said Public Works Director Dennis S. York. The city is waiting for a permit from the state for the sidewalks. If the permit arrives too late, crews will cut a path and lay gravel there until next year.

Schaumburg

This year's resurfacing and reconstruction program was the biggest in the village's history. In all, \$4.2 million was spent to repair 15 miles of roadway, mostly in residential

areas. And it's all finished.

Long stretches of Springinguth Road, Cedarcrest Drive and portions of 60 other streets or cul de sacs were rebuilt. Another 25 miles of street will be fixed next year at a cost of about \$6 million to \$7 million.

Separate from the repair program is a \$1.9 million reconstruction of three streets — Lunt, Estes and Morse avenues — in the Spectrum Industrial Park.

The village also is in the process of giving Wiley Road a \$1.4 million facelift. It will be widened from two to three lanes between Tower and Plum Grove roads. Unlike the other big-ticket road projects, this one is being funded mainly through a special taxing districts on nearby businesses. A \$470,000 Build Illinois grant also will help pay for the project, which will be finished next October.

Work on water mains and sewers will continue through the winter, and paving is expected to begin sometime next spring. Work will be completed next October.

In late September, a new street called Corporate Crossing opened. Essentially, it's a connector road between Frontage Road and Martingale Road. While it's only 700 feet long, the road is designed to move southbound Route 53 and Frontage Road traffic away from heavily traveled intersections of Frontage and Higgins roads and Martingale and Higgins roads. Prudential Property Co. and Zurich-American Insurance Group footed the \$693,563 bill through a special taxing district.

Streamwood

Sixteen streets in Streamwood are finished getting a protective coating, called a slurry seal, as part of the village's \$40,000 maintenance pro-

gram.

The village completed three other projects with a \$550,000 loan. The projects, included in Streamwood's 10-year road maintenance program, include rebuilding Krause Avenue from Park Avenue to Nippert Avenue, rebuilding Streamwood Boulevard from Oltendorf Road to Hillside and rebuilding Garden Circle.

Vernon Hills

The village has completed this year's portion of its five-year, \$3 million street program.

Wauconda

No road work was planned in the village this summer.

Wheeling

Work is continuing at Dundee and Northgate roads, where traffic is down to one lane in the east-bound lanes and two in the west-bound lanes. The \$3.1 million project will realign Northgate and Boehmer Road at Dundee. The two intersect Dundee at right angles about 265 feet apart, and they are being angled in to make the intersection safer. The project should be finished within a month, weather permitting.

The widening of Hintz Road between Wolf and Wheeling roads and between Route 83 and Arlington Heights road is still under construction. The two-year county project will be finished next year.

The widening of Wheeling Road between Hintz and Palatine roads to four lanes will not be done by the end of the year. The project, which also includes the installation of storm sewers, will cost \$2.75 million.

Buffalo Grove Road is being realigned and improved from Hintz to Dundee roads.

100-foot radio tower OK'd by village board

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees have approved a request for a 100-foot-tall radio tower to be built in an industrial area of the village.

Village code limits height of towers to 40 feet. However, the owners of Rogers Radio Call said they need the tower for their telecommunications systems.

The board also agreed to allow a permit to build and use a cellular mobile telecommunications system.

The tower would be located adjacent to the company building, located at 170 Shepard Ave., north of Hintz Road.

Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said the tower already had been approved by the Federal Aviation Administration. Although it is near Pal-

waukee Airport, it is not in the approach pattern to any of the runways, and does not present a hazard.

The tower's construction would be similar to towers for high-tension wires. Rolando Acosta, attorney for the company, said the lattice steel tower would be 5-feet wide at the base, narrowing to about 3-feet wide at the top.

He also said the tower would not have lights on it, because "100 feet high seems high to us on the ground, but for planes, it really isn't that high. The FAA said it would be better not to have lights on it, because it just confuses the pilots."

The tower frequencies also are regulated by the Federal Communications Commission, so they do not interfere with local television signals, or radio signals used by the airport control tower.

Wheeling notes success of November blood drive

More than 100 Wheeling residents gave "the gift of life" during the Wheeling November Blood Drive.

"It went fantastically," Village Sanitarian Daniel Adams said. "We had 115 people come out, and we collected 106 units of blood."

The turnout Wednesday was much larger than the last drive, which was held in July and only drew only 72 donors and 67 units of blood.

Donations are collected by nurses from LifeSource, a Northwest suburban blood bank, which turns over the blood to area hospitals.

While donor turnout is typically lower in the summer, Adams attributed the success of Wednes-

day's blood drive to more than the fall season.

"We got 10 or 12 first-time donor appointments as a result of our phone-a-thon," held last month, he said. He added that calls to previous donors resulted in "significantly more than usual number of appointments" as well.

Finally, he added, "we have a relatively healthy population right now. Colds haven't really started going around yet."

Everyone who attended the drive got a coupon for a free slice of Wa-Pa-Ghetti's pizza. Several other local restaurants also donated coupons for free meals, which were given out as door prizes.

Adams said he will be mailing the winners their prizes.

'Voter un-education' defeated referendum

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A referendum to change the Wheeling village clerk job to an appointed position was defeated because voters did not know enough about the issue, officials say.

Voters favored continuing to elect the clerk by almost a 2-to-1 margin, 5,536 to 2,852.

The current clerk job is part-time, but the referendum would have made it full-time. Officials said the change would save money because the work could be handled by existing staff members.

Clerk Janet D'Argo, who will serve until her term expires in April, blamed Tuesday's referendum defeat on "voter un-education."

D'Argo, who favored the proposed change, said voters would have approved the measure if they had had more information.

"I don't think people really understood what they were voting on," she said. "We should have had rallies, gone door-to-door. All we did was make a few phone calls and run something in the village newsletter."

D'Argo said people told her they were voting against the measure "because they said they didn't want me to lose my job. I'd tell them 'No, no, that's not what this would do,' but that was a common misconception."

The only opposition to the referendum came from the Wheeling Chapter of the American Associa-

tion of Retired Persons, which said it did not want voters to give up their power to elect the clerk.

"I think this shows independence on the part of the Wheeling voters," AARP member Barbara McIntyre said. "You have to make the clerk responsible to the electorate, instead of the bureaucracy. We were against the erosion of democracy."

D'Argo said the change would "be in the best interests of the village. It just makes common sense to have the clerk available at village hall eight hours a day, five days a week."

The question can legally be put on the ballot again, but D'Argo said no such move was planned because a new clerk will be elected in April.

Election '88

Residents vote against appointed clerk's post

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Wheeling voters overwhelmingly told the village Tuesday they don't want to change the way the clerk does business.

By a two-to-one margin, residents voted against making the clerk's position an appointed, rather than elected, post.

"It looks like it was defeated rather soundly," Village President Sheila Schultz said Tuesday night.

The Cook County Clerk's office said with all precincts reporting, voters turned down the proposed change, which village officials and trustees said would have made the position more efficient and given village residents better access to the clerk, by a 5,536 to 2,852 margin.

CURRENT CLERK JANET D'Argo said Wednesday that the final results wouldn't be known until later that day.

"Personally, I think they just didn't know what they were voting for," D'Argo said. She said the village may not have done enough to publicize the benefits of the proposed change.

If voters had agreed to make the clerk an appointed position, the village would have hired someone to take over the clerk's duties and combined those with the duties of the licensing clerk — a position that is now vacant.

D'Argo took some of the blame for the defeat herself. She said she could

have held a rally informing people of the need for a full-time, appointed clerk.

"MAYBE WE all should have done more to make people understand how good it would have been for the village," she said.

But Schultz said it would have been difficult for village trustees, who agreed in September to put the issue on the ballot, to campaign for the change.

"We thought we offered them (voters) sufficient information to make a decision through the village newsletter," Schultz said. "We should have done more."

Schultz said the change would have allowed residents constant access to the village clerk while keeping the clerk in the office full-time. An appointed clerk, she said, would have been more efficient.

Members of the Wheeling chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons were some of the strongest opponents of the proposal. The group formally opposed the measure.

Bob McIntyre, secretary for the group, said the defeat was more than just seniors banding together and saying no to change.

"What I think happened was the village board, lacking a sensitivity to the feelings of the community, made a mistake in the first place," McIntyre said. "We don't like to be entirely run by a bureaucracy."

Wheeling grants tax reduction to local firm

After first turning away a Wheeling business looking for a tax break, Wheeling trustees Monday approved an agreement to cut the company's property taxes, but only for the portion of the building it occupies.

ENSAR Corp., located at 135 East Hintz Road, was granted a tax abatement for the portions of a new, 88,400-square-foot addition in which it does business.

Although the Cook County rules for county tax abatements make no provisions on occupancy, Wheeling trustees have requested that applicants occupy three-quarters of new buildings. The provision was adopted as an attempt to stop developers from getting tax breaks on speculative buildings.

The Cook County 6(b) exemptions were established to allow collar townships to compete with developers in neighboring counties, where property tax rates are lower.

ENSAR first came to the village in June and requested the sliding scale tax exemption. But trustees balked when attorney Tom Winkler told the board that ENSAR and related companies would only occupy about half of the new addition. The remainder would be built, Winkler said, to accommodate future growth.

The agreement approved Monday allows ENSAR to receive a tax break on the portion of the building it occupies up until such time as it occupies 75 percent of the building. ENSAR would then receive the full tax abatement allowed.

Final approval hinges on whether ENSAR owner Norton Sarnoff agrees to a provision that the tax abatement would be scaled back if the company later fell below the 75 percent occupancy level.

ENSAR's addition is expected to bring 50 new jobs to the company.

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Plans for a multi-tenant car center, where motorists could get their brakes fixed, muffler repaired or their wreck appraised, gained village approval Monday.

Trustees gave the project the green light for a retail car center on Old McHenry Road, just north of Dundee Road.

Proposed by Car Care Centers of America, the center would have up to eight separate tenants providing retail car repair. Barry Russell, a representative from Car Care, said the project would not include collision and body work.

Russell said non-automotive related retail businesses may also lease space in the center.

Oil changes, tune-ups, tire and battery service, radiator repair and replacement and automobile security and communications installation would be among the businesses allowed in the center, an agreement signed by both Car Care and the village said.

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How the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission determines who runs its meetings was finally decided.

After going a year without written rules of succession, a policy for the selection of the chairman, vice chair-

man and secretary of the commission was established Monday as both the Prospect Heights City Council and the Wheeling Board of Trustees approved the new rules.

Both communities — the joint owners of the airport — had to agree to make the change in the intergovernmental agreement that governs operation of the airport.

Questions over the policy arose when Prospect Heights member Ron Sowatzke left the board, and his seat as chairman, in June, 1987.

Vice chairman Tony Altieri then assumed the duties of chairman. However, Prospect Heights members tried to install a new chairman, a move Wheeling officials contended was illegal. No rules existed to outline the succession of a chairman.

Consequently, at meetings from which Altieri was absent, the board would pick a chairman at the beginning of each meeting.

Under the rules approved Monday, the chairmanship will alternate between the two communities on an annual basis. If a chairman cannot complete his term in office, a special election will be held to select a new chairman from the same community as the current chairman.

The vice chairman, who would be a representative of the other community, would only lead meetings on a temporary basis, the new rules state.

With the new agreement, the next chairman would be a representative from Prospect Heights. The term of office would expire in February, 1990.

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Construction of a 100-foot high antenna in a Wheeling industrial park was given final approval Monday by village trustees.

In allowing the tower, trustees granted a variance from the legal limit of 40 feet. The board also agreed to allow Rogers Radiocal to operate a repeater antenna system for its cellular mobile phone system.

The tower and communications center will be located at 170 Shepard Avenue, north of Hintz Road, west of Wolf Road.

Representatives of Rogers said the antenna is needed to improve coverage of the Wheeling area.

Commissioner knocks proposed airport rules

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A set of proposed rules and regulations at Pal-Waukee Airport is too restrictive and will drive business away, one airport official says.

Commissioner James Nickel, chairman of an ad-hoc rules committee, says he is sending a draft of the rules to the commission, but he thinks the rules are "absolutely going the wrong way."

The Pal-Waukee Airport Commission has been working for several months to set up rules to govern the airport. But Nickel says the rules, recommended by consultants, attorneys and the airport manager, ignore airport users.

"We cannot pass these rules as they are," he said. "They are driving everybody out. In the past year, 280 planes have left the airport. That's \$300,000 of lost revenue. Sure, we've replaced a few of those, but the pilots are voting with their feet. They are leaving."

Airport Manager Fred Stewart said, "I don't know if we are driving business away. I'm just providing the commission information. They make their decision."

One rule, for example, would require that flight instructors have liability insurance to protect not only themselves but the airport.

Pilots say the coverage would be difficult if not impossible to obtain, an opinion Stewart rebuts. "According to our insurance agent," he said, "it's available."

The latest draft states that all flight instructors should be required to have a minimum of \$250,000 worth of liability insurance. The policy would have to cover the airport, the city of Prospect Heights and the village of Wheeling. The two towns jointly own and operate the airport.

"My insurance carrier said he cannot remember ever getting a request for that type of coverage," said Barry Axelrod, president of the Pal-Waukee Airport Pilots Association.

"It is highly unusual and extremely costly."

"We shouldn't demand that the individual protect the airport," Nickel said. "But Fred doesn't think that way."

Stewart said airport attorneys recommended the clause covering the airport be included. "I am sure the attorneys' recommendations are based on solid legal facts," Stewart said.

The airport currently has no rules policy, so insurance, like everything else, is left up to the individual pilot or company.

The proposed rules and regulations will be considered by the Pal-Waukee Airport Commission Nov. 23. Nickel says he agreed Stewart should "go ahead and write a draft, but I absolutely am not going to recommend it." He said Pal-waukee should follow its competition by simplifying the rules.

"When we stop satisfying the user, it's over," he said.

Pal-Waukee group to select leader

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After more than a year under a temporary chairman, the Pal-Waukee Airport Commission is ready to choose a new leader.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which jointly own and operate the airport, have agreed that the next chairman will be from Prospect Heights. The commission is made up of members from both communities.

Vice chairman Anthony Altieri, of Wheeling, has served as acting chair-

man since June 1987, when Ronald Sowatzke, of Prospect Heights, stepped down from the chairmanship.

Prospect Heights struggled to regain power, but Altieri held the post. After tussles over whether officers should be chosen by each community or by the commission itself, it was finally decided that the commission will elect its own officers.

Because Wheeling has been at the helm for a year and a half, Wheeling village officials agreed to let Prospect Heights take the chairmanship

first, a move supported by both town councils.

The vice chairman will be from Wheeling. Altieri may serve the rest of his term as vice chairman, or the Wheeling contingent can choose a new vice chairman.

To allow each town to hold the chairmanship for one year at a time, the new rules state that if the chairman leaves the commission, a new chairman will be elected from the same town. The vice chairman will only fill in during temporary absences.

Terms will be for one year, and the chairmanship will alternate between the two towns.

Commissioner Carey Chickerno, of Prospect Heights, said that despite philosophical differences in the past, "we're subtly seeing a metamorphosis" in the commission.

"With this, we got a big issue behind us," he said. "It's a small issue in what it actually does. I mean, you just want the meetings run in an orderly fashion. But it's a large issue in the area of emotion and propriety. It's a principle issue."

Complex's location a 'point of pride'

12-21-88
BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Is the Arlington Club development in Buffalo Grove or Wheeling?

It may sound like a "Trivial Pursuit" question, but what seems to be a trivial issue has Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz quite aggravated.

"Some people seem to think the Arlington Club development is in Buffalo Grove," Schultz said, referring to an article in an area newspaper which had printed the inaccuracy. "It is in Wheeling. I think some Realtors might be confused, too. It's

getting to be a real irritant."

Some people may be confused since the 131-acre development is located along Buffalo Grove Road — not Wheeling — Road, sales representative Dennis Blevins said. The development features apartments, town houses and condominiums.

"Our ads say it's in Wheeling, but people come in on Buffalo Grove Road, and they assume they're in Buffalo Grove," Blevins said. "But I make a point of telling them this is Wheeling, because it's a benefit as far as the real estate tax they pay. Buffalo Grove is Lake County, so taxes are higher there. It works to my advantage to tell them it's in

Wheeling."

Even though Wheeling's name is spelled out in advertisements for Arlington Club, friends of Schultz who have moved into the development have mistakenly identified their new community as Buffalo Grove.

"These type of comments are not uncommon," Schultz said.

Several years ago, a similar situation arose with the Woodland Creek development. Wheeling officials were miffed because advertisements did not say the subdivision was located in Wheeling.

"It's a point of pride," Schultz

said. "We think Wheeling is a good place to live and we think clarification is needed."

"Misinformation is so hard to track down," she added. "I have no idea where it's coming from because it's so nebulous. But when I saw the article, I thought, 'oh no, not again.' It's frustrating."

Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said he will contact the developer on Schultz's behalf to remind him of the correct town.

"We're glad they're in Wheeling, we want people to know they're in Wheeling, we hope they're glad to be in Wheeling," Anderson said.

Record number pass firefighter exams

Herald 12/22/88
BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A record number of candidates for firefighter jobs have passed initial exams in their attempt to gain employment with the Wheeling Fire Department.

The Wheeling Fire and Police Commission now faces the task of interviewing 199 candidates for employment.

Those who pass the interview stage go on to psychological and polygraph tests. The qualified applicants are then placed on an eligibility list with the department.

A consortium of eight suburban fire departments sponsors the first two tests, physical and written.

Wheeling participated in the round of testing because the department's eligibility list, which is good for two years, will expire in April. It is uncertain how many job openings the department will have this year.

"This is far greater than any number we've ever had for oral interviews," Village Administrative Assistant David Kowal said. "That could be because there was a greater number of people who took the original tests and the percentage that passed was very high."

Fire Chief Bernie Koeppen also attributed the large number of applicants to a change in eligibility requirements.

"They used to have to be certified as a paramedic to work here," he said. "We changed that this year because it was hard to find qualified applicants."

Those who pass the initial tests are asked which towns they would like to work for.

"I think it's great," Fire and Police Commissioner Edward Main said of the number of candidates. "It shows interest in the community. It's a good number."

Main said the commission will set up an interview schedule at its Jan. 17 meeting. The department currently has 32 firefighters and six lieutenants. Starting salary for a firefighter is \$21,779. Certified paramedics start at \$23,238.

Newest police aide, a warm, fuzzy old friend

Countywide 12-22-88
Wheeling police are now riding with a new partner as they tackle crime, violence and car accidents.

Sitting somewhere in the car, waiting to come to the comfort and aid of a young crime or accident victim, will be the latest in law enforcement technology: The teddy bear.

Given to the department to help calm upset kids, the teddy bears are part of an ongoing project sponsored by the Telephone Pioneers of America, a philanthropic group consisting of current or former telephone company employees.

Since the bears were given to the department this month, police have already given one bear to a youngster. Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said the bears will help police try to calm youngsters long enough to get useful information from them while giving them a friend more their size.

Children involved in a domestic dispute or injured in an accident are often disoriented and are afraid to talk because of their loss of surroundings, Haeger said. Other police departments have found that the teddy bears help children better deal with the crisis.

Haeger said the bears will be placed in each squad car and some will be kept at the station.

Ever since a Telephone Pioneers chapter in Wisconsin began setting up state police there with the teddy bears, the program has grown. Now, more than 20 police and fire departments in the Chicago area have been given the bears, TPA member, and Operation Teddy Bear chairman Doris Moorman said.



Barbara Kobishop of the Wheeling Police Department gets to know some of the newest members of the force that will assist in helping youngsters calm during crisis situations. (Staff photo by Bill Powers)

Cold shoulder policy may have hindered TIF

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Three years ago, when improving the Milwaukee Avenue corridor became a Wheeling mandate, it was the method, not the project, that spurred the lawsuits that are now successfully challenging the village's redevelopment plans.

Property owners say brusque shoulders were the cold substitute of warm handshakes. Property acquisition offers were backed up by a "take it or leave it" attitude by village officials. Few viable options were offered.

While village officials contend the confrontational atmosphere was the by-product of tough negotiations, the property owners said they were left with the impression that the village did not want to accommodate them.

But while impressions were made, at least one message was sent by the property owners, and it was simple: We are going to fight your attempts to acquire our land. So far, after initial losses, the property owners are currently leading the battle.

NOW, AS THE village gets set to appeal the court ruling that shot down the village Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district, and as officials prepare to answer questions raised by the state about the merits of the district, the village must restudy its desire to be the agent of change along Milwaukee Avenue.

In the face of these challenges to the TIF district, village officials continue to support the project, saying that public involvement is the only avenue for redevelopment of the Milwaukee Avenue-Dundee Road area.

The village established the TIF district in 1985. Under state law, a municipal

(Continued from page 2)

development, the village will have to again negotiate with the property owners and businessmen who have already temporarily derailed the project. Those property owners, however, say that while they will always be open to negotiation, past dealings with the village leave them wary.

"The first time we got an offer was months after they (the village) had an article in the newspaper saying they were going to break ground in two years," said Mary Bruggemann, co-owner of Wheeling Auto Repair, located on the northwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

Bruggemann, along with several other property owners, their attorneys and others involved in the lawsuits that stopped the TIF, said the village never came up with options that would allow them to stay in business on their land. "They (village officials) said 'well, if you're not going to sell, we'll just condemn it and we'll get it either way,'" Bruggemann said. The harshness of the words, and not the size of the offers, is what angered Bruggemann and her neighbors.

"It's really offending for someone to come in and say 'give it to me or I'll take it anyway. We'll get it either way,'" Bruggemann said.

Gary Dienstag, the attorney for restaurateur Eugene Wang, owner of the Tien Tsin Restaurant on Milwaukee Avenue, said there was no personal contact from the village besides public hearings and the property offers.

Dienstag said he continually asked

palilty can sell bonds and use the proceeds to make public improvements and acquire land in an area considered blighted and unattractive for private development.

Increases in property tax and sales tax revenues generated by the new development would be used to pay off the bonds. In Wheeling's case, \$4.36 million in bonds were sold and village officials were working on their second TIF project, consolidating the 17 parcels located on the northwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road for development as a major shopping center.

FOLLOWING NEGOTIATIONS, during which the majority of the property owners agreed to village terms, six of the property owners challenged the legality of the village's TIF law.

Although they were initially unsuccessful, on Dec. 1, they were rewarded for their vigilance when Cook County Circuit Court Judge Alexander P. White dismissed the condemnation complaints the village had filed. He said the village had not proven the TIF district met the standards of being a blighted or conservation area.

Now the village is appealing that ruling to the Illinois Appellate Court, while a review by the state is around the corner.

While a resolution of the situation may be months, and potentially years, down the road, questions have been raised that will have to be answered before the TIF district can proceed in its current form. If the TIF fails, the village must find other avenues for redevelopment.

AND TO ACCOMPLISH that redevelopment

(Continued on page 15)

to meet with the village to discuss options but was turned down.

"They just made no effort to accommodate these people who have been in the village so long," Dienstag said. He still holds out hope for the future, though, when he said Wang would always be willing to continue negotiations before the case got into the appeals process.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS DISAGREE with Dienstag and his assessment of the process. They say the negotiations were conducted in good faith. They do say, however, that developing a TIF district and its "collective redevelopment" may mean some property owners will have to endure hardships for the benefit of the entire village.

Trustee William Rogers said the village had to get tough with the property owners because they decided redevelopment of the whole corner was important to the entire village.

Rogers said the proposed developers were leery about building a shopping center and letting some buildings remain out front. The whole project would have been jeopardized, he said.

"**WE JUST** felt we couldn't have one, two, three people holding up a multi-million dollar project," Rogers said. That project, proponents say, would bring the village thousands of dollars of sales tax revenue and create an opening to further development.

Former village manager Tom Markus, one of the village officials who worked closely on the TIF project, said

(Continued on next page)

the village carefully plotted its course to redevelopment. He said studies commissioned by the village proved it met the criteria necessary to be upheld in the courts.

Because of the odd, long and narrow shape of the lots in the area, and with ownership split among many, Markus said the area - considered prime for development because of its location to major roadways - needed the public push necessary to spur development.

But now, not everyone has considered the TIF the best option for the village. The future of the Milwaukee Avenue, Dundee Avenue area, and of the TIF itself, will likely depend on the deftness of village officials to form consensus and to try to mend fences broken in the past.

Sprucing up an area needn't result in a tiff

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Legal battles aside, Milwaukee Avenue businesses are finding there are other ways to spruce up the village.

While the village haggles with the courts and the state, private businesses, along with recent developers, have helped improve the looks of the stretch of Milwaukee Avenue hailed as the gateway to the village.

And in doing so, these property owners may have helped make further redevelopment and improvements more likely, business leaders and village officials say.

"Beautification never hurts anybody," said Ed Main, former member of the village appearance commission and president of the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

BESIDES INSTILLING CIVIC pride in residents and businesses, beautification of Milwaukee Avenue makes vacant, blighted properties worth more, and consequently may make those lots the target for development.

Several weeks ago, the village recognized some of the businesses that have spent the time and money to

improve their lots, both along Milwaukee Avenue and in other parts of the village, with awards for beautifying their property.

Kolssak Funeral Home, located at 189 S. Milwaukee Ave., received one of those awards. After deciding to add a garage and parking lot next to their business, Lou Kolssak had to agree to landscaping plans the village suggested.

Although the cost was substantial, the Kolssak property, along with those of Harrison Supply, the 401 Building and others is a sign of gradual upgrading of an area the village has targeted for redevelopment through the establishment of a Tax Increment Finance district.

"**IT DOESN'T** happen overnight," said Jackie Pollack, executive director of the chamber of commerce. "I think the end result will justify the efforts of the village and the businesses."

Many of those improvements came as businesses expanded their operations and needed village approval of updated plans. Because much of the area was built before building codes

(Continued on page 16)

and structured development were in place, many of the lots and buildings now need variances to get the sites to comply with current standards.

It is before the village appearance and plan commissions that commissioners and trustees are able to coax and encourage improvements to landscaping, parking and building materials. There, the types of bushes, the style of fencing, the dimensions of parking are considered.

The end result has been a concerted effort at pushing for a facelift, a minor lift-and-tuck for the village. It appears to have worked.

"**YOU'RE NOT** supposed to judge a book by its cover. But if it's pretty, you might be interested," Main said. "What do you want to see? A nice industrial park or a row of brick buildings?"

When Dennis Stevens and his architectural firm Erickson and Stevens came to Wheeling to locate their offices and lease office space, they chose the south Milwaukee Avenue area, partly because of the lots, the Des Plaines River, and the potential for change in the neighborhood.

The result was the 401 Building, a facility almost every village official and business person raves over. Set back along the river, and retaining character, the building was designed, Stevens said, to help act as a catalyst for other development.

"We felt that the neighborhood was ready for redevelopment," Stevens said.

THROUGHOUT THE DESIGN process, his firm worked with village officials in the community development department. Now that the project has been completed, all sides appear content with the result.

Now the village, regardless of the outcome of the TIF district, is set to see continued development, even if it takes place at a slower pace than was originally anticipated.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Village shops for recycling program

Wheeling trustees will continue their comparison shopping for a recycling program when they hear a presentation from Laidlaw Waste Systems this week.

The board already has heard from two companies and will probably hear from Laidlaw and one more before deciding which program is best for the village.

Laidlaw representatives will talk with trustees at 8 p.m. Monday at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

"The board wanted to see what was out there, who's doing what," Village Manager Craig Anderson said. "And not just pick the first company that comes along."

In July, representatives from Waste Management of North America told the board about a curbside recycling program, similar to those in place in Arlington Heights and

The top meeting

Who: Wheeling village board
Where: Wheeling village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling
When: 8 p.m. Monday

Buffalo Grove.

Because Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal, a Waste Management company, hauls most of the regular residential garbage in Wheeling, the monthly charge for recycling would be lower, about \$1 per month.

In October, Browning-Ferris Industries gave the board a sales pitch for a similar curbside program. Residents would pay \$2.50 per month for the program, because the company does not have a regular route in Wheeling. The village would receive one quarterly bill from BFI and would have to bill residents individually.

Anderson said the village has not set a specific date for beginning a recycling program.

Roadblock will send message to drivers

By KEVIN WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling police, hoping to send a strong "don't drink and drive" message, are planning a pre-holiday roadblock for this weekend.

A special traffic safety team will be stopping cars at random from 9 p.m. to midnight Friday along Milwaukee Avenue.

A team of 10 village policemen and four officers from the Illinois Secretary of State's office will be checking for everything from faulty safety equipment to open liquor.

"We'll stop a pre-set ratio of cars, whether its every fifth car, every third car, or if traffic is re-

ally light, every car," Deputy Chief Gary O'Rourke said. "We'll inspect each car for license, registration and equipment. We'll also be prepared to check for liquor violations or driving under the influence."

The traffic stop will be set up in the 100 south block of Milwaukee Avenue, just south of Dundee Road. Only northbound traffic will be inspected.

That site was chosen, O'Rourke said, because the majority of alcohol violations and accidents in the village occur on Milwaukee Avenue or Dundee Road.

"Right before the holidays is a good time of year to give people a reminder," O'Rourke said. "They

have to be careful of their safety equipment, make sure it's working. It's also to show that we are taking a strict line on alcohol-related violations."

The officers manning the roadblock will be a "special team" assembled to work in addition to the normal shift of officers on routine patrol throughout the village, O'Rourke said.

"The last time we did this was almost three years ago, on Dundee Road," Police Chief Michael Haeger said. He said the department does not have a count on how many cars travel Milwaukee Avenue Friday nights, and had "no idea" how many violations the officers might find.

Rural fire district wants to widen area

By KEVIN DOUGHERTY
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The board of the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District is asking for a contract to cover two Prospect Heights subdivisions now protected by the Wheeling Fire Department.

Prospect Heights fire district officials say the two subdivisions are located so close to their fire station that their firefighters are usually the first on a fire scene.

Lake Claire Estates and The Shires subdivisions, located off of Wheeling Road, are less than a mile from Prospect Heights' fire station at Camp McDonald and Elmhurst roads.

"The majority of the calls that

came from the area, we responded to them," said Robert J. Bremner, president of the Prospect Heights fire district board.

Providing fire and ambulance service to the two subdivisions currently is the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District's responsibility. The fire district contracts with the village of Wheeling for service as part of a court-ordered agreement.

James A. Rhodes, Wheeling village attorney, said village officials are reviewing the proposal and will make a decision by the Wheeling fire district board's December meeting.

"If we give them up, we have to make sure people are getting the same level of service," Rhodes

said. "I'd hate to have someone injured, or someone's house catch on fire, and have something other than the level of service we provide."

The Prospect Heights fire district is looking to expanding its coverage area. The district now covers about two-thirds of Prospect Heights, with Wheeling covering most of the remaining area.

Because subdivision residents would remain a part of the Wheeling Township Rural Fire District, the proposed change is not expected to alter the amount the homeowners pay for fire protection.

"We just feel we can provide the service quicker," said Stephen G. Daday, attorney for the Prospect Heights fire district board.

TCI cable gets a reprieve from fines

By ELLEN SCHMID BLIX
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Northwest Municipal Cable Council voted Wednesday to give TCI of Illinois Cable Co. another month to improve its services before it would ask member communities to fine the company.

However, the council's recommendation was not unanimous and one member of the group, Arlington Heights, already has levied a \$200-a-day fine against the cable company for poor service.

In fact, Arlington Heights on Wednesday mailed another certified letter to TCI threatening additional

\$200-a-day fines in 45 days unless the company satisfies problems with extending service to areas of the village, improves system maintenance and files an annual report that is already a year and half late.

Eight northwest suburbs that belong to the cable council — an advisory group that employs a full-time person to field complaints and monitor TCI's performance — have threatened fines since August.

An October deadline in most communities was extended until this week, when the council said it would complete its evaluation of progress made by TCI and come up with a unified recommendation whether the

towns should proceed with the fines.

Arlington Heights and Wheeling opposed extending the deadline again. Representatives from Des Plaines, Hanover Park, Mount Prospect and Prospect Heights voted in favor of the additional time. The Bartlett and Park Ridge representatives were absent.

"I think it's time to act," Council Chairman George L. Weinand of Arlington Heights said. "I don't see where our member municipalities are served by us extending the deadline further."

During the coming 30 days, communities will be urged to measure the cable company's performance

against a set of standards devised and accepted by the cable council. The standards set forth specific definitions for service that is only referred to as "adequate" in franchise agreements.

For example, phone calls are to be answered within four rings and callers are not to be left on hold longer than two minutes. Repairs are to be made within 48 hours.

TCI's Mount Prospect General Manager Mark Hess said the towns won't be able to enforce the standards.

"These are objectives and goals," Hess said. "They are not anything this company is going to agree to."

Pal-Waukee finances concern towns

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Financial ledgers show Pal-Waukee Airport is profitable, but some pilots and politicians fear the high-flying airport may be headed for a crash.

Prospect Heights and Wheeling purchased the airport for \$22 million in December 1986, a move that drew both criticism and praise. As Pal-Waukee's second anniversary as a public airport approaches, opinions about the venture's success vary widely.

Pilots' groups have accused airport officials of making Pal-Waukee "a political football." Other less vocal pilots and customers are "voting with their feet," by leaving the airport, one official says.

Pilots say poor services and uncertainty about Pal-Waukee's future are causing pilots to take off and not come back. Other officials say the airport is strong and in the long run will be a "model airport."

Yet even the fear is tempered with optimism. "There is hope," corporate pilot Terry Turgeon said. "Aviation is good for the community. If attitudes are positive, something can be done. Pal-Waukee has the capability to be a fine facility."

"I'm not disputing there's a lot of people moving off the airport," airport manager Fred Stewart said. "Anytime you lose business it's a problem. But we are taking steps to correct it. In the short term, if pilots find the conditions here unsatisfactory to their needs, they may leave. But in the long term, we are making things better, and they might move back."

Stewart cited improvements in paving airplane parking areas and adding airport security as steps the airport currently is taking to improve facilities.

Pal-Waukee Commissioner James Nickel, who represents Prospect Heights, says 280 planes, previously based at Pal-Waukee, have left for greener airstrips in the last year. "The pilots are voting with their feet," he said. "They are leaving."

The number of airplane owners renting directly from the airport last month was 185. This month, Stewart said, he sent out bills to only 175 tenants. "That doesn't mean only 10



The lineup of corporate jets at Pal-Waukee Airport may get shorter as pilots go to other airfields.

See PAL-WAUKEE on Page 3

Continued from Page 1

left," he said. "We may have lost 50 and gained 40. I don't know."

Commissioner William Rogers, of Wheeling, says blaming the decline on uncertainty about Pal-Waukee's future is "hokey." He says the airport is making a profit and will continue to do so. Net profits last year totaled \$488,525, and the 1988-89 budget predicts profits of \$307,204.

"The commission hasn't done anything to hurt pilots at the airport," he said. "They see us spending money, improving things. We are going to spend \$100 million in the next 10 years to improve things. That shows commitment."

But many of the plane owners based at Pal-Waukee rent space

from Priester Aviation. Charles Priester, president of the company, has not complied with Stewart's request for a list of his tenants. Consequently, the airport manager has no idea exactly how many planes are based at the airport, or how many have left.

Priester said Wednesday he had sent a letter to Stewart, with the list of tenants, after being assured that the information would remain private.

Prospect Heights and Wheeling purchased the airport from the Priester family, but the company continues to hold a virtual monopoly on fuel sales and other airport services. Some pilots are boycotting those fuel sales, members of the Pal-Waukee Airport Pilots Association (PAPA)

say.

"The only leverage we have is to boycott gas," Turgeon said. Pilots say they can buy gas at Waukegan or Aurora and save as much as 30 cents a gallon.

"That's not so," Priester said. "We run surveys monthly, to keep an eye on competitors. There may be an occasional operator who offers a lower price, but we are really in the main stream for fuel."

Commissioner Carey Chickerneo, of Prospect Heights, said he supports pilots' rights to choose where they buy gas. "If they think the price is too high, by all means they should boycott. I'm in favor of less government, and letting the natural economic forces adjust the price."

Chickerneo said giving the airport

commission more authority also would help smooth operations. The commission currently recommends action that most be approved by the officials of both towns.

"I would chose to have a commission that has virtually all authority, and wouldn't just act as a rubber-stamp," Chickerneo said. "What we are trying to do here is make Pal-Waukee a model, the best airport in the country. Until we get to that, we have to make the rules less stringent."

Some of the uncertainty and conflict swirling around the airport is due to issues before the commission. Still unresolved is the matter of the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads, at the north end of the airport.

Local computer firm to lay off 90 workers

It won't be a happy holiday season for 90 employees of a Wheeling firm who will face layoffs as the company tries to cut costs.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

One of Wheeling's largest employers, Gandalf Technologies, Inc., has announced it will lay off more than a third of the firm's 282 employees.

Company plans to move its assembly process to its Canada headquarters forced the layoffs of 90 employees, company spokesman Jan Drummond said. Using figures provided by Gandalf, approximately \$1.6 million in payroll will be lost.

Of the 90 lost jobs, 15 belonged to Wheeling residents, Drummond said. All of those employees worked in assembly and production-related jobs, she said.

Besides reducing payroll, the company will also eliminate some administrative costs, including phone calls and trips between Ottawa and Wheeling, Drummond said.

THE 90,000 square-foot Wheeling facility, located on Noel Avenue, will continue to employ about 190 workers. It will become the main distribution point for U.S. customers, Drummond said.

Gandalf is a leading designer, manufacturer and supplier of computer and communications software. It first came to Wheeling in

1974.

Offshore competition, mainly from the Far East, caused the company to move the production process back to its Nepean, Ontario location, Drummond said. The facility there was not running at capacity and could accommodate an increase in production equipment, Drummond said.

Thirty employees will receive notice this month, with two other layoffs planned by February, Drummond said. Most layoffs will affect assembly and other production workers, although the plant manager and group engineers are also being let go.

"THE DECISION to cease assembling printed circuit boards at the Wheeling plant has been very

difficult . . .," company president and CEO James Bailey said in a prepared statement.

"Unfortunately, though, trends in product design mean less assembly is required," Bailey said. "For Gandalf, this has led to underutilization of our assembly operations, even taking into account our outstanding growth as a company."

The layoffs come after a year of growth for the company. Gandalf saw revenue jump 26 percent worldwide in 1988, Drummond said.

In a recent survey of village employers, Gandalf was listed as one of the eighth largest employees in the village. The reduction will drop the company to 15th.

Police lower eligibility requirement

By Keri Wyatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In an effort to increase the number of police officers eligible for promotion, the Wheeling police department has lowered the minimum passing grade on the sergeants exams.

Candidates go through a three-step test that includes a written exam, an oral interview, and an "assessment center," which tests leadership abilities in specific situations.

Previously, officers had to score at least 75 percent on each test to be eligible for promotion. Less than a

passing grade on any section knocked candidates out of the running.

In response to a request from Chief Michael Haeger, the Wheeling Police and Fire Commission is agreeing to lower the passing grade to 70. Firefighters trying to attain the rank of lieutenant also will have a minimum of 70 percent.

Last month, Haeger had asked the commission to allow officers who had a cumulative average score of 70 percent to be eligible.

That would have allowed someone who scored high on one test to score below 70 on another phase and still

pass. Haeger said in the last round of tests, which produced only one candidate out of 14 who started, many officers were eliminated after scoring in the 70 to 74 range.

"I think if (an officer) can't pass one phase of the test and still gets promoted, we're leaving ourselves open to criticism," Commissioner Edward Main said. "I'd hate to have a sergeant who couldn't pass part of the test."

Main added that 70 percent is "in conformance with state standards."

Haeger said he had requested the less stringent eligibility requirements "to enable us to have a larger

population from which to test. I think we met that goal."

Haeger said the minimum grade had been 70 several years ago, but the department raised it to 75.

There is currently one open sergeant position on the force. Haeger said the department will be offering supervisory training before the end of the year and will probably give the exam in February.

The commission also agreed that firefighters would have to attain state certification as a "Firefighter 3" before being eligible for promotion.

Students rename park Pleasant Run

By Dan Coit
Daily Herald Correspondent

Wheeling residents who enjoy Last Four Acres Park soon will see some changes at the recreation area, including a new name and less mud near the entrance.

As part of a government class during the recent national elections, students at Ann Sullivan School voted to rename the area Pleasant Run Park, a name change that the park board has approved.

The park originally was named "Last Four Acres" because it was the last remaining vacant parcel in the Pulte subdivision. The park is lo-

cated at Honeysuckle and Pear Tree lanes.

Julia Robberson, park district trustee, said 248 third, fourth and fifth grade children nominated nine names then voted on their favorite "candidate" on Election Day.

"Of these, 50 votes went to Pleasant Run, 49 votes to Fantasy Park and 43 to Fun Park," she said. "The recommended name is, therefore, Pleasant Run Park."

Board President James Gallagher congratulated the children on their participation and said they would be formally thanked next year when the park is officially dedicated.

"We'll talk to the superintendent

of the school and have a naming ceremony and a fun day for them next spring," he said.

In addition to the new name, some reconstruction work is also planned.

The William Rose & Associates architectural firm has been awarded a \$1,950 contract to design a method of controlling erosion in a portion of the park where foot traffic has killed the grass.

"There are some corrections needed to keep the park from floating down the street," Gallagher said. "About seven-eighths of the grass looks fantastic, but it's just the part that goes from the playground down to the street."

Park Superintendent John Piazza said drainage problems around the playground area have caused some of the surrounding soil to wash away onto the pavement.

"My recommendation is to retain an architect and engineer to develop the site and grade the area," he said. "We estimate the project to be from \$6,000 to \$8,000, but if a swale is necessary, it will raise the cost."

A swale is a shallow depression in the ground designed to guide runoff water.

Park development funds and Build Illinois state funding will be used to pay for the project.

Police detain hubcaps lost along bumpy Dundee Road

By Keri Wyatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Drivers braving the Dundee Road construction zone in Wheeling have had more to contend with than slow-moving lines and typical hazards.

More than 40 drivers this week lost hubcaps as the result of a large bump in the road, police said. Those hubcaps can be claimed at the Wheeling Police Department.

"There was a large bump in the road which had not been smoothed out when the construction crews left" on Wednesday night, Police Chief Michael Haeger said. "As a result, we have 41 hubcaps and 19 out-

er rings from hubcaps."

Haeger said the worst bump was in the eastbound lanes of Dundee Road, at the old Soo Line tracks. Most of the damage occurred during the Wednesday evening rush hour. "We finally got it corrected at about 7:30 p.m.," Haeger said. Police collected the hubcaps and other debris from the site that evening.

"If anyone lost a hubcap and can come in and show us their car and the missing hubcap, they can get it back," Haeger said.

The Wheeling Police Department is located at 255 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling. Hubcaps can be claimed between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily.

Group renews effort to use center

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A senior citizens' group in Wheeling has renewed its efforts to meet in the Pavilion Senior Center, but the village is defending the policy that keeps them out.

The Wheeling Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is accusing the village of writing senior center rules that specifically prevent their group from meeting in the building and is renewing its efforts to get in.

Village officials say because of security and maintenance reasons, no outside groups may use the Pavilion. However, the village hall council room is available for use by groups that can put down a \$100 deposit and have \$1 million insurance coverage.

"It just occurs to me that they are more concerned with keeping an issue going with negative comments than they are with actually finding a meeting place," Village President Sheila Schultz said, adding that she thought AARP was "personalizing a policy that applies to any other

group, not just them."

The policy prohibits programs that require "affiliation to any organization other than the Senior Center" from using the facility. The policy also prohibits groups that charge membership fees or dues.

AARP officials, in a letter to the village board, charge that those two rules "seem to eliminate the Wheeling AARP chapter, almost as if they had been written for that purpose." The chapter was formed in March, about a month before the rules were adopted.

In June, the group requested use of the Pavilion, claiming it could not afford the insurance needed for village hall.

In its most recent appeal, the chapter is asking the board to "reconsider those portions of this policy which are being used to deny our Chapter the privilege of meeting at the Wheeling Senior Center."

Schultz said the decision to deny AARP use of the Pavilion "was based on a policy that is already in place."

New village liquor laws aimed at minors

The Wheeling village board will discuss three new liquor laws aimed at drinkers below legal age Monday night.

The proposed ordinances prohibit minors from trying to buy alcohol, asking an adult to buy it for them or having a false identification card.

The board will meet at 8 p.m. Monday at village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling.

The proposed ordinances were first introduced in October, after a

Wheeling liquor store lost its license for selling to minors who presented false identification.

Because the village attorney was absent when the ordinance was first discussed, a vote was delayed until this week.

Wheeling police have been trying to more strictly enforce laws against minors possessing alcohol for several months. Last spring, during prom weekend, police arrested seven people under age 21 as they walked out

of a Wheeling liquor store with booze they had bought using false identification.

Current laws only prohibit stores from selling liquor to minors, and minors from possessing it. If they try to buy it unsuccessfully, they have not broken the law. The new ordinances would change that. Also, a person carrying identification that misrepresents their age would also be subject to arrest.

Some trustees have objected to

The top meeting

Who: Wheeling village board

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

When: 8 p.m. Monday

making mere possession of false identification a crime.

Wheeling threatens to fine cable company

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials are threatening a \$200-per-day fine against TCI of Illinois for the cable television firm's failure to live up to a franchise agreement.

The village board today is expected to consider the fine despite a recommendation from the Northwest Cable Council that member communities like Wheeling give TCI more time to comply.

Village officials are recommending the board invoke the fine against TCI for failure to provide adequate telephone service for customers.

Arlington Heights, another cable council member, already has

voted to fine the company for the same reasons.

Wheeling Administrative Assistant David Kowal, who represents the village on the cable council, said Wheeling receives "at least one complaint per day" about TCI's customer service lines.

"We're looking at hold times, abandonment rate — which is the number of people who call, get put on hold and end up hanging up because they get sick of waiting — and also an excessive number of busy signals" on TCI customer service lines, Kowal said.

At a cable council meeting last week, Wheeling and Arlington Heights were the only members of the eight-suburb council voting

against giving TCI another month to improve its services.

The council, an advisory group that employs a full-time person to field complaints and monitor TCI's performance, has been threatening to allow communities to fine the company since August.

An October deadline was extended in most communities, except for Arlington Heights.

Kowal said he voted against the additional extension, because "TCI has been given ample time to come into compliance."

The fine, if approved by the board, would be retroactive to Nov. 16 and would continue until TCI would supply "adequate" telephone service

Trustees tighten local liquor ordinances

son said the section prohibiting false identification "was included because there was no lawful need for anyone to possess a false ID, it could also be used in lieu of state statutes."

Village President Sheila Schultz also noted that the law against carrying a false ID could "be effective in enforcing traffic ordinances." Wheeling police have stepped up enforcement of liquor code violations, particularly those involving minors. Last spring, during the weekend many local high schools held their prom, police arrested seven people walking out of one Wheeling liquor store with alcohol they had bought using fake or altered identification cards.

rested, even if the store clerk refuses to sell the beer to him. Police are hoping that store owners will cooperate by calling them when minors attempt to purchase liquor.

The ordinances were originally introduced in October, after a Wheeling liquor store lost its license for selling to minors who had presented false identification. The store, J.C. Liquors, is currently closed, but is appealing the decision in circuit court. During the local liquor hearing in that case, one youth testified that false identification cards are easy to obtain, and can be purchased for about \$10.

Village Manager Craig Ander-

In an effort to crack down on underage drinking, Wheeling trustees approved three new liquor ordinances Monday night.

The new laws make it illegal for people under 21 to attempt to purchase alcohol, to ask an adult to buy liquor for them, or to carry a false identification card. Previously, minors could only be arrested if they were successful in their attempts to purchase alcohol and police caught them with it in their possession.

Under the new law, a minor who walks into a liquor store, takes a six-pack of beer from the shelf and puts it on the counter could be ar-



An unscheduled stop

Drivers on Milwaukee Avenue were delayed by Wheeling police during a three-hour road block. Police checked for violations ranging from driving under the influence to having a headlight out. Police said several drivers were arrested Friday night, including a few that had alcohol in their cars. Final arrest statistics were not available.

Daily Herald Photo/Kent Kriegshauser

Fining cable operator may get good reception

By Bob Kehoe
Managing Editor

In a move that may prove to be only a symbolic gesture, the Wheeling Village Board Monday night was expected to consider fining its cable television operator \$200 a day for poor service.

The long-running dispute between Wheeling and its cable provider, TCI of Illinois, is part of a larger battle being waged by eight governmental bodies in the Northwest Municipal Conference Cable Council against TCI.

The municipalities claim TCI is failing to live up to its franchise agreement with their villages by providing poor service response time to residents who call the cable company with complaints, service and billing questions.

To date, only Arlington Heights has adopted a resolution calling for \$200 a day fines against TCI for failing to make service improvements in a reasonable time period.

FINES IMPOSED BY Arlington Heights and Wheeling, should the village board approve a similar resolution, may end up being nothing more than a symbolic gesture, according to Carole Stannard, executive director of the Cable Council.

"TCI has a company policy not to pay fines. Any community that adopts a resolution usually has to take them to court (to force collection of the fines)," Stannard said.

If the case ever does make it to court, Stannard said judges usually allows the two parties to negotiate an agreement between themselves.

Court fight or no court fight, Wheeling administrators say TCI has had enough time to make more significant improvements in service than the municipalities have seen in recent weeks and months.

"MY RECOMMENDATION to the village manager will be to adopt a resolution and begin assessing a fine of \$200 a day (against TCI)," said David Kowal, assistant to the village manager and Wheeling's representative on the Cable Council.

Exactly when and under what circumstances the fines would be lifted, assuming they are imposed, isn't clear since the dispute centers on a "reasonable" response time standard in the

franchise agreement for the provider to answer consumers' calls.

What Wheeling and TCI consider to be "reasonable" response times have not been spelled out, according to officials from both parties.

"We've worked with them informally on coming up with standards, but TCI told the Cable Council (it wouldn't agree to the standards)," Kowal said.

MARK HESS, TCI's general manager, says imposing fines and specific standards won't make any difference in the way the company does business since TCI is doing everything it can to improve service as quickly as possible.

"It's not going to change anything we're trying to do," said Hess, who added that there has been "dramatic improvement" in the last 10 to 14 days in customer service phone line response time.

One area Hess cited specific improvement in was the abandonment rate of customer calls to TCI. The rate applies to the number of people who are put on hold so long that they hang up before they talk to a customer service representative.

"We went through a seven-day period where every call got through," Hess said. "The statistics (on abandonment rates and response time) are as good or better than any numbers I've seen reported to the Northwest Municipal Conference in the last two years."

HESS SAID THAT in recent weeks TCI has added 18 to 20 customer service representatives to answer phone lines. He said five more representatives were set to be added Monday and that the company will continue adding personnel until the problem is resolved.

That action by TCI may be too late, however, to satisfy Wheeling officials.

Wheeling President Sheila Schultz said that if village staff's recommendation is to fine TCI, she suspects the village board will support that plan.

"They've been given one extension. There has been some improvement (in service), but it's still not up to the franchise agreement," Schultz said.

TRUSTEE JIM WHITTINGTON agreed with Schultz's assessment.

"I probably will (vote to fine TCI)," Whittington said. "This didn't come out of the blue. They've had warnings."

responsive to those complaints," Szymborski said. "There's been nothing major. We ask them to follow up on the complaints and we follow up on them, too."

BUFFALO GROVE AND other Continental Cablevision franchise holders, including Elk Grove, Hoffman Estates, Rolling Meadows and Palatine, meet with the cable company on a monthly basis to air any their concerns about service.

Trustee William Reid, village board cable liaison, said there was a strong potential for mix ups when Continental Cablevision switched its local access channel to Channel 6 earlier this fall, but an open dialogue averted any problems.

Wheeling last to back Lake-Cook Road plan

An engineering study that could provide some potential solutions to improve traffic flow on Lake-Cook Road will likely receive financial backing from Wheeling.

By Dennis Anderson
Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday are expected to approve a resolution supporting a proposed Lake-Cook Road Local Corridor Agency designed to improve traffic flow on the thoroughfare from Rand Road east to the Tri-State Tollway.

By passing the resolution, Wheeling will join Buffalo Grove, Arlington Heights and Palatine in an engineering study to determine capacity limits and structural needs of Lake-Cook Road through the next 20 years. The study will be coordinated by the Northwest Municipal Conference (NMC).

"This is a long time coming," said Bill Duggan, NMC administrative assistant in charge of the Lake-Cook Road agency. "The purpose of the study is to plan for the future of the roadway. There is a lot of development potential along the roadway, so it is important to have some type of program in place."

"We are going to put our collective heads together, using all the tools available to us, to try to mitigate congestion in the area."

WITH STATE ROUTE 53 being extended to Lake-Cook Road and a

(Continued from page 11)

begin to break down further west on Lake-Cook Road from Raupp Boulevard in Buffalo Grove.

Anderson said in Wheeling, the village can handle the traffic that flows along Lake-Cook Road. He said traffic does bottleneck at Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road, but most of that backup is on Milwaukee.

Officials say they hope the study will offer potential solutions to those concerns.

BUFFALO GROVE PREPARED a similar study to plan for the future of Buffalo Grove Road. Village officials say developers have used the study to plan the alignment of Buffalo Grove Road north of Lake-Cook Road. Buffalo Grove Road will ultimately intersect with U.S. Route 45.

number of undeveloped acres along the roadway, Duggan said now is a prime time to conduct the study.

"We have to decide what has to be done to be prepared for the future development of the area," Duggan said. "We will also be looking at the future of public transportation in the area and land use modifications, like bus turnout lanes."

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said the study will help every community plan as a team.

"The whole idea of the agency is to work together so one community does not do something that will unilaterally have adverse effects on the other towns," Anderson said. "We want to work together to ensure orderly development."

PLANNERS DON'T KNOW exactly what will come out of the study, but they say there are concerns they hope it will address.

Buffalo Grove officials have said Lake-Cook Road is a safe, high quality road, but traffic tends to back up during the morning and evening rush hour. However, they say, the traffic does

(Continued on page 15)

The cost of the project has yet to be determined. Duggan said the agency will ask the Cook County Highway Department to share in the cost of the study. Lake County would not be involved in the plan because, according to state law, the county on the south side of a common road is responsible for that thoroughfare.

"This study is the first of its kind," Duggan said. "There have been agreements with two communities before, but this study includes four towns studying over 8.5 miles of roadway."

"I really have no idea of what the cost of the study will be because this is a new approach involving a lot of consultants. We're really having to take a hard look because we have nothing to compare it to."

BG reports no static in dealing with its cable television provider

By Dennis Anderson
Staff Writer

While subscribers in Wheeling are up in arms over the cable television service they are receiving, Buffalo Grove officials say despite minor bugs the village's cable provider is doing a good job.

Lee Szymborski, Buffalo Grove assistant village manager, said the village receives about six complaints from residents about cable service per month. He said most of the complaints are about service interruption.

Buffalo Grove turns over all complaints to Continental Cablevision, the village's cable service.

"Generally, they've been very

Board to meet with fourth recycling firm

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

11-25-88
Wheeling officials will meet Monday with yet another garbage hauler who hopes to land a curbside recycling contract with the village.

Haulaway, Inc., will be the fourth and final company to present its recycling program to the village in what has been a combination of informal bidding and comparison shopping over the last five months.

Haulaway representatives are scheduled to talk with trustees at 8 p.m. Monday at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

"The board wanted to see what was out there, who's doing what,"

Village Manager Craig Anderson said. "And not just pick the first company that comes along."

Earlier this month, trustees talked to Laidlaw Waste Systems Inc. Like other garbage haulers, Laidlaw representatives pointed out that recycling was becoming more popular, and more necessary. Space in landfills is rapidly disappearing, and recycling removes garbage that would ordinarily fill up landfills.

Laidlaw said its program would cost an estimated \$2 to \$3 per household per month.

In October, Browning-Ferris Industries outlined its curbside recycling program, which would cost about \$2.50 per household per

month. Because the company does not have a regular route in Wheeling, the village would receive a quarterly bill from BFI and would have to bill residents individually.

In July, representatives from Waste Management of North America told trustees they could provide a curbside recycling program for about \$1 per household per month. This is because Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal, a Waste Management company, hauls most of the regular residential garbage in Wheeling.

Waste Management has contracts for recycling programs with Arlington Heights and Buffalo Grove. Browning-Ferris Industries handles

recycling in Mount Prospect, South Barrington and Bloomingdale. Laidlaw recently started a program in Barrington.

In addition to the monthly charge to each customer, recycling would require each household — or the village — purchasing plastic bins to hold the materials. However, state grants are available to offset startup costs, and each of the companies would return part of the profits from the sale of recycled materials to the village.

Anderson said the village has not set a specific date for beginning a recycling program.

Rating system for flood insurance proposed

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

11-24-88
In an effort to reduce insurance costs in communities that actively attempt to prevent flooding, federal authorities will meet with representatives from several Northwest suburbs next week.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has invited officials from Wheeling, Prospect Heights, Des Plaines, Rosemont, Gurnee and Lake County to discuss a possible "rating system" for flood insurance. They will meet at 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

French Wetmore, flood management consultant for the federal agency, said the communities in-

vited "are already doing additional flood prevention measures" that exceed government requirements.

The proposed rating system would be similar to the system now used for fire insurance. Fire protection in each community is rated based on water sources, and whether the fire department is full time or volunteer. A better rating means less expensive fire insurance for homeowners.

Though houses built in a flood plain must have federal flood insurance, discounts currently are not given to communities that take measures to reduce the chances of flooding. Wetmore said the average annual premium for a flood-prone house is about \$250.

"We're looking at trying to get a blanket percentage reduction based on the rating," which could reduce insurance costs by as much as 25 percent, Wetmore said.

However, the rating system would probably not be in place for at least a year. "This is just a field test of what is being considered," Wetmore said.

Wheeling Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said he supports the idea of a rating system and thinks Wheeling would benefit.

"We clean out our creeks, work with the Metropolitan Sanitary District," he said. "We have higher than the minimum flood restrictions. I think we would get a favorable rating."

Private pilot picked to fill airport commission vacancy

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

11-24-88
Prospect Heights Mayor John E. Gilligan has appointed a new Pal-Waukee Airport commissioner, the third man to take the commission seat in the last four months.

Nicholas J. Helmer, a real estate broker and two-year resident of Prospect Heights, attended his first commission meeting Wednesday.

Helmer replaces Thomas Nolan, who served for just two months before stepping down to take a job in Twin Falls, Idaho.

Nolan was appointed in September, after Commissioner Ralph Shepstone also left Prospect Heights. Shepstone, too, had served only two months.

"We've had a little trouble keeping that seat warm," Gilligan said when Nolan left.

Helmer is the president of Inland Residential Sales Corp. He currently is working on converting the Mount Prospect Townhomes on Boxwood Drive from rental to individually owned units.

Like Nolan, Helmer holds a private pilot's license. "I no longer have a plane, but I have an active license," he said. "I learned to fly at

Pal-Waukee. I'm very interested in the airport." He still flies by renting a plane.

Helmer said he learned of the job through his doctor, who knew the city was looking to fill the vacancy on the board.

"He knows I fly airplanes and that I was involved in the community." After being introduced to Gilligan and "having a nice long chat," with him, Helmer was appointed.

Prior to moving to Prospect Heights, Helmer lived in Mount Prospect for 13 years. He served on the Downtown Re-development Commission there. He also has worked with the River Trails Park District.

Unlike his predecessors, Helmer said he is deeply established in the community because of his job. "There's not a chance of a job transfer. My commitment is to the company I'm with. I've been in the area a long time. My roots are in the community."

Pal-Waukee Airport is jointly owned and operated by Prospect Heights and Wheeling. The mayor or president of each town appoints four people, either residents or elected officials, to serve on the commission.

Helmer's term will expire in 1991.

Pal-Waukee commission names officers

BY DAN COIT
Daily Herald Correspondent

After more than a year under a temporary chairman, the Pal-Waukee Airport Commission has elected four new officers.

Commissioner Carey L. Chickering, of Prospect Heights, was elected chairman, despite a tie vote with Commissioner James V. Nickel for the seat.

Nickel, also of Prospect Heights, withdrew from consideration after the vote.

Nickel said other responsibilities would prevent him from serving in the post. "I have a lot of commitments and personal things," he said. "I would yield to Carey to carry the

governing the airport's operation did not specify how to select officers or how long terms of office should be.

The group finally agreed that each town would hold the chairmanship for one year, and that office would alternate between the two towns. When the chairman is from one town, the vice-chairman will come from the other.

Since commission terms expire in February, new officers will be elected in that month. However, the officers elected at the November meeting will serve until February 1990.

Daily Herald Staff Writer Keri Wyatt also contributed to this report.

banner for Prospect Heights." Robert Strauss, of Wheeling, won the vice chairman office, beating William A. Rogers by a vote of five to one.

With only single nominees vying for the other offices, Commissioner Henry F. Levin was elected treasurer and Nickel accepted the secretary post.

"As long as it doesn't involve taking the minutes I'm all right," Nickel quipped.

The airport is jointly owned and operated by Wheeling and Prospect Heights. The commission is made up of four members from each town.

The two towns were divided on how to elect officers, because the intergovernmental agreement

Dundee Road's clear again in Wheeling

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling commuters are about to wake up after a six-week traffic nightmare. Construction on Dundee Road in Wheeling is almost complete, and all four lanes are now open to traffic.

The project to realign Northgate Parkway and Boehmer Road at Dundee went according to schedule, except for the final road surface which has been delayed by cold weather, said Michael Klitzke, community development director.

"If the weather would have held we could have put that final surface on last week," Klitzke said. "But it's too cold now. It might be

that way all winter." If weather warms up in the next week or so, it would only take one day to put the final surface in place, he said.

Klitzke said drivers can still use the road without the final top surface, and although there may be a few temporary lane closures next week, the road is basically finished. The few periodic closures would "only be one lane at a time, and they are trying to avoid doing it at rush hour," Klitzke said.

"They are working on the (traffic) lights right now," he said, adding that he expects the entire intersection to be completed within two weeks.

The \$3.1 million project — financed by the village, state and federal governments — has been

under way since May. Work began on the side streets, and did not affect Dundee Road until about six weeks ago.

The two side streets previously intersected Dundee Road at right angles about 265 feet apart.

Crews brought the two roads together at a 62-degree angle to form one road, with a traffic light at Dundee. The project was designed to make the dangerous intersection safer.

Traffic on Dundee has been backed up considerably during the past six weeks, particularly during rush hour.

However, Monday's morning rush should be much smoother, Klitzke said.

Pal-Waukee fights to attract pilots

BY DAN COIT
Daily Herald Correspondent

Pal-Waukee Airport officials say they are involved in a "marketing war" with other airports and are vowing to revise their battle strategy to keep customers.

The Illinois Division of Aeronautics, which licenses aircraft, reports 280 fewer licenses were issued to Pal-Waukee-based aircraft between 1987 and 1988.

In an effort to curb that trend, the Pal-Waukee Airport Commission will join with Preister Aviation and the Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association to develop a plan to lure aircraft owners back to the municipal airport.

"We are in the throes of a marketing war with other airports trying to lure our pilots away," Commission Chairman Carey Chickerneo said.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights jointly own and operate the airport. The commission, made up of members from each town, has been work-

ing on the proposed rules and regulations for nearly a year.

The commission agreed to scrap a 54-page set of proposed rules and regulations and to rewrite them. The rules have been widely criticized as being too stringent in their regulation of flight instruction, business on the airport and insurance requirements.

"I would like to see our public relations committee and the commission both get together with our FBO," to work on a set of rules that would be acceptable to all three groups, Chickerneo said.

An FBO, Fixed Base Operation, is the primary airport business that fuels and services planes. At Pal-Waukee, that function is carried out by Priester Aviation.

Charlie Priester, company president, said pilots have received wrong information about the airport, and improved public relations would help stall their leaving.

"We are getting some undue and some untrue press on that," he said.

Commissioner James V. Nickel says other factors besides lack of information were driving pilots away. Nickel said Pal-Waukee has the highest fuel prices of the five nearest similar airports.

Aviation fuel costs pilots \$1.90 per gallon at Pal-Waukee but those willing to park their planes at Kenosha airport can buy fuel at a self-serve pump for as little as \$1.49 per gallon.

Full service fuel costs \$1.69 at the Kenosha field, \$1.69 in Aurora and \$1.61 at DuPage. The Waukegan airport charges \$1.85 per gallon for full serve and \$1.65 for self serve.

Barry Dainas, president of the pilots association, said other airports are actively soliciting pilots to move to their fields by sending them information, offering discounts or even coupons for free fuel.

Nickel said competing airports also are using recent improvements as a selling point. Kenosha, DuPage and Aurora airports all have added runways, or plan to in the near fu-

ture. Waukegan has a new instrument tower.

"Based on 1984, we're about four percent lower on traffic while our friends down the road are 15 percent ahead," Nickel said. "We can talk about public relations and have all kinds of fancy maps but we have to know where we're going. Unless we adopt reasonable rules and fees we're going to lose," he said.

"The rules issue has become a marketing issue for us," Chickerneo said. "This is the most restricting and cumbersome set of rules than those any other airport has used to date."

Nickel said pilots need to be included in the rule-making process. "I propose we include the users and look at revising the rules for 60 or 90 days from now," he said.

"We are basically a service organization, and we can't cut off our heads to have a bunch of rules," Levin agreed. "Simple, direct and to the point — that's what our rules will be."

Schultz, 3 incumbents seek re-election

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz and three other village board incumbents announced Monday they will run for re-election this April on the Wheeling Independent Party slate.

New to the slate will be village clerk candidate Lois Gaffke, a plan commission member. Current clerk Janet D'Argo, while not seeking re-election, will co-chair the campaign with Edward Main.

Main, who was defeated by Schultz in a bid for village president four years ago, says he would rather work with Schultz than against her.

"It's just not my time right now. Sheila is doing a good job. I support her," he said. Main is a Wheeling Township Trustee and says he will run for re-election in April. He also serves on the Wheeling Fire and Police Commission.

D'Argo said she has enjoyed serving as clerk but wants to pursue other interests, including art classes and her grandchildren. Of the party incumbents, she said, "They are the most dedicated group I've ever worked with."

Trustees William Rogers, Elizabeth Hartman and Joseph Ratajczak will run with Schultz and Gaffke. Rogers, Ratajczak and Schultz will all be seeking their third term of office. Hartman will be seeking her second term as trustee, although she formerly served as village clerk.

Gaffke has been a plan commissioner for two years and has lived in the village for 11 years.

"I'm fascinated by city government," Gaffke said. "I wanted to get more involved." She is a homemaker and mother of two and has served as a board director of a construction company and utility company.

"All of us have thought at one moment, 'Maybe I won't run,' but we have so much in progress, so many things we want to start," Schultz said. "Sure, it's a big time commitment, but we all really enjoy doing it."

So far, no other candidates have come forward to challenge the incumbents.

Walking the dog may hold a surprise

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Board of Health has cleaned up its animal control ordinance in an effort to clean up the village's sidewalks.

The board is recommending more stringent laws that would require pet owners to clean up after their pets "immediately." Current ordinances require removal of animal messes within one hour, but do not stipulate that a person must carry a bag, shovel or other means of removal with them.

The proposed changes must be reviewed by the village attorney, then approved by the village board before they go into effect. Board

review has not yet been scheduled. "Fecal matter is a proven health hazard," health board member Bruce Portnoy said. "And it's not just a health problem, it's a matter of respect for other people's rights."

Common property areas in multi-family developments have been a source of the problem. In town house or condominium buildings, for example, residents often share a yard or sidewalks. Residents in some of those developments have complained to the village about their neighbors' dogs' excrement.

Current law is unclear on clean-up of those common areas, so the new ordinance specifically requires multi-family residents to keep the area within 30 feet of the

building free of animal deposits. Village Sanitarian Daniel Adams said the new laws were suggested because the village had trouble prosecuting cases. When citations were issued, animal owners often would not be convicted because they argued they had intended to go back and clean up after their pets.

"A lot of this will have to be tested," Portnoy said. "But I think it will be a lot more enforceable."

The proposed changes also would increase the fine from \$20-\$50 to a minimum of \$25, and up to \$500.

Portnoy says he is in favor of posting signs in parks and other public areas to warn residents about the new laws.

Zoning change holds up motel sale

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Owners of a landmark Wheeling motel who want to retire and sell their property have taken a step in that direction, but still fear the deal may fall through.

Frederich and Ruth Borgardt have owned The Wishing Well Motel, 397 N. Milwaukee Ave., for the past 10 years.

They found a buyer for the 18-room motel and had expected to close the deal in September. Two weeks before closing, they were informed that Wheeling zoning laws for motels had changed, and the grandfather clause that covered their business would expire in 1992.

It could not be sold unless the Bor-

gardts were granted zoning variations or until the property was brought into conformance with current village codes.

"We were never informed," when the laws changed, Ruth Borgardt said. "The bank won't let the new buyer have a loan until the zoning is corrected."

The Wheeling Plan Commission is unanimously recommending that the motel be granted two minor zoning variations, needed because one building is too close to the lot line and because there are two buildings on one lot.

Village Planner Robert Sullivan said property owners affected by zoning changes are not notified individually. "We put notice in the paper when ordinance changes are going to

be discussed in a public hearing," Sullivan said. "So officially, the public is notified. But the individual is not."

The village board must approve the plan commission's recommendation. But Borgardt said that approval may come too late.

"It's real frustrating," Borgardt said. "We don't know which way it's going. They told us it may be two or three board meetings before we get on the agenda. If it goes past the middle of December, I don't think the bank will extend the money, and our deal could be squashed."

The Borgardts would like to retire from the motel business. They expected to have the old motel sold by mid-September. When their live-in manager left Aug. 30, the couple

moved into the apartment on the property, thinking they would be out in a few weeks.

They did not learn the zoning laws had been changed until the new owner applied for a business license. "We couldn't close the deal," Borgardt said. "We've been dangling on thin ice ever since."

Sullivan said if all paperwork is completed, the zoning changes will be before the village board Dec. 5. "We're shooting for the 5th," he said. "At the worst, it will be Dec. 19."

The Wishing Well was built in the 1940s. It has 10 motel rooms and eight kitchenettes. "We rent those out on a weekly basis," Borgardt said. "But there are some people who live here."

Agency may study Lake-Cook development

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials hope to reduce traffic problems and plan for future development along Lake-Cook Road by forming a "local corridor agency" with three other Northwest suburbs.

Wheeling trustees have unanimously agreed to join the agency and to help fund projects taken on by the agency. An initial engineering study is expected to cost about \$500,000, but agency planners hope Cook County highway officials will pick up part of the cost.

Although he supported the formation of the agency, Trustee William Rogers is skeptical of its powers.

While the agency could study traffic and development, it would not have power to prohibit development.

"If we can't do anything to limit development, are we spending money to know what's going on, but cannot do anything about it?" Rogers asked.

Village President Sheila Schultz said the agency would be a way for Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, Arlington Heights and Palatine to share information. The authority for development in each village would still rest with each village board. "The agency is the four municipalities," she said.

"We have met the enemy, and he is us," Rogers said.

The three other villages already

have joined the group, which will be called the Lake-Cook Local Corridor Agency.

The group's first priority is to conduct an engineering study of current traffic, which would also look at how various types of possible development would affect traffic.

William Duggan, administrative assistant for the Northwest Municipal Conference, said each of the four villages would contribute toward the \$500,000 engineering study based on how much of Lake-Cook Road is in their boundaries. The agency also will seek funds from the Cook County Highway Authority.

"We are not committing to funding at this time," Village Manager Craig Anderson said. "The ultimate

decision to spend money would have to be approved by the boards of each village."

If that decision is made, Wheeling's share will be 28.6 percent of the total local cost. Buffalo Grove, with the most property along Lake-Cook, will pay 57 percent of the local cost. Palatine will pay a flat contribution of \$1,000; Arlington Heights will pay either \$5,000 or 14.35 percent, whichever is less.

Each village would have one elected official to serve on the agency's governing board. In addition, the group is considering setting up an advisory board made up of three citizens or business people from each community.

Wheeling plans recycling venture

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials plan to start a village-wide curbside recycling program this spring but have not yet decided which disposal company will get the contract for the program.

The village has heard presentations from four garbage hauling companies and will select one sometime next month.

The village will then apply for a state grant to offset the start-up costs of the program, which include buying the square plastic bins used to hold the materials at the curb. If the grant is awarded, the program probably would start in April or May.

Lee Brandsma, spokesman for Haulaway Inc., told the board his company could provide a once-a-week pick-up of newspapers, glass and aluminum from Wheeling's 3,300 houses for \$2 per home per month.

Brandsma criticized another company, Laidlaw Waste Systems Inc., which had boasted to the board of 90 percent participation rate in its recycling program.

"You are not going to see 90 per-

cent participation rate, or 45 percent of the waste stream diverted. Those are ridiculous numbers," he said. About 60 percent participation was a more realistic goal, he said.

Haulaway, like other contractors who have talked to village leaders, would collect, sort and sell the recyclables. Brandsma said his company would return 80 percent of the profits from those sales to the village, after taking out a set processing fee.

"What kind of income are you thinking you'll return to the village?" Trustee William Rogers asked.

Brandsma said he expected the village to get about \$1,000 per month from the program, depending on participation in the program and the market for recyclable materials.

The trustees decided that rather than do a pilot program of just a few homes, they would do a village-wide program. The trustees also were eager to explore the possibility of including multi-family developments. Wheeling has more residents living in apartments, town houses or condos than in single-family houses.

"I'm eager to get started on this,"

Trustee Elizabeth Hartman said. "I think we can learn from experience of communities around us." Neighboring Buffalo Grove began a recycling program in August.

Village President Sheila Schultz said the village should look at how recycling fits into the village's overall solid waste program.

"Solid waste and recycling are part and parcel," she said. "This is going to be mandated eventually."

Village Manager Craig Anderson said money brought in by the program should be put back into recycling, rather than spent as general revenues or placed in unrelated funds.

"I would not want to depend on that funding," Anderson said. "I don't want to have to worry about patching potholes because we didn't sell enough aluminum."

Brandsma said he thought the village had an "excellent chance" of getting a state grant to help pay for starting a program, and he predicted the village would have high participation.

"We think Wheeling is a community that will get behind recycling," he said.

New system may ease flood insurance costs

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Federal authorities are offering several Northwest suburbs a chance to lower residents' flood insurance costs by adopting a system that would rate communities on 34 flood-prevention criteria. Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency met Tuesday with officials from Wheeling, Des Plaines, Prospect Heights, Gurnee and Lake County to discuss the proposed system. These communities already are taking flood control and prevention measures that exceed government regulations.

The program would be open to any of the 18,000 communities na-

tionwide that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. Participation would be voluntary.

Houses built in a flood plain must have federal flood insurance, but rates are the same across the country. French Wetmore, flood management consultant for the federal agency, said the average annual premium for a flood-prone house is about \$250. Depending on a community's rating, that could be reduced by up to 45 percent.

Wetmore said the program would increase the number of homeowners with flood insurance. The proposed system would be similar to that used for fire insurance, in which communities are rated according to criteria such as

water sources and whether the department is full-time or volunteer. Officials were supportive of the proposed program.

"Des Plaines has higher standards than state regulations," said Vern Chase, building permit coordinator for the city. "I'd assume we would get a higher rating."

Wheeling Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said Wheeling's stringent flood plain building requirements would help the village's rating under the proposed system.

Each community was given a list of the criteria, and will be inspected by FEMA in about two weeks, Wetmore said. The actual program would not go into effect for at least a year.

Towns give insurance pools glowing marks

Countyside 12-1-88

When villages like Wheeling and Buffalo Grove decided to enter municipal insurance pools to escape the volatility of a changing insurance market, some questioned the long-term viability of the cooperatives. Any doubts about the pool concept, however, have since been erased.

By Dennis Anderson
Staff Writer

The situation that caused a number of municipal insurance pools to be created a decade ago may not be as severe today, but the need for the cooperatives is still apparent, say area village officials.

Ten years ago, communities like Buffalo Grove and Wheeling were faced with skyrocketing liability insurance premiums or weren't even able to obtain coverage. To cut costs and keep stable coverage, municipalities, park districts and school districts got together to form insurance cooperatives in which member bodies pooled their resources to buy one policy to cover all of them.

Today, there are more than 200 municipal insurance pools nationwide representing one-quarter of local governments in the country. They pay a combined \$2.5 billion a year in insurance premiums.

Village officials say by enrolling in insurance pools, they were able to hold down costs and at the same time

expand coverage because the premium was spread over a number of towns, rather than just one.

AS THE INSURANCE crunch grew, so did the cooperatives. Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA), of which Buffalo Grove and Wheeling are members, started out in 1979 with 14 communities. Today, 44 villages participate in the IRMA program.

"Pooling has matured with time," said Sal M. Bianchi, IRMA risk manager. "According to 'Business Insurance,' the industry's trade magazine, pooling is the most significant insurance issue in the 1980s. This is a serious business that is growing substantially."

IRMA members have joined together to manage and fund their property and casualty liability claims, including workers' compensation. According to IRMA's policy, each member municipality assumes the first \$1,000 for each claim arising out of the member's operation. For the coverage of workers' compensation and first party property, the IRMA loss fund pays for the next \$249,000 for any such losses or claims. For general auto liability, the next \$199,000 is paid by the pool loss fund.

Wheeling joined IRMA after village officials found it hard to pay escalating premium costs, or for that matter, even obtain insurance coverage, said Wheeling Finance Director Bob Flalkowski.

"WE ARE getting much better coverage than you could get in the

private market at a much better price," Flalkowski said. "If it wasn't cheaper, we'd have insurance brokers crawling all over the place."

As the insurance crunch has softened over the years, premiums have dropped.

"IRMA is well worth it," Flalkowski said. "Our costs have gone down. Last year we paid \$338,000 for coverage. This year we are paying \$314,000."

"It is much cheaper for us to be in a pool," said Buffalo Grove Finance Director William H. Brimm. "There is no way we could afford an entire insurance package on our own. And with IRMA, we aren't just buying an insurance package, we are also getting a number of services. We're very satisfied with IRMA. We were satisfied in 1979 and we're still satisfied now."

"I'D LIKE to think we are offering much more than simply an insurance program, but a program for risk management," Bianchi said. "We also offer programs for loss prevention, engineering services, litigation management. We are a large pool with a large financial base, so we are able to hire a professional staff."

As an incentive measure, IRMA offers premium rebates to communities with the least amount of claims. Earlier this month, Buffalo Grove was given a \$100,000 credit, the most given to any of the 44 communities in the insurance cooperative.

Brimm said Buffalo Grove had just 40 claims valued at \$6,997 in 1987. Buffalo Grove's IRMA premium is \$270,000.

"We've had a lot of luck and our

people have been working very safely," Brimm said.

INSURANCE COOPERATIVES aren't limited to municipalities. School districts have their own insurance pools.

Kildeer School District 96 has been involved with the 65-school district insurance cooperative, the Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC), since it was created six years ago.

"I would say by being in CLIC the district is saving in excess of 25 percent on insurance premiums," said Kent Blake, District 96 assistant superintendent for business.

Blake said CLIC was started because a number of school districts in the Chicago area were not only unable to pay the skyrocketing premiums but couldn't get any insurance coverage.

"WE JOINED the cooperative just when they were starting out. It turned out to be a wise decision," Blake said. "CLIC helped reduce our premiums and at the same time stabilized our premium costs."

Blake said as the insurance industry softened, so did CLIC's premiums.

"We are paying 13.5 percent less this year for the same coverage we had from 1987-88," Blake said. "We've increased our exposure by adding buildings. We've grown as a district, but our costs haven't escalated, our insurance has been upgraded."

Board weighs recycling options

Countyside 12-1-88

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

After being courted for their trash for the fourth time, village trustees Monday began the process of deciding who gets the village's recyclable paper, glass and aluminum.

But a decision based upon cost, which would apparently give the village's main solid waste contractor an economic advantage, won't be that simple, the companies competing for the village's recycling rights say.

Four companies, including Waste Management of North America, Browning-Ferris Industries, Laidlaw Waste Systems and Haulaway, Inc. have proposed how they would undertake a curb-side recycling program. Waste Management's Wheeling Disposal now picks up the village's curb-side solid waste.

Since Waste Management told trustees in September they would collect and process recyclables for \$1 extra per month for each home, the other companies quoted prices between \$1.55 and \$2.50 for each single-family home.

THOSE HAULERS CONTEND their projected bid price is higher than Waste Management's because as more of Wheeling's trash is recycled, only Waste Management would see decreases in its disposal costs. Since the village's refuse is not considered part of those haulers' weekly waste stream, the landfilling costs they sustain would not fall as a result of recycling.

Lee Addleman, recycling coordinator for Waste Management, said his quote of \$1 per month included the avoided disposal savings his firm would

incur.

For the other companies to be competitive solely based on cost, the other haulers said, Waste Management would have to be willing to lower its rates on the remainder of the solid waste disposal requirements within the village.

Haulaway's Lee Brandsma, however, said it was unlikely any hauler would agree to such a contract. In the eight communities where Haulaway has the solid waste contract, Brandsma said he would be unwilling to lower his rate.

BUT ADDLEMAN SAID Waste Management would consider such a move because any recycling within one of its client communities would benefit his company.

"We would address the avoided costs," Addleman said, because it would be "morally and ethically incorrect" to not consider them.

In Naperville, where Waste Management's Fox Valley Disposal has the main contract and a not-for-profit organization operates a recycling program, Waste Management has written checks to the city of Naperville which in essence are rebates for savings on Waste Management landfills.

"It's (the cost differential) something we have to look at long and hard before we pick a company," Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

ALL OF THE programs proposed so far, although differing on cost, call for implementing a curb-side recycling service that would require residents of the village's 3,300 single-family homes

to separate their newspapers, glass and aluminum and put them in a heavy plastic bin and placed at the curb.

Although residents would have to pay more for a recycling service, the proposed benefits would be seen years later when a landfill's life is prolonged.

Without taking immediate immediate steps to reduce municipal waste streams, experts are predicting a solid waste crisis that would find disposal access extremely limited and costly.

Village trustees said Monday the village will make a decision and hopefully begin recycling next spring.

"THIS IS something our community should have as soon as it can be arranged," Trustee Elizabeth Hartman said.

Over the next several weeks, village staff members will begin to analyze the proposals made by the four waste haulers. Cost, billing procedures and future inclusion of multi-family housing units are issues expected to enter into the decision-making process.

Unlike some of its neighbors, the village as a whole would begin a recycling program, trustees agreed. The board said it would prefer going village-wide to avoid any of the pilot programs that other communities have undertaken.

Waste Management now operates programs throughout the area, including one in Buffalo Grove; Laidlaw operates one center in Barrington; Haulaway operates several, including ones in Lincolnwood and Morton Grove; and BFI has a recycling center in Barrington.

Incumbents announce Wheeling board slate

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

With no opposition in sight, the Wheeling Independent Party (WIP), including four incumbents, has announced a slate of five candidates for next April's village election.

Joining Village President Sheila Schultz are trustees Joseph Ratajczak, Elizabeth Hartman and William Rogers. Lois Gaffke, a Wheeling Plan Commission member, is the party's choice for the vacant village clerk position.

Incumbent clerk Janet D'Argo, while co-chairing the party's campaign along with township trustee Ed Main, has elected to step down after one term in office.

The quintet plans to circulate nominating petitions, due by Jan. 23, as a slate. They need the signatures of fewer than 300 registered voters from within the village to get on the April 4 ballot.

FOR SCHULTZ, THIS is her third run for village president, and her fourth race for a village office. She was a trustee for one term before she became president in 1981.

Ratajczak and Rogers were both elected trustees in 1981, and Hartman joined the party on the board in 1985.

"There are a lot of things that still need to be finished and new things that come up that I'd like to see done in the village," Schultz said in defense of her re-election bid. "I like public service, I like being a part of it."

Working to ensure Palwaukee Municipal Airport's success, along with remedying traffic concerns within the village and pushing for increased redevelopment of Milwaukee Avenue are goals set for the next four years, Schultz said.

SINCE FIRST SITTING on the village plan commission for six years,

INCUMBENTS

(Continued from page 5)

1986. She is a board director for a construction company and a utility company.

Hartman is a former village clerk and now sits on the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission along with Rogers and Trustee Tony Altieri. She is also a member of the American Association of University Women, the Sierra Club and Meals on Wheels.

Ratajczak said he wants to continue to act as a one-man "citizens committee" for the village.

"I guess anyone interested in the village could do those things," Ratajczak said of WIP's goals. "But I'm there (on the board), and I'm interested enough to see it through."

Like Schultz, Ratajczak suggested that improving the constricting traffic situation in the village — and specifically along Dundee Road — could be a goal of the next four years.

But while WIP made its formal announcement Monday, no other potential candidates have stirred the waters of public interest.

TRUSTEE JUDY ABRUSCATO, a rumored challenger for Schultz' job, said Tuesday that although she has considered the move, she has elected to remain a trustee until her term expires in 1991.

Even though she talked with other potential candidates to run with her on a slate, Abruscato said that for now, she'll continue to serve the village as a voting trustee.

"I've thought about it, but having been a trustee for a year and a half, I feel I should serve the community as a trustee at this time," Abruscato said. "The community needs me as a trustee and there I shall remain."

Abruscato was the only independent to win a trustee's spot in 1987 and to defeat a WIP trustee candidate.

WITH D'ARGO STEPPING down, and following the defeat of a referendum that asked voters whether they wanted to stop electing a village clerk and give that power to the village manager, WIP decided to ask Gaffke to join them on the ballot.

An 11-year village resident, Gaffke has been on the plan commission since

(Continued on page 16)

Rogers is an assistant purchasing manager of Cole Taylor Bank and Ratajczak is a senior analyst for Kitchens of Sara Lee.

JOINING THE WIP campaign is former Trustee Nick Fanella, who will serve as chairman for the campaign. Schultz said most of the party's money and efforts will be spent on door-to-door campaigning.

Village eyes response time on cable gripes

Wheeling's cable television operator has got a little more time to improve its phone service, Village Manager Craig Anderson said Tuesday.

Following a move by trustees not to fine TCI of Illinois, Inc., the village will continue to monitor improvements in TCI's phone response time that village staff had called inadequate.

"(We're) going to give them a shot to do what they said they were going to do," Anderson said.

TCI had come before the trustees Nov. 21 concerning response to phone calls made by its Wheeling customers. Dave Kowal, the assistant to the village manager and the village representative on the Northwest Municipal Cable Council (NWMCC), had recommended trustees approve fining TCI \$200 a day for each day phone service was inadequate.

Kowal cited figures generated by the council that he said proved the company was not responding quickly enough to service and complaint calls. A provision in the cable franchise agreement provides for fines if trustees determine service is poor.

But TCI personnel told trustees that their own analysis of the phone situation showed it was improving.

After a brief discussion, trustees decided to take the item off of the agenda and did not pursue the fines. Anderson said Tuesday the village board reserves the right to consider fines in the future.

TCI General Manager Mark Hess said after the Nov. 21 meeting that the

company had hired additional phone operators to take calls.

The NWMCC had earlier recommended that its constituent members hold off on fining TCI after extending an earlier deadline for levying the fines. Only Arlington Heights bucked that recommendation and fined TCI.

In exchange for servicing the village, TCI pays a franchise fee to the municipality that is equal to 5 percent of its revenues, Anderson said. Yearly contributions range between \$75,000 and \$80,000, he said.

—0—

A Wheeling cardboard manufacturer Nov. 21 received one of the largest tax breaks offered by the village on plans to build an addition onto its existing facility.

Trustees agreed to a tax break on a more than \$1.5 million addition to Crescent Cardboard's building on Willow Road.

Crescent's 6 (b) tax exemption, which lowers the property assessment rate for 12 years, is the sixth largest of the 21 tax exemptions approved since 1986.

The company told the village it expects to add six new employees when the addition and the subsequent expansion is completed. While Crescent's tax break is one of the village's largest, only one other tax exemption generated fewer new jobs in the village.

Crescent plans on building a 43,000-square foot addition to its facility.

Pal-Waukee seeking 2 assistant managers

By Keri Wyatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Pal-Waukee Airport officials are beginning their search for two assistant managers to help run the airport. The two new staff members are expected to come on board in February.

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said he will be accepting resumes until Dec. 16, then start interviewing in January. This year's airport budget includes funds for an operations and maintenance assistant manager

and a finance and administration assistant manager.

Stewart is currently the only manager at the airport, which is jointly owned and operated by Wheeling and Prospect Heights. The two assistants would have more expertise in their specific areas. The operations and maintenance assistant probably would coordinate inspections of airport buildings, along with making sure other maintenance is done.

Originally, Stewart had planned to hire one assistant in October, then

the second in February. "Well, that just didn't happen," Stewart said. "We'll bring them both on in February."

This year's budget, which was approved in May, also includes \$22,659 in salary and benefits for a secretary. Airport officials have budgeted \$40,000 for the operations and maintenance assistant and \$33,750 for the finance assistant.

Because the assistants were not hired at the beginning of the fiscal year, Stewart says the entire amounts budgeted will not be spent

this year.

In addition, part of the operations and maintenance assistant manager's salary will be funded by late fees from Priester Aviation, former owner of the airport.

Because Priester made late lease payments on some of the hangars the company rents from the airport, company officials agreed in May to pay back rent, plus \$154,000 to help defray the cost of the new assistant.

Pal-Waukee officials have not yet determined when an additional secretary will be hired.

EPA may reject balefill because of 'contaminants'

By MARY ROWITZ
Daily Herald Staff Writer

12-2-88

A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency official announced Thursday he is "likely" to recommend a building permit needed for a proposed landfill near Bartlett be denied, saying the dump could contaminate area water supplies.

The local agency proposing the \$35 million landfill said the announcement is "absolutely premature" since the EPA has not yet reviewed the 1,600-page permit application or engineering studies on the 410-acre site in northwestern Cook County. The permit represents one of the last steps the agency must take in its four-year quest to build the balefill.

"It would be shocking for the U.S. EPA, without the available data, to prejudice its review and in some way compromise its independence," said William Abolt, director of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. "We are confident the balefill meets or exceeds state and federal standards and will be a model of its kind."

The balefill — named for the method of compacting garbage into bales before burying it — is touted by 28 communities in the local agency as a short-term solution to the area's worsening garbage disposal crisis.

It has encountered strenuous, unrelenting opposition from Bartlett and Elgin area officials, who charge the balefill will contaminate the Newark Valley Aquifer on the site, a water source which serves about 300,000 residents in six counties.

U.S. Rep. J. Dennis Hastert, a Republican from Yorkville, made similar arguments about the balefill in a recent letter to the U.S. EPA — the agency charged with making a recommendation on the balefill to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. The corp actually would issue a building



The balefill at a glance

What: A \$35 million landfill.

Status: The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook Co. last week filed an application with the Illinois EPA to begin construction on the balefill.

For: The Northwest Municipal Conference, a group of 38 suburbs and townships that first proposed the project in December 1985.

Against: Neighboring homeowners and municipalities of Bartlett, Streamwood, Elgin, South Elgin.

permit for the balefill.

In response to Hastert's letter, U.S. EPA Regional Administrator Valdas V. Adamkus wrote: "We concluded that there is a high probability that the proposed balefill will eventually leach contaminants into the Newark Valley Aquifer. Therefore, it is likely we will recommend that the (U.S. Army) Corp of Engineers deny a permit to fill this wetland area."

See BALEFILL on Page 4

als rejoice

Continued from Page 1

Adamkus said he based the tentative decision only on inspections of the balefill site, which "confirmed citizen reports of standing water and the presence of other wetland features."

Abolt criticized the EPA's failure to "do their homework."

"You should only make that kind of determination after inspection of the 1,600-page application and the engineering studies," he said. "By just visiting the site, they make it sound like every place that is dry is

right for a balefill and every place that's wet is bad."

Adamkus was unavailable for comment Thursday, but a U.S. EPA official was hard-pressed to explain why the agency failed to review the application and studies before making the announcement.

"I really don't have a good answer to that, and I regret that I don't," said Ken Westlake, Illinois-Michigan coordinator for the U.S. EPA. "It just was our best judgment at this point in the process."

"We will have to do our homework

before making a final recommendation and giving a definitive answer," he added.

Despite the uncertainty of that answer, Bartlett officials heralded Thursday's announcement.

"I'm just super pleased," Village President Glen A. Koehler said. "Any little spark that will ignite a fire makes us happy."

The solid waste agency, an arm of the Northwest Municipal Conference, received zoning approval from Cook County last year for the balefill. The agency hopes to open the balefill next year.

Wheeling loses TIF district suit

By David Iyata

In a ruling that could threaten special redevelopment districts throughout the Chicago area, a Cook County Circuit Court judge ruled Thursday in favor of business owners who were fighting an attempt by Wheeling to acquire, raze and redevelop their properties.

To the owners and their lawyers, it was proof that sometimes little people can fight City Hall and win.

"Years ago, the guys running this city wanted money from me under the table . . . but at least they let me stay in business," said Erwin Dreiske, owner of the Dreiske Flower Shop, 88 N. Milwaukee Ave., one of the properties sought by Wheeling.

"This gang, however, wants me out of

here," Dreiske said. "It's been terrible."

Wheeling officials had sued to condemn his property and five others in 1987 after the owners refused to sell to make way for a village-sponsored, \$10 million, 130,000-square-foot shopping center.

On Thursday, Judge Alexander P. White dismissed Wheeling's condemnation suit.

The case was similar to one fought out last summer between the City of Chicago and a building owner in the North Loop redevelopment area, said Kenneth R. Siegan, an attorney who represented one of Dreiske's neighbors, the franchisees of a Dunkin' Donuts restaurant.

In Chicago, the owner of retail shops on the southwest corner of State and

Randolph Streets challenged the tax increment financing (TIF) district that the city had set up for the North Loop, and the city's authority to condemn land under state TIF statutes.

The owner lost, paving the way for a jury trial to determine how much the city should pay to condemn his property.

In Wheeling, the owners of six properties northwest of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road—Dreiske, Dunkin' Donuts, the Tien Tsin Restaurant, Wheeling Auto Repair, a house and a vacant lot—also challenged their municipality over its TIF district.

This time, the owners won. In dismissing Wheeling's condemnation suit, Judge White said the village had not met the state criteria for establishing a TIF district. In TIF districts, property taxes are frozen at their pre-redevelopment rates and extra tax dollars generated by the improvements are used to repay loans for the project.

See Wheeling, pg. 6

Wheeling

Continued from page 1

tion suit, White said the village had proven only three points—at least five are required by state law—to show that its downtown was dilapidated enough to qualify for TIF financing.

In light of this, White criticized the village for characterizing its downtown as blighted, saying such action was "arbitrary, capricious and an abuse of discretion."

"It's a landmark decision because many other villages are using TIF financing, and this is

the first time I'm aware of that it's been successfully challenged," said Gary Dienstag, the attorney for the Tien Tsin Restaurant.

Under TIF financing, a municipality issues bonds, uses the proceeds for redevelopment and pays off the bonds with the higher tax revenues created by development.

It is used even by suburbs not normally thought of as being "blighted." Arlington Heights, for example, has set up two TIF districts in its central business area.

Wheeling created its TIF district out of 200 parcels extending for a mile along Milwaukee Avenue north and south of Dundee Road, and issued \$4.5 million in TIF

bonds in 1986 so that it could begin assembling land.

Siegan said property owners now hope to "try to work out some sort of arrangement [with Wheeling] that would allow them to stay where they are and become a part of the new development."

He conceded that it's just as possible Wheeling will appeal the judge's decision. Attempts to reach a spokesman for the village were unsuccessful Thursday.

To people like Dreiske, Thursday's victory was only a partial one because of the possibility of an appeal by the village.

Dreiske, whose father founded the business in Chicago 114 years

ago and who has operated his store at 88 N. Milwaukee for the last 36 years, said that until the case is settled, "I won't be able to run my business right."

Dreiske said he desperately needs to expand but, like the other firms targeted in the condemnation suit, dares not invest the money to do so.

"Right now, all I have are just two tiny greenhouses that I sell out of, and the front of one of them is my store," he said. "If I were able, right now I'd build a large air-conditioned sales room out front; two greenhouses for my orchids, and a lot more icebox space."

TIF decision faces appeal

By Keri Wyatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees voted Monday night to appeal a court decision handed down last week against a tax-financed redevelopment project in the village.

Cook County Circuit Court Judge Alexander White, after months of deliberation, ruled last week that Wheeling had not met the state criteria for establishing a tax-increment financing district. In TIF districts, property taxes are frozen at their pre-redevelopment rates and extra tax dollars generated by the improvements are used to repay loans for the project.

If the decision is upheld, several business owners will be able to keep their properties near the corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

"This is worth further litigation," Trustee James Whittington said. "We believe we followed all the necessary requirements for establishing a TIF district. And this (appeal) is the forum available to show that."

The village planned to demolish the buildings and replace them with an \$8.9 million shopping center. The village has already successfully purchased several properties in the area.

Village Attorney James Rhodes recommended that the village appeal the decision. "Justice will prevail," Rhodes said after the board's unanimous vote.

White ruled that Wheeling did not meet state rules for labeling the redevelopment area "blighted," a condition needed for TIF status. The property owners of Tien Tsin Restaurant, Dunkin' Donuts, Wheeling Auto Repair and Dreiske's flower shop have fought the condemnation of their property since 1986. A year ago, they charged in court that TIF districts were unconstitutional, but lost that round.

Signs will make turns onto Lake-Cook safer

By Keri Wyatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials, hoping to make the intersection of Lake-Cook Road and Northgate Parkway safer, will prohibit right turns on a red light for traffic turning onto Lake-Cook.

Deputy Police Chief Gary O'Rourke said his department recommended putting the sign up because drivers coming north on Northgate cannot see far enough to have time to make a right turn on red.

"Eastbound traffic on Lake-Cook comes over the railroad overpass and toward the intersection at 50 mph," O'Rourke said.

After a traffic study of the intersection, police recommended right-on-red turns into eastbound traffic be prohibited, O'Rourke said.

The new signs should be up this week, Director of Community Development Michael Klitzke said.

Six months ago, the intersection did not even have a stoplight or stop sign. Business commuters from the industrial and office complexes on Northgate complained that getting onto Lake-Cook Road was dangerous.

In May, when work was about to begin at the intersection of Northgate and Dundee Road, Wheeling requested signals for the Lake-Cook intersection, because traffic would be detoured onto Lake-Cook. Buffalo Grove officials also supported the stoplights because of development in that village just north of the intersection.

The Cook County Highway Authority installed temporary stoplights in May, sharing the cost with the two villages. Wheeling and Buffalo Grove each picked up



Daily Herald Map

25 percent of the cost, and the county paid 50 percent.

Though village Trustee Joseph Ratajezak suggested right turns only be prohibited during rush hour, Village Manager Craig Anderson said that would not solve the problem.

Zoning allowances to help sale of motel to go through

By Keri Wyatt
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling motel will receive several zoning variations, which should enable the owners to sell the property.

The village board has unanimously agreed to grant the Wishing Well Motel the minor variations needed because of changes in zoning laws. The motel has been at 397 N. Milwaukee Ave. since the 1940s, said Ruth and Frederick Borgardt, who have owned and operated it for the past 10 years.

When zoning laws were updated last year, the motel did not meet the new standards. However, the Borgardts were unaware of the law changes, or that their buildings were too close to the lot line.

They became aware of the need to either upgrade the property or request variances when the potential buyer applied for a business license.

"We're very pleased," Ruth Borgardt said. "We've tentatively set the closing for Dec. 16, so it looks like everything will go as planned." Borgardt initially had feared the need for zoning variances might delay the sale and cause it to fall through.

Following staff and plan commission recommendations, the board voted to allow less than the required distance between the buildings and the front, rear and one side property boundaries. They also agreed that the motel property could have two buildings on one lot and two fewer parking spaces than required.

If the new owner renovates or changes the property, the variances would no longer be in effect, Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said.

Klitzke said the Borgardts have agreed to add more landscaping and to narrow the driveway and define the lanes more clearly.



Oh, Tannenbaum!

Christmas is coming, so Wheeling resident Bud Lewis and his sons, Joey, age 3, and Brian, age 5, picked out a beautiful tree at the Wheeling Jaycees Christmas Tree sale. The sale, being held at the corner of Northgate Parkway and Dundee, will continue until all the trees are gone.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Welsh

EPA may not support regional landfill plan

By Susan Montgomery
Staff Writer

The official who decides the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's position on a landfill proposed near Bartlett has stated in a letter he doubts the agency will support it.

EPA Regional Administrator Valdas Adamkus on Nov. 22 wrote the opinion to U.S. Rep. Dennis Hastert (R-Illinois), whose Kane County district includes Bartlett.

Federal EPA staff in Chicago Monday noted the agency won't make its formal recommendation on the proposal until it reviews a 1,600-page report detailing the project, submitted by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, the agency that wants to build the landfill.

STAFF NOTED that Adamkus, who was reportedly out of state this week and unavailable for comment, ultimately decides the content of recommendations regarding proposals.

Adamkus' letter states that staff from Ground Water and Aquatic Resources Unit of the federal EPA's Water Division visited the Bartlett site over the last two years, and "confirmed reports of standing water and the presence of other wetland features."

It further states that a shallow aquifer, which supplies water to South Elgin, is one-half mile from the site. Based upon the staff's observations, "we concluded that there is a high probability that the proposed landfill

will eventually leach contaminants into the Newark Valley Aquifer."

Opponents of the landfill plan, including officials from Bartlett, South Elgin and Elgin, have consistently maintained the quality of the area's drinking water will be threatened if the landfill is built.

IN ORDER TO build the landfill, the solid waste agency, which represents 28 north and northwest suburban municipalities, must secure separate permits from the Illinois EPA and the Corps of Engineers. Although the federal EPA has no direct authority to grant landfill permits, its advice is sought by the Army Corps, which does. Specifically, the federal EPA's advice is sought on construction proposed for wetlands areas, including the landfill site.

The federal EPA's state counterpart issues permits to construct and operate sanitary landfills independently, federal EPA staff said Monday.

Solid waste agency officials this week blasted Adamkus' comments as premature. Consortium Chairman Sheila Shultz wrote Adamkus on Dec. 1, stating her group was "appalled at the prejudicial comments the letter makes on a permit application which has yet to be filed with federal government."

Agency officials also noted Adamkus' opinion could not have taken into account facts regarding the site's geology and the landfill facility's engineering design that are contained in the permit application it sent to the state EPA in mid-November.

WHS parking woes spill into the streets

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

12-888
Countypark
Finding a parking spot around Wrigley Field in July might be easier than trying to locate a vacant curb near Wheeling High School.

With students' cars making the Dunhurst subdivision look more like a parking lot than a residential neighborhood, residents say they are tired of the driveway-to-driveway cars and the litter and vandalism that have accompanied the unwanted vehicles.

Those homeowners are hoping either the village or the school will take steps to curb the number of cars students leave in their subdivision — located northeast of the high school — while the teens attend class.

Although the problem has existed in previous years, residents and police said this year's trouble has created problems for homeowners and the village, while endangering the safety of the students who cross Elmhurst Road to get to the high school.

"**THERE HAS** been an impact on the neighborhood," Wheeling police Chief Michael F. Haeger said, "and it is considerable."

Several youths have been arrested for reckless driving, having open alcohol and for not having driver's licenses, he said. Residents have also said the students, on their way to the high school, have broken fences and vandalized cars.

"There's not an inch of curb space that doesn't have a car on it," Merle Lane resident Kim Edwards said.



Scenes like this, where cars are sandwiched up and down Green Drive North, have become commonplace as Wheeling High School students who don't have parking permits to use the school lot are leaving their cars on nearby sidestreets. (Staff photo by Kathy Tray)

"This year has been the worst so far. It's wall to wall cars."

Edwards and several of her neighbors complained that the cars, estimated at between 40 and 60 each day, are blocking driveways, while their drivers, when not in school, are leaving trash strewn throughout the subdivision.

"**I KNOW** what they eat for lunch," Edwards said, "they leave their garbage all over. And they drive 95 miles

an hour."

Residents have requested the village take action and have suggested it post signs prohibiting daytime parking in the neighborhood. Similar signs were added on Kristy Lane, just east of the high school across Elmhurst Road, Haeger said.

But though those signs alleviated the problem on that street, they just moved the aggravation a few hundred yards to the north, Dunhurst residents say.

Haeger said his office has considered requesting the signs, but because the high school was going to add 80 to 90 parking spaces beginning last Thursday, the department decided to wait.

THE COST OF the signs, along with the number necessary to effectively eradicate street parking in neighborhoods surrounding the high school, prompted the police department to

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further study the situation, Haeger said. A survey was circulated in the subdivision that asked residents how bad the situation was and solicited potential solutions.

As of Tuesday, vacant parking spaces still existed at the high school while parking in Dunhurst remained cramped.

Haeger said the department has been counting the number of cars in the neighborhood and will soon make a recommendation on how to address the parking problem.

While the village decides how to solve the problem, high school principal Tom Shirley said his office has done all it can do.

Parking lot space used for drivers' education classes was first scaled back and then completely eliminated Nov. 30, assistant principal James Whittington said. Additional students who have qualified for parking were issued permits for the extra spaces, he said.

"We have a parking problem," Whittington said Monday. "We can only park so many cars. We've done everything to maximize parking."

Only seniors and those juniors who can prove they need a car to drive to work are allowed to park on school property, Whittington said. No sophomores are issued parking permits, he said.

CARS DRIVEN BY sophomores, some even from within Dunhurst, are suspected of causing most of the problems.

"It's a problem someone else has got to solve. We've done all we can," Shirley said. "They (sophomores) should be riding buses anyway."

Students are parking their cars as far north as West Green Drive, where North Green Drive bends east toward Twain School. Resident Marge Johanson said the students disregard driveways and, once parked, trundle through yards and jump over fences as they head toward school.

"They don't respect the driveway lines at all," Johanson said. "Part of my fence is broken where they climbed over."

VILLAGE TRUSTEES WOULD have to approve any signs ordered by the police department, Haeger said.

Whittington, who is also a village trustee, said the problem needs a solution, but added that parking on sidestreets is legal. "We're not trying to harass them (the residents of Dunhurst), that's just where they want to park now," he said.

Judge's ruling steamrolls redevelopment plan

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Wheeling will appeal a court ruling that last week upended redevelopment plans for Milwaukee Avenue aimed at reviving the village's downtown area.

Trustees supported the village attorney's recommendations and directed staff to take the case to the Illinois Appellate Court's First District.

In appealing, the village will try to overturn Cook County Circuit Court Judge Alexander P. White's Dec. 1 ruling that called the condemnation lawsuits against six property owners "arbitrary, capricious and an abuse of discretion."

"We believe the TIF is right," trustee James Whittington said Monday. "That's why we're going back and appeal it. We feel we have a winnable case."

IN 1985, THE village created a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) redevelopment district. By doing so, the village adopted a plan that labeled property straddling Milwaukee Avenue north and south of Dundee Road as a blighted area.

Under provisions of state law, the village would sell bonds and use the money to buy individual properties for a united development.

Tax dollars generated by improvements to the area would be used to pay off the bonds. Until the bonds are paid off, all local taxing bodies would receive the same amount of tax dollars from the property as when it entered the TIF district.

Village trustees hoped to use TIF powers to create a parcel of land large enough for Texas developer Vantage Corp. to come in and build a 130,000 square-foot retail center costing more than \$10 million.

BUT TO QUALIFY as a TIF, the area must be considered blighted. After challenges to the constitutionality of the village's TIF ordinance failed, the property owners successfully convinced White that the area could not meet that definition.



Plans to redevelop Milwaukee Avenue at Dundee Road hit a major snag following a court ruling last week. Village officials, however, plan to appeal the ruling and to move forward with a plan to condemn properties in the area so a shopping mall can be built near the busy intersection. (Staff photo by Kathy Tray)

White's decision, coming after months of testimony, dismissed all condemnation cases now pending.

White said the testimony of an expert called by the village and the plan initially adopted, which stipulated the extent of the blight, were not convincing. In order to meet the blight definition, the village would have had to prove that at least five of 14 conditions of blight were met.

The judge said Monday the underlying facts of the case did not support condemnation of the properties.

IN HIS RULING, White said the area met only three of the 14 criteria: Age, obsolescence and deleterious land

use or layout.

"It is questionable whether the redevelopment project qualifies as a blighted area," White said in the ruling. "Thus, the plaintiff (the village) has failed to meet the statutory requirement that five factors be present."

But Village Attorney James Rhodes called White's ruling "wrong" and said the judge inaccurately characterized the testimony of the village's witness and the evidence attorney Bill Ryan presented.

"The judge's findings were incorrect and erroneous," Rhodes said. Briefs appealing the ruling will be filed by the end of the month, he said.

RESTAURATEUR EUGENE Wang

said the ruling allows him to continue operating his Chinese restaurant, Tien Tsin, which he has owned for the past 13 years. The village, he said, came in with its plan but did not make adequate offers to him.

"It's not fair. I had this restaurant over 13 years," Wang said, "and suddenly they came, they had a plan but I didn't know about it."

Wang said the village's offer was less than what he paid for the restaurant in 1975.

Rhodes, however, said the offer to Wang, and to the other property owners, was based on fair market value that included the cost of the building

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and the property. Those offers, he said, did not include the cost of the business.

ERWIN DRIESKE, WHO has run a successful floral shop out of his two greenhouses for decades, said previous offers to include him in the large development project were insulting.

"I don't want an ordinary flower shop," the 86-year-old said. "They just want to get me out of here."

The village has already successfully redeveloped property west of Milwaukee Avenue under the TIF district. TIF money helped finance the destruction of the former Wildwood Apartments, located south of Dundee Road, east of Wolf Road.

Buffalo Grove developer Larry Florida used the money to build the Arbor Courts apartments.

BUT USE OF the TIF district condemnation powers ground to a halt in the redevelopment district centering on the northwest corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

Although more than half of 17 parcels targeted for consolidation were acquired, the franchisee for Dunkin' Donuts, along with Wang and others, fought the condemnation proceedings. They claimed at first that the TIF district was unconstitutional and later that it was illegal because the area was not blighted.

Wheeling Auto Repair, located on the northwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, was also included in the suit. Condemnation proceedings on several vacant properties and Drieske's floral shop were also dismissed in the ruling.

Village keeps up fight for properties

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

While business owners along Milwaukee Avenue celebrate having saved their properties from condemnation, Wheeling is plotting its next move in a legal war to keep its downtown redevelopment project alive.

Three years into Wheeling's battle to establish a tax-increment financing (TIF) district, the village has been forced to make a temporary retreat to the courts. Meanwhile, a proposed \$8.9 million retail center remains on the developer's drawing table.

In 1985, Wheeling set up the tax-supported redevelopment project that stretches along both sides of Milwaukee Avenue between Manchester Drive and Strong Street, and both sides of Dundee Road from First Street to the Des Plaines River.

Wheeling has been trying to acquire property to build the new retail center at Dundee and Milwaukee — one corner of that large TIF district. But not all property owners have been willing to sell their land to the village.

Four feisty business owners, who recently succeeded in challenging the village's attempt to condemn their properties, could cause that particular retail center project to be



Daily Herald Map

scrapped.

But village officials say they won't give up without a fight. The next battle will take place in the Illinois Appellate Court. The village is seeking a reversal of a ruling by Cook County Circuit Court Judge Alexander P. White, which prohibited the village from condemning the four properties.

"We will be able to do a project," even if the appellate court rules in the property owners' favor, Village Attorney James Rhodes said. "Maybe not this project, but a project."

Rhodes estimates the village will have to spend about \$10,000 and nine months to appeal White's decision. He said it would be time and money well spent.

"The improvements to the village and income from those improvements far outweigh the cost of the appeal," Rhodes said.

TIF districts commonly are established to improve a "blighted" or run-down area. Property taxes are frozen at their pre-development rates and extra tax dollars generated by the improvements are used to repay loans for the project.

But the owners of Tien Tsin restaurant, Dunkin' Donuts, Wheeling Auto Repair and Drieske's flower shop counter-sued when the village tried to condemn their properties for redevelopment, charging that their properties were not blighted.

Judge White's ruling stated that Wheeling had failed to meet the criteria for calling the project area "blighted." The village also had argued that the properties could be classified as a "conservation area," that is, a slightly run-down section that could become blighted unless improvements are made.

White's decision also dismisses this possibility, stating that Wheeling "failed to prove whether this area is a blighted area or a conservation area or a combination of both..."

The ruling marks the first time property owners have successfully challenged a TIF district condemnation.

Rhodes, however, is confident the appellate court will reverse Wheeling's lower court defeat.

"Could the court strike down the entire TIF district?" Rhodes said. "I don't think so. It's tough to speculate what will happen. I presume the appellate court will rule that Judge White was wrong. But I'll have to wait until they give us an opinion. I've only seen the opinion of White, and that deals only with the decision to take those particular properties."

Gary E. Dienstag, attorney for Tien Tsin owner Eugene Wang, hailed the circuit court decision as a victory for the little guy, calling it a "landmark decision" and "a fine victory."

The village already owns eight properties in the 13-acre redevelopment area. To begin the shopping center project, seven more must be acquired, including the four properties at the center of the recent lawsuit.

If those properties can be acquired, they would be resold to a developer, Vantage Properties Inc. of Arlington Heights, who would build the shopping center. While the village does not have a contract with Vantage, Rhodes said, "We've talked to them, and they're waiting."

If the appellate court upholds White's decision, the current plans for an \$8.9 million project could fall apart. But Rhodes said the properties already purchased would not be affected. Instead, they could become the site of a smaller-scale redevelopment project.

Officials remain committed to redevelopment

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Even though Cook County Circuit Court Judge Alexander P. White ruled against the second part of Wheeling's downtown revival last week, village officials aren't backing down from their commitment to the project.

Without creating a special taxing district giving the village power to condemn property to create space for a consolidated development, village trustees say the northwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Roads would remain a hodgepodge of buildings bent more toward deterioration than renovation.

Grand plans, like taking the 17 parcels on that corner and building a 130,000 square-foot retail center, would create the shopping traffic necessary to continue with the remainder of the TIF-led redevelopment, Village Presi-

dent Sheila Schultz.

"I think...we chose it as the first quadrant so it can act as a model for the rest of the project," Schultz said. She added that improving the corridor surrounding Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue will only happen with government action.

"IT'S PART of the argument of the TIF district that this will not develop properly on a piecemeal basis," Schultz said. "It's unfortunate that the community good that is the basis of any kind of eminent domain case is being frustrated."

Schultz and others claim the redevelopment district would right an imbalance in the amount of industrial tax base and retail tax base within the village. An improved balance between the two, besides generating more sales tax revenue for the village, would allow the village to get better bond ratings,

Schultz said.

So although White concluded that the TIF area was not blighted, Schultz said the current situation, without a push from the village, will remain static.

"You look at that corner and what do you see? That property has not been improved. The businesses have not been improved," Schultz said.

TRUSTEE JAMES WHITTINGTON said trustees supported the scheduled appeal because they felt the project warranted further judicial review.

The intent of the TIF law, he said, was the entire village "benefit(ed) in collective redevelopment. To let it continue in a substandard mode is not beneficial."

No other options for tackling redevelopment have been considered should the higher courts uphold White's

ruling, Whittington said. Trustees, he said, are convinced the legitimacy of the project will allow it to be successful.

"We have to look at options if it doesn't go through," Whittington said. "But we feel our best option is to appeal it."

WHILE THE PROCESS drags on, potentially with the village eventually losing, more prospective tenants may pass Wheeling by for other commercial districts. But Schultz said she is confident there will always be a line waiting for a positive outcome.

"The location is so good that there will always be a place there for development," Schultz said.

But for now, with the village's hopes of a downtown Wheeling held in the lurch, it can only wait. "We shall see what the results of the appeal are," she said.

5 buildings win appearance awards

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A gas station, funeral home and a village-owned building are among the winners of this year's Wheeling Appearance Commission award.

The best looking and best maintained buildings in town are selected each year for the awards.

Of the five honorees, the Pavilion Senior Center was notable because it is owned and operated by the village. Community Development Director Michael Klitzke defended the village for, in essence, giving itself an

award.

"It's a nice building," Klitzke said. "It just happens to be ours. It wasn't the only building in that category that was nominated."

Residents nominate buildings, which are judged by the five commission members. The village board appoints appearance commission members.

This is the seventh year the appearance commission has selected buildings in the village for awards. The honors are given in four categories: multifamily residential, industrial, commercial and non-profit.

The Pavilion was the winner of the latter category.

Pine Hill Apartments took the multifamily award; Larkin Tech Center was recognized in the industrial category. Two businesses, Kolssak of Wheeling Funeral Home and Wolf-Dundee Amoco, received commercial division recognition.

Past winners in the "non-profit" category include St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church and the Indian Trails Public Library.

To be eligible, buildings must have been in the village for at least one year. "A brand-new building with

new landscaping and all is not eligible," Klitzke said. "The award is based on how someone maintains their property, how they keep it up."

Each winner could receive several awards, given to the owner, architect, or other people who worked on the building. The village will share its award for the Pavilion with the building's architect and the landscape architect, Klitzke said.

George Hieber, Larry Deitcher, Marilyn Minter, Marge Brouwer and Bing Zielka serve on the Appearance Commission.

Get tough on parkers

Before Wheeling officials take the expensive step of enacting restrictions to curb students who park near Wheeling High School, the more expedient ticket to solving the parking dilemma is just that; the ticket.

The parking situation at Wheeling High School has long left far more cars than there are spaces in the student parking lot. The result is that students who don't have permits to park in the lot end up leaving their cars on nearby sidestreets.

This parking option may be legal, but a number of residents say that students are abusing village parking ordinances by blocking driveways, leaving garbage behind them on lawns and occasionally committing acts of vandalism.

And while it is difficult to gauge whether these are isolated incidents from a few students or a more widespread problem, it is apparent the time has come for village officials, police and school officials to explore options for easing parking congestion on local sidestreets.

Wheeling Police Department officials will consider making a recommendation to the village board on whether to implement parking restrictions, but that option could prove to be costly.

Before taking it, the police department and residents in the affected areas should make a concerted effort to have parking ordinance violators ticketed, and when appropriate, towed. This action, while it probably would not eliminate the problem, would send a message to young drivers that blocking driveways or fire hydrants will not be tolerated.

The village should consider limited parking restrictions, perhaps along the lines of limiting parking on the streets to 90 minutes or two hours. A total ban on parking during school hours would not be practical or fair to residents who have visitors during these times.

For the school's part, administrators need to ensure that as many of the school's parking spaces are being used as possible. This may create a problem since the school has traditionally banned sophomores from parking in the lot. Allowing some but not all sophomores to use the lot could create headaches. Nonetheless it is an option worth exploring.

Lastly, residents who live near the school should not expect a parking ban during school hours. Living near a school brings with it some inherent conditions such as tight parking and teen-agers walking through the neighborhood.

These residents, however, should not be subjected to some of the conditions that have apparently been going on in recent months. It is incumbent upon all three groups to make sure this situation does not persist.

Seek vote on 911

Emergency medical services available through the Wheeling and Buffalo Grove fire departments may be of the highest quality, but there is no guarantee that paramedics from these departments will be able to reach patients as quickly as possible.

That's because neither village has 911 service, a technology that allows emergency services personnel to get an instant phone reading on the location of a caller regardless of whether that person can physically deliver a message.

In a business where even a couple of minutes can be the difference between life and death, 911 would bring police and paramedics closer to helping those in greatest need.

Both villages are in the process of reviewing what it would cost to hook into the 911 system and whether a referendum should be held asking residents from the communities whether they would be willing to finance the system. Revenues to fund the system would be generated through a surcharge that would be added to residents' phone bills.

Regardless of what cost projections show it would cost to implement this system, both villages should pursue a referendum on the issue.

Villages may dial up 911 emergency system

By Dennis Anderson
Staff Writer

to them.

Buffalo Grove and Wheeling are considering instituting a 911 program that would enable police and fire officials to respond more quickly to emergency calls.

Proponents of the emergency system claim more lives and property could be saved with the expected decrease in response time associated with the system.

But in order to pay for the installation and maintenance of the system, voters must first approve a surcharge that would be added to residents' telephone bills to pay for the cost of the program.

On Dec. 19, Buffalo Grove trustees are expected to approve a resolution to place a 911 referendum on the April 4 ballot. Following a Dec. 12 workshop meeting of Wheeling's village board, the administration anticipates seeking a referendum in April.

BUFFALO GROVE INTENDS to join the four communities — Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove and Mt. Prospect — that compose their Central Dispatch, the emergency communication cooperative.

Wheeling, which handles dispatch duties for its own police and fire departments, and for parts of unincorporated Cook County, would create its own system, Village Manager Craig Anderson said Monday.

Buffalo Grove Police Chief Leo McCann said 911 would:

- Be easy to dial in an emergency.
- Offer automatic phone number and address identification. He said if someone making an emergency call is unable to speak or hangs up before giving their location, emergency officials are unable to locate the person without tracing the call, which can take up to 13 minutes. McCann added that if 911 were in place police and fire officials would have the information within 10 seconds.
- Be beneficial to travelers, visitors and residents because the 911 number is universally considered the number to call in case of an emergency.

Currently, Buffalo Grove and Wheeling residents dialing 911 get a recording stating that 911 service is not available

"I THINK 911 is important and beneficial for the community," McCann said. "I can't think of any reason not to implement the program. None."

McCann said it would cost about \$460,000 to install the system in the four towns served by Central Dispatch. The first year budget for the program for the four towns would be about \$1 million, an \$844,000 for the second year, McCann said. In the third year, McCann said the system would level off to about \$340,000 for maintenance of the system.

McCann said the program could be paid for with a 75-cent (or \$9 per year) monthly surcharge per phone line, which would be added to residents' telephone bill. The second year would cost residents 50 cents per month per phone line, then level off at 25 cents per month per phone line, he said. Buffalo Grove has more than 14,000 access lines.

For Wheeling, Anderson estimated the initial cost would be about \$80,000. If voters approved the program, the village would need to generate about \$3,500 each month among its 20,000 phone lines.

THE SURCHARGE WOULD be collected immediately following a positive referendum, even though the 911 system would not begin operating for an estimated 18 to 24 months, Anderson said.

Meanwhile, Buffalo Grove trustees this week expressed a concern about the initial 75-cent monthly surcharge for the first year, saying they would rather start at a lower figure and spread it over a longer period before settling on a monthly maintenance charge.

"I know what we've gone through with recycling, and it's already in place," said Buffalo Grove Trustee Sidney Mathias, referring to the \$1 per month recycling charge residents objected to this fall. "I don't know what residents are going to say if we start charging for a program that isn't even available. Maybe we can work something out for a lower initial startup cost until the program is in place."

Winter parking season begins

With winter weather blowing in, the Wheeling Police Department is reminding residents of parking restrictions effective after snow storms.

Village laws prohibit residents from parking their cars on village streets after a snowfall of two or more inches.

If necessary, police will enforce the laws by towing cars that block traffic or impede snow removal. The car owner is responsible for all towing and storage fees.

Residents in areas where on-street parking is permitted between 2 and 6 a.m. must remove their vehicles from the street prior to 8 a.m. after a snowfall of two or more inches.

Wheeling may face vote on 911 service

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

12-10-88

In an effort to improve police and fire services, Wheeling officials may establish a 911 telephone system.

The system would allow residents to contact the police and fire department by dialing "911" on the telephone instead of dialing seven numbers. A question asking residents whether they want to pay for the system could be placed on the ballot next April. Trustees will discuss the issue Monday.

Until recently, technology has made it difficult for smaller suburbs to set up a 911 system. Certain prefixes, such as the 459 telephone prefix in Wheeling, extend-

ed beyond the village limits to areas protected by county police.

"The technology wasn't there before," Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

Now, only phones within village limits would be included in the system.

Wheeling has about 20,000 phone numbers. The 911 system would not only allow residents to reach police faster, but inform dispatchers of where calls are coming from.

"If I'm having a heart attack and I can't talk but I can dial those three numbers, my address will be on the dispatcher's computer screen," Anderson said.

Start-up costs for a 911 emergency system would run between

\$150,000 to \$200,000, Anderson said. There would be an additional monthly charge to the village from Illinois Bell of about \$3,500.

Residents would be charged an extra 50 cents to 75 cents on their monthly phone bills to pay for the system, Anderson said.

The idea will be presented to village trustees on Monday. If trustees favor the system, residents could be asked on the April ballot whether they would pay the extra monthly charge to install and maintain the system.

If residents approve of the idea, charges for the system would show up on telephone bills about 90 days later. Residents could begin using the system about one year later.

Commuter station favored by residents

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

12-13-88

Wheeling residents, responding to an informal village survey, strongly support plans for a commuter railroad station in the village.

So far, nearly 400 residents have responded to a village newsletter survey about the station. All but 10 say they would use a commuter rail service, and the vast majority would drive to the station and park their car there. The majority also said they would use the station five days a week to commute.

Turning the Wisconsin Central Ry., formerly the Soo Line, into a commuter rail line has been on the drawing board in various forms for more than 10 years, but officials say it now has become a "priority." However, a funding source for the estimated \$40 million project remains elusive.

The commuter line would include up to 10 new stations between Mundelein and Des Plaines. In Des Plaines, trains would change to the Chicago and North Western Ry. to travel into Chicago.

Wheeling is one of many villages along the rail line to support the proposal, and Village Manager Craig

Anderson said the results of the survey have inspired officials from the Regional Transportation Authority and Metra, the commuter rail arm of the RTA, to move ahead in their search for a station site.

"Metra and RTA people are calling this a priority project," Anderson said. However, villages along the line, including Wheeling, are still looking for land for stations and commuter parking.

A site about a quarter mile north of Dundee, near Heritage Park, is Wheeling's top station site choice, Village Planner Robert Sullivan said.

"We are looking at the possibility of leasing land for a station and parking," he said.

Sullivan said officials from Commonwealth Edison, which owns land along the tracks for a right of way for high power lines, "are open to the idea of leasing land to the railroad, but they don't want us to build a permanent structure on it."

He said the utility company did not object to leasing land to be used for commuter parking. However, a station or platform would probably "have to be on the railroad right of way," Sullivan said.

Wheeling considers 'enhanced 911' system

pect Heights, which does not have a 911 system.

However, officials said they may wait until next November to put the question on the ballot.

Wheeling officials say they would favor having an "enhanced 911" telephone system that would not only connect residents with the police and fire department but also immediately show dispatchers the caller's address and phone number.

Police Chief Michael Haeger said he will meet with Prospect Heights officials Friday.

Wheeling has about 20,000 phone numbers. The 911 system would not only allow residents to reach police faster, but would also inform dispatchers of where calls are coming from.

The advantage of this, said Village Manager Craig Anderson, is that dispatchers would know where the emergency was occurring if the person were unable to speak.

WHS officials report parking woes subsiding on nearby sidestreets

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

12-15-88

COUNTRYSIDE
Parking problems on the streets surrounding Wheeling High School appear to be subsiding following action taken last week by the school.

More than half of the approximately 40 student cars parked on the street have been moved onto high school property at the urging of school administrators, assistant principal James Whittington said.

Residents had complained to the village that the cars were creating traffic problems on their streets while the students driving the cars were leaving their trash and sometimes damaging cars and property in the neighborhood.

After identifying the owners of the cars last Friday, Whittington said the school sent notices to those students telling them there were parking spots available at the school. Individual notices were also left on the cars, he said.

ALREADY, MANY OF those invited back on campus have received new parking permits, leaving fewer than 15 cars on the Dunhurst roads of West Merle Lane and North Green Drive, Whittington said.

Not all of those who had been park-

ing on sidestreets, however, will be allowed on campus, he said. Only those who meet the criteria established by the school will be offered valid parking permits. More than half of the students identified as parking off campus have met the criteria and are now parking on campus, Whittington said.

Because of the recent closing of the driver's education range behind the school, an additional 80 to 90 spaces were made available beginning Dec. 1. After seeing that not all of those spaces were taken by new applicants, Whittington said the school decided to invite those students parking in Dunhurst to come back to campus.

"We'll constantly monitor (the situation)," Whittington said. "We're trying to be good neighbors."

WHEELING POLICE CHIEF Michael F. Haeger said his department was studying the situation and considering options to present to the village board. One of the options, and the most expensive one, was putting up signs in the neighborhood that prohibited parking during the day on school days.

Haeger said Tuesday he was encouraged by the steps the school had taken. He said he intends to ask for input from neighbors before he makes a recommendation to the village board.

Get tough on parkers

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Buffalo Grove Police Chief Leo McCann said 911 would:

- Be easy to dial in an emergency.
- Offer automatic phone number and address identification. He said if someone making an emergency call is unable to speak or hangs up before giving their location, emergency officials are unable to locate the person without tracing the call, which can take up to 13 minutes. McCann added that if 911 were in place police and fire officials would have the information within 10 seconds.
- Be beneficial to travelers, visitors and residents because the 911 number is universally considered the number to call in case of an emergency.

Currently, Buffalo Grove and Wheeling residents dialing 911 get a recording stating that 911 service is not available

"I THINK 911 is important and beneficial for the community," McCann said. "I can't think of any reason not to implement the program. None."

McCann said it would cost about \$460,000 to install the system in the four towns served by Central Dispatch. The first year budget for the program for the four towns would be about \$1 million, an \$844,000 for the second year, McCann said. In the third year, McCann said the system would level off to about \$340,000 for maintenance of the system.

McCann said the program could be paid for with a 75-cent (or \$9 per year) monthly surcharge per phone line, which would be added to residents' telephone bill. The second year would cost residents 50 cents per month per phone line, then level off at 25 cents per month per phone line, he said. Buffalo Grove has more than 14,000 access lines.

For Wheeling, Anderson estimated the initial cost would be about \$80,000. If voters approved the program, the village would need to generate about \$3,500 each month among its 20,000 phone lines.

THE SURCHARGE WOULD be collected immediately following a positive referendum, even though the 911 system would not begin operating for an estimated 18 to 24 months, Anderson said.

Meanwhile, Buffalo Grove trustees this week expressed a concern about the initial 75-cent monthly surcharge for the first year, saying they would rather start at a lower figure and spread it over a longer period before settling on a monthly maintenance charge.

"I know what we've gone through with recycling, and it's already in place," said Buffalo Grove Trustee Sidney Mathias, referring to the \$1 per month recycling charge residents objected to this fall. "I don't know what residents are going to say if we start charging for a program that isn't even available. Maybe we can work something out for a lower initial startup cost until the program is in place."

Winter parking season begins

With winter weather blowing in, the Wheeling Police Department is reminding residents of parking restrictions effective after snow storms.

Village laws prohibit residents from parking their cars on village streets after a snowfall of two or more inches.

If necessary, police will enforce the laws by towing cars that block traffic or impede snow removal. The car owner is responsible for all towing and storage fees.

Residents in areas where on-street parking is permitted between 2 and 6 a.m. must remove their vehicles from the street prior to 8 a.m. after a snowfall of two or more inches.

State plans to review redevelopment area

State officials will review the Village of Wheeling's redevelopment plans along Milwaukee Avenue to see if the project meets state standards to qualify for public financing. *COUNTRYSIDE*

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

12-15-88
Wheeling's tax increment finance district (TIF), struck down Dec. 1 by a Cook County Circuit Court judge, will again be reviewed, this time by the state.

An official from the Illinois Department of Revenue said Tuesday that the village's TIF district has failed a preliminary test recently established by the General Assembly. The village will now have to prove to revenue officials that the district meets state standards.

If it fails to do so, the village could have its TIF district repealed, regardless of whether the village's appeal of Circuit Court Judge Alexander P. White's ruling is successful. Eliminating the district would take away the village's power to acquire property for redevelopment.

Village trustees adopted the TIF

district in 1985, claiming it was the best way to spur development along Milwaukee Avenue, north and south of Dundee Road. The village sold \$4.36 million in bonds to finance redevelopment of the area. Property and sales taxes generated by the new development would pay off those bonds.

UNTIL STATE LEGISLATORS adopted the new law, TIFs were not certified or regulated by the state. Only court challenges by property owners, taxpayers or taxing bodies would force the review of TIF districts.

Now, the General Assembly has empowered the revenue department to study most TIF districts created in 1986.

Pete Gudmundson, TIF coordinator for the revenue department, said Tuesday those reviews have already begun and that Wheeling officials should expect a notice in January asking them to begin preparing proof

stating that its TIF meets the standards.

To establish a TIF district, a municipality has to meet five of 14 varying indicators of blight, such as building age, dilapidation and obsolescence. But almost all of those different criteria were not spelled out in the original legislation.

THE NEW LEGISLATION requires the revenue department to establish the standards for each criteria,

See related story on page 13

Gudmundson said. The village's proposal will be asked to meet those criteria, Gudmundson said.

About 200 parcels were included in the village's TIF district, which uses the taxes generated by new development of the parcels to pay for the public improvements and land acquisitions that precede development of the property.

In its second attempt at

redemption - considered the most important to reviving the downtown area, the village ran into trouble with property owners along the northwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road who refused to sell their property to the village.

Those property owners challenged condemnation complaints brought by the village and were successful when White upheld that the village's stated criteria for blight were not supported by its own evidence.

WHITE, IN HIS Dec. 1 ruling, dismissed the condemnation suits against the property owners because he said the village failed to prove its TIF met the blight standards. However, he said he was using criteria established in prior cases. Sources say the newly established state standards could affect the final outcome of the Wheeling TIF.

Legislators adopted the new laws because they wanted to crack down on potential abuses of the TIF system. Following review by the revenue department, a municipality may be

(Continued on page 13)

State —

(Continued from page 5)

forced to redraw its TIF boundaries, or, as in Wheeling's case, be required to prove the legitimacy of its district.

Gudmundson said the district's boundaries were fine, but that unusually high growth in the amount of sales tax generated in the district caused the state to require further review of the district.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said Tuesday the village had gotten a letter from the revenue department more than a month ago that said there would be further review of the village district.

BUT ANDERSON SAID the letter did not indicate why the village's district was being subjected to greater scrutiny, or say how exhaustive the further review would be.

Once the village receives official notice from the revenue department, it will have 120 days to respond, Gudmundson said. He said the

department will explain to all municipalities how to prepare its answers.

Under the two-tier review system, Gudmundson said revenue department will check a TIF's boundaries, chart growth of sales taxes generated in the district, count the number of retailers within the district, or see if any taxpayers, taxing bodies or the state have questioned the TIF.

If the TIF fails to meet any of these "preliminary" questions, it will go into the next phase of review, which will mean either redrawing boundaries or proving the district meets the new blight criteria.

GUDMUNDSON SAID Wheeling's TIF was forced into further review because sales taxes generated in the TIF grew by greater than 15 percent.

When the state checks the village's figures on blight, it will use information supplied when the TIF was initially created, Gudmundson said.

Trustees mull asking voters to decide on 911

COUNTRYSIDE
By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

12-15-88
Rather than crowd the April ballot, Wheeling officials say they may ask residents in November if they want to pay for a new police and fire dispatch system.

While Buffalo Grove and other municipalities are planning an April referendum on the 911 system hailed as life-saving, village trustees said Monday they were leaning toward delaying that vote until after the local elementary school district holds its referendum on a tax increase.

Trustees said having several tax hike requests on the same ballot may force voters to choose between those requests, and thereby diminish the chances for either to pass.

Community Consolidated District 21, which includes Wheeling and portions of Buffalo Grove, is asking voters to approve a tax increase of \$.70 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Facing a \$3 million deficit in its education fund, the district is calling the passage of the referendum critical to the retention of current programs and staff.

A SIMILAR REQUEST was narrowly defeated in the Nov. 8 general election.

Police and fire officials claim the Enhanced 911 system, which automatically locates the address and phone number of every emergency call, greatly decreases the amount of time it takes to respond to accidents, fires or

crimes.

The system, including installation and equipment purchases, would cost about \$250,000. The village could either pay for the system or ask residents to adopt a monthly surcharge on their phone bills, now estimated at 75¢ a month for each phone line, Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger told trustees.

Residents would begin paying the surcharge before the system was operable, Haeger said. The money built up from the surcharge would go toward the initial costs of starting the system, he said. In succeeding years, the surcharge rate could be lowered by village ordinance.

BEFORE THE SYSTEM could be adopted, however, the village would have to work out details, including how the unincorporated areas within and around the village would be serviced, Haeger said. A committee of the village board would likely be established to hammer out those details, he said.

Besides putting only one tax increase request on the ballot at a time, trustees said waiting until November's school board, college, school trustee and other elections would give the village time to prove to voters the Enhanced 911 system is worth its cost.

"The idea certainly sounds acceptable and appears to be something we'll all have to do eventually," Trustee William Rogers said. "It does make an awful lot of sense."

TIF district to net Wheeling \$206,000

By Todd Sloane
Politics Reporter

12-15-88
COUNTRYSIDE

Wheeling will receive \$206,000 in sales tax revenue from its Tax Increment Financing (TIF) this year.

A total of \$9.7 million was distributed to municipalities throughout the state that have established TIF districts. Wheeling Finance Director Bob Fialkowski said the village will use a portion of that money to pay off interest on bonds sold to establish the district. The money will go into a fund that is used to pay off the interest and the principal of the initial bond issues, he said.

The village's TIF district straddles Milwaukee Avenue north and south of Dundee Road and includes about 200 lots.

THE VILLAGE SOLD \$4.36 million in bonds for land acquisition and construction of public improvements.

Under TIF, the state sales taxes on a business area are frozen at a benchmark level when the district is created. Incremental increases in succeeding years from that level are used to pay off bonds sold by the municipality to finance improvements to streets, water and sewer systems and property.

The local share of TIF dollars this year is substantially below what it would have been, had the General Assembly not overwhelmingly approved amendments to the TIF laws legislators said were designed to correct abuses of the system.

State Revenue Director Roger Sweet said the total incremental growth in state sales taxes was \$17 million. These funds came from 9,300 businesses located in the 137 TIF districts statewide. The state will keep the balance and use it for other purposes.

THE CITY OF Highland Park led the list of 10 cities that together accounted for half of the state TIF monies. The city's two TIF districts received a combined \$822,533, with TIF district 1 receiving \$314,331 and TIF

district 2 getting \$508,102.

Highland Park was used as the prime example of a city abusing the system by Senate President Phillip Rock (D-8th), of Oak Park, in debate earlier this year. Because the TIF program was aimed at blighted or underdeveloped urban business districts, a wealthy suburb like Highland Park was not supposed to be a prime candidate for TIF monies, Rock contended.

The new law limits the amount any municipality can receive to no more than 7.5 percent of the total appropriation this year, or three times the sum of the local funds earmarked for spending on improvements within the district.

It also limits the funds the municipality can receive to 80 percent of the first \$100,000 of growth in state sales taxes, 60 percent of amounts between \$100,000 and \$500,000 and 40 percent of anything over \$500,000.

WHILE MANY TOWNS received those incremental revenues, many did not, meaning the improvements to the infrastructure in a business district either have not been completed or have not led to increased business activity.

The village of Rosemont's three TIF districts received a combined \$311,524. Rosemont TIF district 1 received \$111,932, district 2 received \$81,521 and district 3 \$118,071.

The village of Libertyville received \$134,075.

The city of Oak Park received \$123,937.

The village of Elmwood Park received \$36,704.

AREA COMMUNITIES WHOSE TIF districts did not generate any incremental revenue increases include:

Crystal Lake; Buffalo Grove; Franklin Park, in either the Belmont Avenue district or the Mannheim Road district; Niles, in either the Lawrencewood or Touhy Avenue districts; Skokie, in either the Church/Prairie area or the Touhy/Carpenter district; and River Forest.

Wheeling board race may be uncontested

COUNTRYSIDE
By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

12-15-88
Either someone is doing a great job or no one wants to stick his neck out.

With the Wheeling park board elections creating most of the clamor around the village, no one has yet come forward to challenge the four incumbents and their new running mate in next April's municipal race.

If no one does challenge the Wheeling Independent Party's (WIP) slate of current trustees William Rogers, Joe Ratajczak, Elizabeth Hartman, Village President Sheila Schultz and clerk-candidate Lois Gaffke, it would mark the first time in more than a decade that there were no challenges for village offices.

Those most mentioned as potential candidates have either joined WIP or said they won't run - at least not this time.

"I DON'T know why (there are no challenges)," said Trustee Judy Abruscato. She said she has considered running for, and has been asked by many to seek, Schultz' job. "I know why I'm not (running).

"It surprises me a little because so many people mumble and grumble (about village business)," she said. "You'd think they'd want to make a healthy election."

Opponents, she said, would force the incumbents to communicate their positions on various positions. "It's nice to have two parties, it makes for a healthy election," Abruscato said.

But Schultz said that regardless of the competition, her party will be hitting the pavement, letting village residents know how they stand on various issues, like the proposed commuter train station, the 911 system and traffic.

ED MAIN, ANOTHER rumored opponent, chose another tact: he joined WIP and is co-chairman for the campaign. Although he ran against Schultz unsuccessfully in 1985 and claimed during the campaign that a change was necessary, he said the last four years have shown that Schultz should continue to occupy the presidency.

"I would really have a hard time finding fault with anything she's done," Main said. The president of the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Main said he could do nothing but support Schultz' re-election efforts.

"I don't have any problem throwing any support I have behind her," Main said. "I just think the woman deserves a third term if she wants (it)."

Main is also running his own
(Continued on page 17)

campaign for another term as a Wheeling Township trustee. He said, however, that he would be surprised if no one comes out to challenge the incumbents.

"I WOULD be surprised if there was nobody (challenging)," Main said. "I think somebody would come out."

Several issues have ignited community protest, but obviously none that has spurred someone to seek a place on the ballot.

Dozens of senior citizens and business leaders challenged the creation of a 1 percent tax on gas, electric and phone bills that the village was proposing as a replacement of the vehicle stickers. The tax was heralded as a way to increase revenue while spreading the tax burden across more people.

But the seniors and the business community told the village such a tax would unfairly burden seniors on fixed incomes and businesses who said they would pay for the bulk of the tax. After several meetings on the issue, trustees rejected the proposal.

Wheeling awards contract for recycling

Herald-Tues, 12/20/88
BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees awarded a contract Monday night for a village-wide recycling program to Waste Management Inc., clearing the way for the program to begin in the spring.

Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal, owned by Waste Management, was chosen from four companies vying for the village contract.

"One of the reasons we are recommending Waste Management is because of the lower cost," Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said. Other companies quoted higher prices than Waste Management's \$1 per month.

Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Dispos-

al already hauled most of the residential garbage in Wheeling, one reason for the lower cost. This will also make billing easier, Anderson said, because the \$1 charge can be added to regular garbage bills.

Village President Sheila Schultz asked that the recycling charge not be listed separately on the bills.

"Everything is tied together," Schultz said. "You can't separate the cost of recycling from the cost of disposal."

Waste Management runs curb-side recycling in nearby Buffalo Grove and Arlington Heights.

"We checked with Buffalo Grove, and they say the program has been good so far," Anderson said. The Buffalo Grove program

began in August.

The village must spend about \$17,000 on plastic bins to hold the recyclables at the curb. All homes in the village will be included in the program.

Waste Management officials said they will assist the village in applying for state grants to help offset those costs.

"Recycling should go forward whether grants are available or not," Schultz said.

The program will also be available for condominium or town house owners, but this would be on a voluntary basis. Homeowners associations in areas such as Tahoe Village or Shadow Bend would have to approve participation for their own development.

Airport manager's ditch idea won't fly

12-33-88
By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Pal-Waukee Airport officials, trying to decide where to move the Wheeling Drainage Ditch that runs through the airport property, have overruled a recommendation by the airport manager to buy additional property.

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart had recommended that the airport purchase the old Twin Drive-In theater on Milwaukee Avenue and re-route the ditch through that property.

The creek must be moved because it is too close to one of the airport runways.

Consulting engineer Steve Moulton showed the commission four possible plans for relocating the ditch. Commissioners unanimously agreed to move the ditch 250 feet north, to property already owned by the airport.

The airport is jointly owned by Prospect Heights and Wheeling. Stewart said because the creek and surrounding property is in Wheeling. Prospect Heights officials deferred the decision to Wheeling.

Wheeling officials objected to buying the old drive-in because of the expense and the property tax revenue the village would lose if the airport owned that land.

"It would cost \$3.5 million to buy more property," said Commissioner William Rogers, also a Wheeling village trustee, said. "Wheeling didn't take kindly to that. Wheeling surrounds that whole area, and it's only a matter of time before we annex it. We want that area to eventually be a big industrial park."

Stewart had suggested that the airport buy the drive-in theater,

move the creek and then sell the property for development, allowing Wheeling to collect property tax from any businesses that came in.

Rogers, however, said the commission was not happy with that suggestion.

"The creek should remain where it is," he said. "All we are going to do is move it 250 feet north. And we are going to ask the state (department of transportation) to establish a culvert for the ditch under Milwaukee Avenue, about 250 feet north of where it is right now."

Wheeling hires hauling firm for recycling

12-23-88
By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Wheeling residents won't be leaving their recyclable trash to strangers.

Trustees agreed with village staff Monday and decided to contract with Wheeling/Buffalo Grove Disposal to take all the recyclable glass, aluminum and newspaper from the curbs of the village's estimated 3,500 single-family homes.

Citing lower costs and ease of billing, village staff recommended that Wheeling/Buffalo Grove Disposal, because it now hauls most of the village's residential trash, be retained as the village's processor of recyclable materials.

Now the village will begin the process of applying for state grants for the purchase of the plastic bins necessary to accommodate the recyclable materials. Village officials hope the project can be operational by May 1.

After four separate waste haulers laid out their proposals for village recycling, staff members compiled information from the four and applied it to standards trustees suggested they wanted from the recycling contractor.

THE RESULTING recommendation said that Waste Management, Inc., the company that operates Wheeling/Buffalo Grove Disposal, could provide the best services at the lowest cost.

Waste Management began a recycling project in Buffalo Grove last

(Continued on page 11)

August, in which all single-family homes and townhouses are serviced.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said Waste Management's proposal, at \$1 a month for each household, was far below the estimates of the other prospective haulers. Waste Management officials said they were able to propose a lower cost because village waste diverted from landfill into recycling lowers the cost of handling the village's main waste contract.

Anderson, through the recommendation of Dave Kowal, assistant to the village manager, said Waste Management could also add the \$1 surcharge to the existing quarterly bill residents receive. Other proposals would have

required the village to bill residents and then turn the money over to the hauler.

UNDER THE RECYCLING plan, residents would use one bin to place their newspaper, glass and aluminum and delabled tin cans and place it on the curb once each week. Waste Management would pick it up, process it at their Wheeling facility, and find markets for the end products.

After all processing fees are paid, all further proceeds from the sale of the products will go to the village on a monthly basis.

Trustee William Rogers, however, said he wants those proceeds to go back into the program and cut down on the

Pal-Waukee cuts down insurance premium costs

12-23-88
By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Pal-Waukee Airport officials are pleased to learn that airport insurance premiums will go down next year.

The Airport Commission voted to renew its policy through Julius Moll Insurance Co. for liability and property damage insurance.

"The insurance premium dropped from \$50,000 to \$30,000," Commissioner Carey Chickerno said.

He credited improvements at the airport, the commission's additional experience at governing the airport and the "softness of insurance markets," as some of the reasons the premium had gone down.

The coverage will remain the same as last year, officials said. The airport carries \$100 million in liability.

Charlie Priester, president of Priester Aviation, said his company

had increased their liability coverage to \$150 million.

Commissioners considered raising the airport's liability coverage, but decided to keep it at its present level.

"That can always be increased mid-term," Commissioner Robert Strauss said.

"I would recommend that we continue the same amount," Chickerno said.

Robert Holtz, president of the Wolf Run Homeowners Association, asked the commission who would get sued if there were a crash, the plane owners or the airport.

Said airport attorney Steven Moore: "The airport's role is secondary in that type of situation."

The new policy will go into effect Dec. 24.

Daily Herald Correspondent Sheila Bus also contributed to this story.

Pal-Waukee plans give lift to local officials

12-23-88
By SHEILA BUS
and KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Local officials are lauding a developer's plans for a new terminal and fuel and repair service at Pal-Waukee Airport.

Members of the Pal-Waukee Airport Commission view the project as a way to break up the monopoly on fuel sales and repairs currently held by former airport owner Priester Aviation.

"As I looked at it, I almost thought it was too good to be true," Commissioner William A. Rogers said. "We don't want anyone to have a monopoly, and the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) doesn't want it either."

The project would be located north and east of the Wheeling drainage ditch and north of the Priester Aviation terminal. It would be built by Joseph Freed and Associates Inc.

The company has developed major industrial and commercial projects throughout the Midwest, including the North Point Shopping Center in Arlington Heights. The company is located at 1000 Capitol Drive in Wheeling and uses Pal-Waukee for business.

Airport officials have requested detailed plans for the project, but they are enthused over what they have seen so far.

"They want to build a first-class facility," Rogers said. "Everyone was just ga-ga over what these

people want to do."

Although "extremely enthusiastic" about the project, commission Chairman Carey L. Chickerno said Freed must convince commissioners that the business would succeed.

"It would be key for us to understand how you would accomplish this," Chickerno said. "I'm almost totally unconcerned with your ability to build buildings. I'm concerned more with the service, the people, the philosophy."

To build the project, Freed must acquire what the FAA calls "fixed base operator status." The status would allow Freed to sell fuel, make repairs and perform required safety inspections on planes.

cost to residents.

One of those costs is the bins themselves. The village would make the initial, \$17,000 outlay for the bins while hoping to recover half of that in grants from the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

IN ADDITION TO collecting the recyclables, Waste Management will also be required to establish an education program designed to make village residents aware of the new program.

Although village residents are being asked to pay extra for the service, the expected benefit is planned for the future, when landfill costs escalate and force the price of waste disposal higher.

Recycling proponents say keeping the landfills free of recyclables keeps them open long enough to find cheaper alternatives.

Single-family condominium or townhouse residences in Wheeling, although now serviced by individual waste haulers, may be included in the recycling project. Waste Management said it would make the service available to the homeowners' associations which now handle waste contracts.

Browning-Ferris Industries, Laidlaw Waste Systems and Haulaway Inc. all made presentations to the village soliciting its recycling contract. Prices ranged from \$1.55 to \$2.50 each month for every participant.

Police issue warnings on holiday burglaries

BY ELLEN SCHMIDBLIX and KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Holiday burglars have taken some of the Christmas spirit out of at least two dozen victims in the Northwest suburbs, and police are warning residents to protect themselves from this seasonal phenomenon.

"Hide your presents until the day before Christmas," said Helen Foerster of Arlington Heights, whose home was one of 13 in the village burglarized in the past eight days. Wheeling police report 11 home burglaries since Nov. 1.

At the Foerster home, the burglar broke into a basement window, rifled through drawers and unwrapped Christmas packages before escaping with a load of valuables.

"I'm still not sure what all is missing," Foerster said. "It's not fair."

The Foerster home was burglarized 10 years ago, but the invasion didn't carry the same devastating effects as Tuesday's robbery.

Wheeling police arrested a man and a woman Wednesday in connection with a series of burglaries, though no formal charges have been filed.

For now, William E. Carini, 26, who has a lengthy local criminal his-

tory, is charged with possession of stolen property, allegedly taken from the Longtree subdivision in Wheeling, and with possession of a hypodermic syringe.

Carini was arrested with Deborah Prusinski, 28, who is charged with possession of a stolen auto. The pair had been driving a car reported stolen with other items during a home burglary in Cicero. Carini was freed on \$10,000 bond Thursday.

Police are awaiting results of lab tests on evidence recovered from the crime scenes before they can ask the Cook County State's Attorney to approve additional charges.

Wheeling Deputy Chief O'Rourke said Carini and Prusinski are suspected of a number of other burglaries in Wheeling, in neighborhoods along Hintz Road, including Longtree, Ridgfield and Eastchester subdivision.

In the 24 burglaries reported in Arlington Heights and Wheeling, the suspects were able to enter the homes by prying or kicking open a front door, or by breaking a basement window.

Most of the Arlington Heights burglaries occurred in an area roughly bounded by Northwest Highway, Thomas Street and Arlington

See BURGLARIES on Page 5

Multifamily dwellers asked to join recycling program

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials are encouraging residents who live in multifamily housing to participate in the village's recycling program.

Officials hope those residents will come forward since they comprise the majority of the village's population. About 60 percent of the residences in the village are apartments, duplexes, town houses and condominiums.

While residents who live in multifamily houses have regular garbage pickup service, the contract for the service is handled by the development's homeowners association.

"We don't even know how many homeowners associations there are, or who the president of each is," Administrative Assistant David Kowal said.

Kowal said he hopes various associations will contact the village to join the recycling program.

Wheeling officials recently awarded Waste Management Inc. a contract for the village-wide recycling program. The company expects to begin collecting bottles, cans and newspapers May 1. Residents will pay an extra \$1 per month for the service.

So far, only houses will be included, although the program is open to anyone whose garbage is collected at the curb.

"Each association would have to approve participation for their entire development," Kowal said. "We'd really like to hear from any group that is interested."

The village plans to spend \$17,000 for the plastic bins residents will use to place recyclables at the curb. The bins cost \$5 each.

Palwaukee building plan interests board

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Wheeling developer Joseph Freed, a newcomer to the aviation business, is hoping to bring competition to Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Proposing plans to operate an airplane storage, maintenance and refueling facility on airport property, Freed last week made a bid to become the second fixed-base operator (FBO) at an airport that until now has had only one such operator, Priester Aviation.

Under an FBO agreement, the operator builds the facilities and then leases the land from the airport. The airport also gets a portion of the rent from hangar space.

Ever since Wheeling and Prospect Heights purchased the airport, the Federal Aviation Administration has suggested adding a second FBO to the airport. Having competition at the facility would provide airport customers with better prices and service, Wheeling trustee William Rogers said.

THE PALWAUKEE MUNICIPAL Airport Commission, comprised of members from both Wheeling and Prospect Heights, has looked to add another FBO. But although developers have courted the airport in the past, Freed's proposal is expected to start a series of discussions between the commission and other developers.

Problems with airport expansion and with meeting FAA safety guide-

lines did not allow the commission to consider FBO proposals made in the past. Now that some of those problems, including finding a new location for the Wheeling Drainage Ditch, are solved, Rogers said the commission can turn its attention toward the FBO proposals.

Now that Freed has been requested to come back with more specific plans detailing the design of the proposed facilities and the services offered, Rogers said the commission will solicit proposals from other developers.

WHILE OTHER PAST proposals have been limited in scope, Rogers said Freed's plan was the most comprehensive the commission has seen. The scope of its services and facilities nearly matched that of Priester Aviation, he said.

Freed has proposed building a v-shaped building that would serve as a hangar and a terminal. It would be located north of the drainage ditch, west of Milwaukee Avenue on the northeast portion of the airport.

Rogers said one of the most attractive points of Freed's plan was his suggestion that he would pay for some of the engineering work or movement costs of moving the drainage ditch.

In his proposal, Freed said that if his plan is approved, he could have the FBO off the ground in 14 months.

Before any new FBO is added, however, the airport will have to secure all the land necessary for such a facility.

Thursday, December 29, 1988

ay peace be your gift at Christmas
treasure throughout the New Year

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24th 9:30 AM-5:00 PM

Jaycees: More than just haunted houses

By Juliann R. Anderson
Staff Writer

12-29-88
Area Jaycee organizations are best known around the suburbs for haunted houses and Christmas tree sales, but the organization does a lot more than that.

In Wheeling, for example, the police department knows its local Jaycees chapter as the group that turned an "invisible dog" into a crime-fighting canine.

The Wheeling Jaycees is one of the most active chapters in the North Region of the Chicago-area district of the Illinois Jaycees, said region director Susan Clarke. The state branch is part of a national organization devoted to leadership training for adults between the ages of 21 to 39.

In July 1987, Wheeling Jaycee Mike Lynch was manning the group's "invisible dog" fundraising booth at the village's annual Family Fest celebration when Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger and Deputy Chief Gary O'Rourke strolled by.

"AN INVISIBLE dog is an empty leash that is stiffened so that it looks as if it would if it was on a dog," Lynch explained. "Naturally, when Chief Haeger and Deputy Chief O'Rourke came by, I tried to sell them a 'dog.'"

"O'Rourke said he would be happy to buy a leash if the Jaycees would be willing put a real dog on the end of one," Lynch said.

Everyone laughed at the time, but after Family Fest was over, Lynch said he contacted O'Rourke and asked him what the Wheeling police would need to set up a canine unit. The Jaycees then embarked on "Operation Canine," a fundraiser was one of its most ambitious and successful projects. The group contacted about 2,000 area businesses and collected cash donations and almost 100 different items for a community auction in September.

The Jaycees ultimately raised about \$7,000 to purchase a police-trained German shepherd named Laslar Von Shudys.

dys, to specially equip a police squad car, to set up a kennel and purchase other necessary canine-equipment.

"I THINK we actually exceeded the police department's expectations with our fundraising efforts. When the dog and all the equipment was purchased, we still had about \$1,500 left over to put toward other community projects," Lynch said.

The dog has already been invaluable in searching out suspects and clues to crimes while reducing the risk to officers, especially during incidents involving Wheeling's industrial and commercial areas, according to O'Rourke. Laslar is currently undergoing drug-search training so he can expand his usefulness to the police department.

Whatever Laslar's contribution has been to the Wheeling Police, O'Rourke said the department is grateful to the community's Jaycees for their efforts in obtaining the dog.

"We had asked the village for funding to start a canine unit. But it didn't get budgeted. I was just making an off-the-cuff comment when I asked the Jaycees to buy us a dog. But they took me seriously and really came through for us," O'Rourke said.

"OPERATION CANINE" is just one of the 50 to 60 projects that the Wheeling Jaycees run each year, and is representative of the type of community projects the Jaycees engage in throughout the Chicago area.

The group's efforts range from aiding an individual member during a family crisis to taking 20 to 30 needy children on a Christmas shopping spree. In addition to fundraising and contributing to community projects, the Jaycees offer self-improvement programs on a variety of topics, including such things as personal dynamics, rape awareness and the use of personal computers, he said.

The concept behind the Jaycees is triangular, explained Clarke. "Leader-

(Continued on page 14)



The Wheeling Police Department's newest member, a German shepherd named Laslar Von Shudys, demonstrates how he searches for drugs. The Jaycees raised the funds for the department's canine unit. Watching the demonstration are Wheeling Jaycees member Mike Lynch, left, and officer William Benson of the department's canine unit. (Staff photo by Bill Powers)

(Continued from page 12)

ship and individual development is the point, but the base is community development and chapter management," she said.

Statewide, the Jaycees have about 14,500 members with 85 chapters and 4,400 in the Chicago area, she said. "Illinois used to have the largest membership in the country. But in the past few years, I believe we've been coming in third behind Florida and Texas," Clarke said.

IN ADDITION TO its chapter projects, the Illinois Jaycees operate a summer camp for disabled children called Camp New Hope in Mantoon to which all its local chapters send children, she said. Many chapters also raise funds to send local youngsters to the Special Olympics each year, and hundreds of members work as volunteers at the games.

Although the Jaycees started in the 1920s as the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the organization has since diversified to include anyone from the ages of 21 to 39, Clarke said.

"I guess it used to be that you had a own a business or at least have some sort of white-collar job to be a member. That's no longer true. The Jaycees started admitting women in about 1984, so now we're open to anyone whose interested in leadership and involvement in their community," she said.

Many chapters even have Junior Jaycee groups for the children in their area, Clarke said.

"We're also a great social organization. If you're new to a community and really want to get to know people, the Jaycees is the organization to join," she said. "Whether you're a married couple or single, with kids or without, the Jaycees will have something for you."

Remembering 1988

A look at the top 10 local stories of the year

The year 1988 will be remembered as a period of resolution and of change in Wheeling, if not so much for new action then for the conclusion or near conclusion of several key issues. The following are snapshots of the top 10 most important local stories of the year as selected by our staff.

1 Voters reject tax increase in Dist. 21

Community Consolidated School District 21 continued to tread water while trying to find new revenue sources in a year when the education fund deficit alone was projected to top \$3 million.

In November, the catch phrase was "April, here we come" as District 21 voters narrowly defeated a tax hike request.

Eliminating kindergarten, hot lunches, sports and special programs were among the 60 items placed on the table for possible cuts to address the deficit. Early next year school board members are expected to make final decision on what staff and programs that will be cut to help cover the projected deficit.

If the measure fails a second time, 1989 could be known as the year when the district's financial problems finally came home to roost.

2 Redevelopment hits roadblock in the courts

After a long-standing battle in the courts, a Cook County Circuit Judge put the kibosh on village plans to establish a special tax district scheduled to spur wholesale development on Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

The village has already filed briefs appealing the ruling to the Illinois Appellate Court, and contends that the judge's ruling was "erroneous." The village will now have to prove to both the appellate court and the state that its Tax Increment Finance district meets state guidelines.

Following its establishment in early 1985, the village sold \$4.36 million in bonds to buy land and make public improvements to property running along Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road. Taxes paid to schools, the village and other taxing bodies are frozen at their 1985 levels while the increases in tax dollars caused by the new development is used to pay back the bonds.

First property owners challenged the district and now the state has

announced its intentions to investigate the legitimacy of the Wheeling district.

3 Local opponents short-circuit utility tax

Following the vocal opposition of senior citizens and village businessmen and manufacturers, trustees abandoned the idea of adding a 1 percent tax onto residents phone, gas and electric bills while replacing the vehicle stickers.

Proposed as a way to tax everyone fairly while raising much-needed money for the repair of village roads and sewers, the utility tax also drew scorn from seniors on fixed incomes who said they would pay far more than the \$14 a year the village estimated.

Business leaders also attacked the plan, saying their taxes could jump thousands of dollars if the tax was adopted. Campaigns by both seniors and the business community resulted in filled meeting halls and letter writing.

After initially showing support for the tax, village officials unanimously knocked down the plan, hinting, however, that the issue may come up in the future, if village finances get tight.

Instead of establishing the utility tax, trustees the following week approved a new vehicle sticker fee schedule, which doubled the cost of the stickers from \$10 to \$20 for passenger cars, while allowing senior citizens to buy their first sticker for just \$10.

4 Last call issued for store owner's license

Village trustees heard a lot about liquor law violations this year, and levied fines against two liquor stores, later revoking one of those store's liquor license.

After the dust settled, trustees reacted by stiffening village liquor ordinances in order to give police more tools in charging youth offenders.

In April, Bell Liquors and J.C. Liquor Store were fined and ordered to close their doors for several days. J.C. Liquor Store was again before the village liquor control commission - made up of village trustees - in September, when officials again heard that store clerks had illegally sold alcohol to minors.

Based on those allegations, trustees agreed to revoke the license of the store. The Illinois Liquor Control Commission board later upheld that ruling.

5 Cop killer receives death sentence

Justice was administered surely, if

not swiftly, in 1988 in the case of a man charged with the 1985 murder of a Wheeling police officer.

Cook County Circuit Court Judge Fred Suria handed down the death penalty in March to Tyrone Strickland, found guilty in February of shooting Wheeling police Officer Kenneth Dawson to death Nov. 5, 1985.

While Strickland contended the shooting was an accident, Suria, in a bench trial, found that Strickland intentionally shot Dawson during a struggle between Dawson, Strickland and Strickland's brother, Larry.

Tyrone Strickland was also found guilty of two counts of attempted murder, kidnapping and unlawful restraint.

Both Stricklands were charged with murdering Dawson in the Cedar Run subdivision, the attempted murder of another police officer and with kidnapping a Buffalo Grove man, whom they allegedly forced to drive them to Chicago.

Although both brothers were charged with crimes, Larry is still awaiting a trial. Larry Strickland is waiting for an Illinois Supreme Court hearing on whether his confession was legally obtained.

Tyrone Strickland also is sentenced to 135 years in prison for the other, non-murder charges.

6 Firefighters dispute smolders in the courts

Wheeling firefighters hoping to form a union that included the department's six lieutenants had appeared to have won a long fought for day in court, only to find they would have yet another day in court - the Illinois Supreme Court.

After the Illinois Appellate Court upheld a decision by the state labor relations board that allowed the lieutenants into the union, trustees decided to take that case to the state's highest court.

The Illinois Supreme Court is expected to hear arguments in the case in late spring or early summer, rendering a decision either before or after the justices' summer break.

Village officials contend that allowing the lieutenants in the bargaining unit erodes their ability to manage the department. Firefighters say the lieutenants are allowed by law to join the bargaining unit and perform most of the same duties as the rank and file.

7 Courts rule on brutality suits against cops

A federal jury agreed with village lawyers in February and dismissed claims that Wheeling police acted wrongly in charging William Boyd with the 1981 murder of Wheeling teenager

Mary Kosinski.

Boyd had sought \$2.6 million in compensatory and punitive damages from the village, claiming he was coerced into making a false confession in the murder case and that his civil rights had been violated. Boyd, who filed the suit in 1983, was charged with but not convicted of murdering Kosinski.

Several former Wheeling police officers, including then-acting Chief Ronald Nelson, were named in the suit along with psychotherapist Clarence Trausch.

But while the village won that case, it lost another, that of officer William Stutzman, who a federal jury said used "excessive force" while investigating a report of an unpaid car repair bill from a Wheeling gas station.

The attorney for Gerald Plambeck, an Arlington Heights man who was the target of the investigation, said Stutzman punched Plambeck, breaking several teeth and putting his head through a wall.

Although a jury leveled charges against Stutzman, a settlement was reached between the village and the Plambeck family that gave the family \$52,000 to cover legal fees.

Stutzman, who is still on the force, was cleared of any wrongdoing when department officials determined that Stutzman acted in self-defense.

8 Attendant murdered during robbery at gas station

Tragedy struck Wheeling this year, when armed robbers shot and killed a convenience store clerk in September.

The robbers entered the Starvin' Marvin gas store and convenience mart and took \$226 from clerk Thomas Goings, then shot him in the neck.

Three men were arrested by Lake County Sheriff police and charged with murder and armed robbery. Police allege two of the three also committed armed robbery against patrons of a Lake Zurich bar. Jury selection for the trial of the three is set for Feb. 27 in Lake County Circuit Court in Waukegan.

9 Election season off to brisk start locally

The ballot box and petition process in Wheeling got a workout this year, with voters going to the polls to shoot down proposed changes in village government and with candidates getting ready to run for spots on the park board and village board.

In November, while narrowly defeating the Community Consolidated District 21 tax hike request, Wheeling voters defeated a request to make the village clerk an appointed, rather than

(Continued on page 52)

(Continued from page 51)

elected, position.

By a two-to-one margin, voters dumped the proposal that trustees and village staff said would make village government run more smoothly while giving residents greater access to the clerk.

Later in November, hopeful candidates for the Wheeling park board began circulating petitions. Already there are six non-incumbents running for the four spots on the ballot. The two incumbents, Tony Abruscato and Julia Roberson, have not yet announced whether they will run.

But already, the announced candidates have criticized the current board, saying they have been inactive and ineffective in improving the park district.

10 Village manager Markus resigns his post

After two separate terms in Wheeling, Village manager Tom Markus decided to go back home to Minnesota, where he took a job as city manager of Brooklyn Park.

Markus had worked as assistant village manager in the 1970s before he returned to Minnesota to work as a city manager. He returned to Wheeling in 1980 and was village manager until he left in early May.

Markus is credited with helping re-establish the council-manager form of government and working with the board of trustees in improving the village's image.

Police issue warnings on holiday burglaries

By ELLEN SCHMID BLIX and KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writers

12-23-88

Holiday burglars have taken some of the Christmas spirit out of at least two dozen victims in the Northwest suburbs, and police are warning residents to protect themselves from this seasonal phenomenon.

"Hide your presents until the day before Christmas," said Helen Foerster of Arlington Heights, whose home was one of 13 in the village burglarized in the past eight days. Wheeling police report 11 home burglaries since Nov. 1.

At the Foerster home, the burglar broke into a basement window, rifled through drawers and unwrapped Christmas packages before escaping with a load of valuables.

"I'm still not sure what all is missing," Foerster said. "It's not fair."

The Foerster home was burglarized 10 years ago, but the invasion didn't carry the same devastating effects as Tuesday's robbery.

Wheeling police arrested a man and a woman Wednesday in connection with a series of burglaries, though no formal charges have been filed.

For now, William E. Carini, 26, who has a lengthy local criminal his-

tory, is charged with possession of stolen property, allegedly taken from the Longtree subdivision in Wheeling, and with possession of a hypodermic syringe.

Carini was arrested with Deborah Prusinski, 28, who is charged with possession of a stolen auto. The pair had been driving a car reported stolen with other items during a home burglary in Cicero. Carini was freed on \$10,000 bond Thursday.

Police are awaiting results of lab tests on evidence recovered from the crime scenes before they can ask the Cook County State's Attorney to approve additional charges.

Wheeling Deputy Chief O'Rourke said Carini and Prusinski are suspected of a number of other burglaries in Wheeling, in neighborhoods along Hintz Road, including Longtree, Ridgefield and Eastchester subdivision.

In the 24 burglaries reported in Arlington Heights and Wheeling, the suspects were able to enter the homes by prying or kicking open a front door, or by breaking a basement window.

Most of the Arlington Heights burglaries occurred in an area roughly bounded by Northwest Highway, Thomas Street and Arlington

See BURGLARIES on Page 5

Multifamily dwellers asked to join recycling program

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

12-28-88

Wheeling officials are encouraging residents who live in multifamily housing to participate in the village's recycling program.

Officials hope those residents will come forward since they comprise the majority of the village's population. About 60 percent of the residences in the village are apartments, duplexes, town houses and condominiums.

While residents who live in multifamily houses have regular garbage pickup service, the contract for the service is handled by the development's homeowners association.

"We don't even know how many homeowners associations there are, or who the president of each is," Administrative Assistant David Kowal said.

Kowal said he hopes various associations will contact the village to join the recycling program.

Wheeling officials recently awarded Waste Management Inc. a contract for the village-wide recycling program. The company expects to begin collecting bottles, cans and newspapers May 1. Residents will pay an extra \$1 per month for the service.

So far, only houses will be included, although the program is open to anyone whose garbage is collected at the curb.

"Each association would have to approve participation for their entire development," Kowal said. "We'd really like to hear from any group that is interested."

The village plans to spend \$17,000 for the plastic bins residents will use to place recyclables at the curb. The bins cost \$5 each.

Palwaukee building plan interests board

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Countryside
12-29-88

Wheeling developer Joseph Freed, a newcomer to the aviation business, is hoping to bring competition to Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Proposing plans to operate an airplane storage, maintenance and refueling facility on airport property, Freed last week made a bid to become the second fixed-base operator (FBO) at an airport that until now has had only one such operator, Priester Aviation.

Under an FBO agreement, the operator builds the facilities and then leases the land from the airport. The airport also gets a portion of the rent from hangar space.

Ever since Wheeling and Prospect Heights purchased the airport, the Federal Aviation Administration has suggested adding a second FBO to the airport. Having competition at the facility would provide airport customers with better prices and service, Wheeling trustee William Rogers said.

THE PALWAUKEE MUNICIPAL Airport Commission, comprised of members from both Wheeling and Prospect Heights, has looked to add another FBO. But although developers have courted the airport in the past, Freed's proposal is expected to start a series of discussions between the commission and other developers.

Problems with airport expansion and with meeting FAA safety guide-

lines did not allow the commission to consider FBO proposals made in the past. Now that some of those problems, including finding a new location for the Wheeling Drainage Ditch, are solved, Rogers said the commission can turn its attention toward the FBO proposals.

Now that Freed has been requested to come back with more specific plans detailing the design of the proposed facilities and the services offered, Rogers said the commission will solicit proposals from other developers.

WHILE OTHER PAST proposals have been limited in scope, Rogers said Freed's plan was the most comprehensive the commission has seen. The scope of its services and facilities nearly matched that of Priester Aviation, he said.

Freed has proposed building a v-shaped building that would serve as a hangar and a terminal. It would be located north of the drainage ditch, west of Milwaukee Avenue on the northeast portion of the airport.

Rogers said one of the most attractive points of Freed's plan was his suggestion that he would pay for some of the engineering work or movement costs of moving the drainage ditch.

In his proposal, Freed said that if his plan is approved, he could have the FBO off the ground in 14 months.

Before any new FBO is added, however, the airport will have to secure all the land necessary for such a facility.

Thursday, December 29, 1988

ay peace be your gift at Christmas
treasure throughout the New Year

870-3450
566-0781
In Cook County call In Lake County call

FORE
Schaumburg
634 S. Roselle Road
(Weatherway Plaza)

894-0030
HOURS: THURS. & FRI.
9:30-9 PM, CHRISTMAS
EVE 9:30-5 PM, CLOSED
CHRISTMAS MON. DEC.
20th 9:30-9 PM

24th 9:30 AM-5:00 PM

Village residents make voices heard

12-29-88
 BY KERI WYATT
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents made their voices heard in 1988, via the ballot, public protest and the courts.

Residents rejected a proposal to increase taxes in Wheeling Township Elementary School District 21. The outcome of the November election was close, encouraging district officials to place the proposed 39 percent tax increase on the ballot again in April.

A proposed utility tax was shot down after the Wheeling Chamber of Commerce and American Association of Retired Persons petitioned village officials to drop it.

Business owners along Milwaukee Avenue made their statement in court, where they eventually won a ruling that will protect their buildings from being condemned by the village for a redevelopment project. The village has appealed that court decision and the case is still pending.

In 1988, Wheeling residents were heard.

Down but not out

Despite efforts throughout the year by District 21 officials to convince voters to approve a 39 percent tax hike, they denied the request in November.

Officials say the efforts to educate voters in 1988 will pay off in 1989, when the request to increase the education fund tax rate from \$1.80 to \$2.50 per \$100 of assessed valuation will reappear on the ballot.

The referendum failed by only 388 votes, meaning 49 percent of the voters approved the increase. Members of the Citizens for 21 committee — a group of parents, teachers and citizens endorsing the tax increase — say they are encouraged by the close margin of the November election. They feel confident that voters will approve the increase in April.

The increase is needed to correct a nearly \$3 million deficit in the education fund. Officials blame the deficit on cuts in state aid and a leveling off of property values in the district.

The tax increase would bolster the maximum tax bill for the owner of a \$100,000 house from \$383 to \$488 per year. However, the school board has passed a resolution limiting its levying powers so that the district's total tax bill would be about \$450.

Waiting to happen

The Wheeling firefighters union continued a battle with the village that began in 1986. The union has been trying to include lieutenants in its bargaining unit. While the Illinois Labor Relations Board and Illinois Appellate Court has supported the effort, the village has continued to fight it.

The case has now reached the Illinois Supreme Court where it will be decided sometime in 1989. The village is arguing that since lieutenants are supervisors, they should not be included in a collective bargaining unit.

Negotiations had broken down in 1987, but the village made a good-faith gesture in 1988 by giving lieutenants and rank-and-file firefighters retroactive raises for the past two years. The village also agreed to bargain with firefighters while the case is heard in court.

When the appellate court upheld the lieutenants' right to union membership this year, village officials



The Wheeling Historical Society made a big move by relocating and renovating an old building into a museum for a collection of horse-drawn carriages.

Daily Herald Photo/Gilbert Boucher

grimaced. They also kept their promise by continuing negotiations with firefighters, but quickly took the case to the Illinois Supreme Court.

Top business story

Wheeling continued its efforts to redevelop its downtown area through a tax-increment financing program, but evidence of that effort spent most of 1988 on the desk of a circuit court judge.

Judge Alexander White ruled in favor of five property owners who said the village had not met the proper criteria to establish a TIF district at the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

White said the village had not met the criteria to designate the area as "blighted" and had no right to condemn the property owned by the five people who filed the lawsuit.

Wheeling has appealed the case, but the future of the downtown redevelopment project — a \$8.9 million shopping center — is uncertain.

Story won't die

Residents near Pal-Waukee Airport are still wondering if their houses will be demolished to make room for the relocation of the intersection of Wolf Road and Hintz Road.

Airport officials say the roads must be moved to create a "clear zone" at the end of the main runway to comply with regulations established by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Residents of Wolf Run Estates protested the plans. The subdivision lies in Wheeling and in unincorporated Cook County.

As they have over other airport issues, joint owners Wheeling and Prospect Heights squabbled over the relocation of the intersection. When the Pal-Waukee Airport Commission approved the plan, all but one Wheeling commissioner voted against it.

1988

a look back

1988

The Prospect Heights City Council approved the relocation but Wheeling trustees unanimously rejected it. The parties are in the midst of closed-door negotiations to try and resolve their differences.

End of an era

Old-timers eulogized Rickett's Restaurant, which closed its doors in 1988 after 40 years of business.

Most of the staff and patrons were as familiar as the latched windows, dark wood beams and huge stone fireplace in the tavern dining room.

Owner Evelyn Joesel said high property values and low profits persuaded her to sell the tavern, but, she lamented, "It's the end of an era."

The restaurant, located at 920 N. Milwaukee, has been purchased by Weber-Stephen Products, Inc. Completely renovated, it is now open as a barbecue restaurant.

Saddest story

It was a quiet tragedy, the kind not everyone noticed.

Jerome Janoska, 32, lived with his sister, Corinne, in the Lakeside Villas town house complex. The young man did not have a job and he suffered from epilepsy.

He was home alone one day, raking leaves in the yard, when he apparently suffered a seizure. Police theorized that he became disoriented and plunged into a retention pond just a few feet from his back door, where he drowned. The Wheeling Fire Department dive team pulled his body from water six feet deep the next morning.

Neighbors said Jerome and Corinne enjoyed walking their dog and were known as friendly people.

Most controversial

In an effort to increase revenues for its street fund, Wheeling officials suggested abolishing the village's vehicle sticker program and substituting a 1 percent utility tax.

Senior citizens fiercely protested the proposal, claiming it would make no sense to tax necessities such as electric, gas and telephone to pay for road repairs.

Village trustees seemed surprised by the protest, arguing that a utility tax would be an efficient way to collect revenue.

Trustees also noted that the tax would not cost residents more than vehicle stickers, but would generate more money since local businesses would contribute a larger share.

The assertion was a mistake since it brought the tax proposal to the attention of the chamber of commerce. After studying how higher utility bills would affect businesses, the chamber rallied against the tax and village trustees decided not to impose it.

Instead, they doubled vehicle sticker rates, which had cost the same amount since 1973. Senior citizens still weren't happy. Instead of \$3, vehicle stickers would cost them \$10.

Happiest story

Special education students from Wheeling High School and several other high schools enjoyed a special event in 1988: their own prom.

For the first time, students who might have been overwhelmed by a regular school prom had their own party.

See 1988 on Page 3



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Craig Anderson took over in April as Wheeling's new village manager.

Daily Herald Photo/Rich Chapman

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See 1988 on Page 3



FamilyFest '88 was a huge success.

Daily Herald Photo/Bob Turner

Continued from Page 1

Wheeling High School teacher Nancy Wisniewski helped organize the prom for special education students from Northwest Suburban High School District 214 and Palatine-Schaumburg High School District 211.

"It was the high point of the year for all the kids that attended," Wisniewski said.

Strangest story

Nearly 50 ducks living in a Wheeling retention pond died in one week during 1988. The ducks, it was determined, were killed with kindness by area residents.

Ducks in the pond at the Wine Tree apartment complex contracted botulism from residents who fed them. The lake became overcrowded with ducks and botulism spread through the feces of the sick ducks.

Although residents were distraught to find duck remains in the pond, they had trouble finding a way to dispose of them. Eventually, the village's public works crews came to the rescue.

It finally happened

The hot, dry summer of 1988 caused many suburbs to cancel Fourth of July fireworks displays. Wheeling officials delayed a decision until the last minute.

Eventually, Mother Nature won the battle and the celebration was not highlighted by aerial pyrotechnics. Even without fireworks, warm

weather attracted record crowds to FamilyFest, the annual Fourth of July bash thrown by St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church.

The fireworks problem was solved later in the year, when the village sponsored a family night over Labor Day weekend to display fireworks. Rain in late summer provided enough moisture to allay fears of firefighters.

Freshest face

Former Village Manager Thomas Marcus left after eight years with the village for the greener pastures of Brooklyn Park, Minn. He was replaced by Craig Anderson, 37.

Anderson, formerly an assistant manager in Glenview, took over June 1, and seemed to adjust quickly to the rigors of the job. He has aided trustees in their attempts to start a village recycling program, worked on negotiations with the firefighter's union and has served on the Northwest Water Commission.

Quote of year

"Nobody likes to put someone out of business. But they have violated that special trust given to liquor license holders. They have to accept their responsibility," — Village Attorney James Rhodes, reacting to the village liquor commission's decision to permanently revoke the liquor license held by J.C. Liquors, after store owners were convicted of selling liquor to minors four times in less than a year.

1988

THE YEAR

Courtesy 12-29-88

JANUARY



Residents take a sleigh ride to the village's winter carnival.

Wheeling gets hit with higher insurance premiums as the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency plops a \$67,597 addition to the village premium of \$270,387.

Tom Markus, Wheeling village manager, gets a new, two-year contract. Markus will leave the village four

months to take a similar job in Brooklyn Park, Minn.

An arctic blast breezes through town, leaving residents chilled and cars immobile. Several water mains break but kids are still in school as ruddy cheeks become the badge of courage.

FEBRUARY



Fritz Klein, dressed as Abraham Lincoln, delivers a speech at Wheeling High School.

It now costs seniors \$8 to join the Senior Pavilion. Trustees agree to put a price tag on membership, including asking non-residents to pay \$10 a year.

A citizens committee in Community Consolidated District 21 recommends the district ask voters to approve a 70-cent tax rate increase.

Tyrone Strickland is found guilty of the 1985 murder of Wheeling police officer Kenneth Dawson. He is later sentenced to death for the Nov. 5, 1985 shooting of Dawson.

Wheeling police are cleared of any wrongdoing in connection with charges brought by a former murder suspect who claimed village police officers forced him to confess.

MARCH

Village Manager Tom Markus resigns after eight years on the job to take a similar position in Brooklyn Park, Minn.

Tyrone Strickland receives the death penalty from Cook County Criminal Court Judge Fred J. Suria, Jr. He later gets 135 years in prison for other charges.

An open campus policy at Wheeling High School is upheld by the district's board of education.

Community Consolidated District 21 decides to ask voters Nov. 8 whether they want to raise their tax rate by 70 cents to combat a rising deficit in the education fund.

Firefighters receive a 5 percent salary increase the village, bringing the average village firefighters salary to \$33,188.



A student says good-bye to his balloon during a balloon launch at Poe School.

APRIL

A federal jury rules that Wheeling Police Officer William Stutzman used excessive force during an August, 1983 incident involving an Arlington Heights family. The village agrees to pay the family \$52,000 to cover legal costs.

Craig Anderson, former assistant village manager of Glenview, is hired to replace Village Manager Tom Markus. Anderson will earn \$55,000 a year.

Wheeling liquor stores Bell Liquors and J.C. Liquor Store are fined and ordered to close temporarily for selling alcohol to minors.

Village trustees twice reject plans for a strip shopping mall at Dundee and Wolf roads, claiming increased traffic would spoil the corner. Later, the board would overturn its decision and allow the center.



Lynn Koppel practices for a performance in the Wheeling High School Orchestris program.

MAY

Volunteers plant shrubbery around a new Village of Wheeling sign.



Grading in High School District 214 becomes a hot topic as changes to the weighted-grade grading system are considered.

The Illinois Appellate Court upholds a decision by the state board of labor relations that allows lieutenants into the Wheeling fire department's union. Later, the village will challenge that

decision and take it to the Illinois Supreme Court.

Wheeling High School senior Dana Miroballi finishes her running career with a pair of state titles in the 1,600 and 3,200 meter races. She ends her high school athletic career with 10 state titles in track and cross-country.

JUNE

A Wheeling man is charged with seven counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse stemming from alleged incidents involving six boys.

Village trustees agree to take their battle with the firefighters' union to the

Illinois Supreme Court.

Village trustees consider whether to tax gas, water and phone bills to pay for road repairs. Senior citizens and business leaders oppose the move.

Kildeer School students play an unusual version of kick ball during one of the last days of school before summer break.



IN REVIEW

1988

CountrySide - 12-29-88

JULY

Wheeling's Familyfest enjoys its most successful year as more than 240,000 people frolic in the summer festival.

Waste haulers begin courting village trustees for the right to pick up recyclable glass, aluminum and newspaper from village households.

A recently emigrated 19-year-old Wheeling woman stages her own abduction in an effort to leave her husband and return to her native India. Wheeling police search for woman only to find out she flew back to Bombay.

A Wheeling woman is shot dead in Evanston. Her live-in boyfriend is later charged in the case and is now awaiting trial on homicide and armed violence charges.



Things are swinging at Familyfest.

AUGUST

Community Consolidated District 21 begins to study the content of its hot lunch program. Concerns from board members about the quality of the lunches prompted the study.

William J. Albrecht, already facing child molestation charges, is charged with trying to intimidate police Chief Michael F. Haeger. Albrecht allegedly threatened to kill six boys he suspected of damaging his car and harassing his family unless Haeger and the Wheeling police investigate his claims.

Village trustees decide to ask voters Nov. 8 whether they want to stop electing the village clerk and make it the decision of the village manager.



High winds rip through the village and tear the roof off of an apartment building and demolish the roof of a village warehouse.

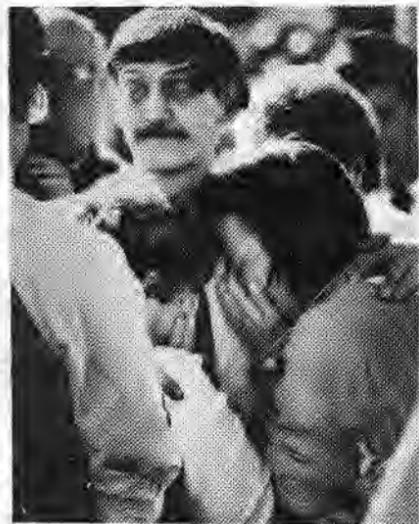
SEPTEMBER

Fuel oil from an unidentified source contaminates a pond at Heritage Park and leaves more than a dozen geese and ducks dead.

A Des Plaines man is shot dead during an armed robbery at a gas station on Milwaukee Avenue, just north of Lake-Cook Road. Three men currently face murder charges.

Village trustees kill a proposed utility tax and instead hike the cost of vehicle sticker fees to raise revenues.

A liquor store charged with illegally selling alcohol to minors is stripped of its liquor license by trustees. That ruling, although challenged, will be upheld.



A Speedway gas station manager comforts two employees after a fellow employee is found murdered in a robbery.

OCTOBER

Complaints of poor service by village officials against cable operator TCI of Illinois, prompt trustees to consider levying fines against the company to force improvement in customer service.

Illinois Supreme Court justices agree to decide whether lieutenants will be allowed in the firefighters union. A decision is expected next spring.

Fumes coming from a product used in manufacturing plastic automobile parts is blamed for sending 20 people to area hospitals complaining of irritated eyes and heavy breathing.

Avowed atheist Robert Sherman pledges to sue Community Consolidated School District 21 over the pledge of allegiance.



Rich Hahn runs through an A-okay rehearsal prior to a District 21 concert.

NOVEMBER

Runners break from the starting line in the Wheeling Turkey Trot.



State liquor officials uphold the suspension of a village liquor store's license to sell alcohol.

By a narrow margin, voters shoot down the proposed tax increase requested by Community Consolidated District 21. Final tallies showed 9,679

voters against and 9,291 in favor of the referendum question.

One of Wheeling's largest employers, Gandalf Technologies, Inc., announces it will lay off about 90 of the 280 employees working at the company's Noel Avenue plant.

DECEMBER

Wheeling officials say they will appeal a Dec. 1 court ruling that upends the village's redevelopment plans for Milwaukee Avenue. In appealing, the village will try to overturn Cook County Circuit Court Judge Alexander White's that called Wheeling's condemnation lawsuits against six property owners "arbitrary, capricious and an abuse of discretion."

Wheeling trustees consider instituting a 911 program that would enable police and fire officials to respond more quickly to emergency calls. The board agrees to consider holding a referendum that would ask residents to pay for the system through a surcharge that would be added to their phone bills.

Eliminating kindergarten and closing Poe School are included in a long list of possible cuts released by Community Consolidated District 21 officials to address a \$3 million education fund deficit.



Eric Townsend makes good use of one of the first significant snowfalls in December.

Residents not rushing for flood loans

State 'disappointed' with response to low-interest loans

BY VICKI SPEER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Joseph Esquivel Sr. vividly remembers the flood-ravaged days of the summer of 1987 — bailing water from the sunken patio outside his basement in a successful effort to keep his Hanover Park home dry.

In hopes of putting his buckets away for good, Esquivel in summer 1988 picked up information on low-interest loans that two state agencies are sponsoring. Esquivel was considering borrowing \$2,500 to install a back-up generator that would operate his two sump pumps if the electricity went out during a rainstorm.

But Esquivel never applied for the loan.

"After reading the material and what they requested for the small amount I was looking for, it didn't seem worth the hassle," he said.

Esquivel is not the only person for whom the state's low-interest loan program proved a letdown.

"It's been a disappointment," said Peter Lennon, assistant director of the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA), one of the agencies sponsoring the program. "We have not received the response we had hoped for."

The seven-month-old program, proposed following the floods in 1986 and 1987 that caused enormous damage throughout the Northwest suburbs, is intended to help low- to moderate-income Chicago area residents pay for measures that would protect their houses from future flooding. Such improvements could include installing overhead sewers or auxiliary sump pumps.

Homeowners with a total income of no more than \$35,000 can borrow up to \$5,000 at a 2 percent interest rate under the program. IHDA and the Illinois Department of Transportation are providing up to \$500,000 through local banks for the loans.

Eighteen suburbs are participating, including Des Plaines, Hanover Park, Hoffman Estates, Palatine, Carol Stream and Roselle. Many communities, including those along the flood-prone Des Plaines River in both Cook and Lake counties, did not even join the program, with some officials saying they hadn't heard of it. And of the 18 suburbs that did join, only 10 residents so far have taken out flood-control loans.

Along with approving a resolution joining the program, participating communities had to agree to pay the banks' administrative costs, send

representatives to state-sponsored training seminars on flood protection and prepare comprehensive local flood protection plans.

Many officials of the Northwest suburbs involved in the program are attributing the lack of response to the loans' requirements. Almost all of them point in particular to the \$35,000 income restriction.

"I would venture to guess the majority of residents living in Palatine... have an income that exceeds that benchmark," said Robert A. Husselbee, Palatine's finance director. "Therefore, they get knocked out of the program."

While three Palatine residents have received a flood-control loan, Husselbee said a local survey that turned up 82 people complaining of flooding problems led village officials to expect interest in the state program from about 10 residents.

In Des Plaines, where proximity to the Des Plaines River would seem to guarantee homeowner interest in the program, just one resident is using the state money to help flood proof his home.

Des Plaines City Engineer Timothy P. Oakley's assessment is similar to Husselbee's: "There aren't too many people who can meet that (income) restriction," Oakley said.

Also at fault is the \$5,000 limit on the size of the loan, Oakley said.

"There's not a lot you can do with \$5,000. So the amount isn't sufficient to do much," he said.

However, few local officials are considering trying to change the program's restrictions.

"For us to try to make them change their program would be trying to make them create a special program for our local benefit," Husselbee says.

Which is probably the best attitude, since Lennon says the program will not be revised.

Adding the disclaimer that his department co-sponsors the program but did not devise it, Lennon said the \$35,000 income limit already is higher than usual for such state programs. IDOT officials involved in the program could not be reached for comment.

"Our funds must be used for people of low or moderate income," he said, adding, "Anyone who makes more than that can afford to go to the bank and get their own loan."

While these restrictions deemed inhibitive by the towns were clear before any of those communities signed on, suburban officials had higher hopes for the program.

"I guess we had thought there might be more people who might have been able to use it," said Mark Masciola, assistant to the village manager for Hanover Park.

Not all suburban officials attribute the feeble response to the program itself. David Graff, a civil engineer in Hoffman Estates, says one reason no one from Hoffman Estates has used the program is that not all that many people in the town suffer from flooding.

"In my opinion, the program is excellent," Graff said.

And last summer's drought and abnormally high temperatures by all accounts also are to blame for residents' lackluster response.

"I think the primary reason is that the program began during a severe drought. Flooding was not a problem in the forefront of peoples' minds," Lennon said.

A lack of participation is evident, however, not only in the small number of residents who have followed through in obtaining the loans, but in the number of communities in flood-prone areas that chose not to participate in the program.

Wheeling periodically suffers flooding from the Des Plaines River, yet village officials had not heard of the program and could not recall whether they even had been notified of its inception. Agency officials said the heads of all communities in the

Chicago area were invited to join the program.

"I don't remember seeing anything about it, quite frankly. I'm really at a loss here. I don't know if we missed the boat — if it went down the river with the flood," said Michael J. Klitzke, Wheeling's community development director.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz, who would have received IDOT's letter announcing the low-interest loan, said she does not remember if she actually did.

Libertyville Administrator Allen H. Schertz said he too had not heard of the program. But Public Works Director Steven R. Magnusen, even so, said not too many people are affected by flooding in Libertyville and would not be interested.

Regardless of whether Mount Prospect was notified of the program — officials there also could not recall — Mount Prospect Village President Carolyn H. Krause says the village has its own flood control loan program.

The village's program allowed homeowners to borrow up to \$10,000 at 8.5 percent to 9.5 percent interest, and renters could apply to borrow up to \$2,000 at 8.5 percent interest. There was no income restriction.

"Really it was a more effective program, I think, than going through the state," said Krause.

Wheeling eyes list of sergeant candidates

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling police officers gunning for a promotion have begun the long process that will land one of them a sergeant's badge.

The department has one vacancy for sergeant and is looking for candidates to take a series of tests for promotion.

Applications were distributed to candidates this week and are due Jan. 9, Police Chief Michael Haeger said.

Twenty-nine police officers are eligible to take the tests, he said. Only one of those officers will be promoted in April. Others who pass the battery of tests will be placed on a list so they can be pro-

moted if another sergeant's job opens.

"We want to establish a list for future promotion," Haeger said. "I'd hope everyone who takes the test would be on the list."

The last round of sergeant's tests yielded only one eligible candidate, who was promoted.

The fire and police commission in November granted Haeger's request to lower the minimum passing grade on the tests from 75 percent to 70 percent. The commission lowered the score in an attempt to lengthen the list of officers eligible for promotion.

Several officers scored between 70 percent and 75 percent in the last round of testing, Haeger said. While some of those officers will

go through the testing process again, Haeger noted that the written test is changed each time.

The testing process will start with a formal application later this month, then a written examination scheduled for March 11. Those who pass the written exam go on to an oral interview with the fire and police commission.

The final phase of the testing process is an "assessment center," which tests leadership abilities in simulated police situations.

Candidates who successfully complete the first two phases will go through the assessment center April 12-14, and those who pass will be announced shortly thereafter.

Airport manager walks a tightrope

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Less than a year after Fred E. Stewart came to Pal-Waukee Municipal Airport as its manager, he suggested airport officials purchase the old Twin Drive-In theater for \$3.5 million and reroute a drainage ditch through it.

Airport officials rejected the idea, balking at the expense and paperwork. They scrapped Stewart's time-consuming work on a potential solution to the ditch, which is too close to a runway.

Stewart's response to the decision exemplifies the easygoing management style which has marked his first year in the job.

"When you work in our business, you learn that you make recommendations to the powers that be, and then they make decisions," Stewart said. "If they don't follow your recommendations, and you allow yourself to be upset, you become a candidate for ulcers and all. If they accept it, fine. If they don't, you've still done your job."

Stewart came to Pal-Waukee as its first manager in December 1987, after spending 13 years as the manager of the Ponca City, Okla. airport, which serves mainly cargo carriers.

"It's much busier" here, Stewart said. "But that's a great thing. I enjoy the aircraft activity, all the hustle bustle."

Conflicting interests

The 56-year-old retired Army pilot often finds himself in the middle of conflicts between groups that have interests in the airport. And the situation requires more than typical diplomatic dexterity.

Stewart is responsible for making sure the airport runs smoothly and overseeing airport finances. He is currently working to apply for federal grants to purchase land to build a taxiway system and other improvements to the field.

Stewart makes \$49,000 a year and must answer to more than one boss, since the airport is jointly owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

"He's walking a tightrope," said William Rogers, a Wheeling trustee and a member of the Pal-Waukee Airport Commission. "He has to balance the plans and proposals from the perspective of the FAA (Federal



With a runway as a backdrop, Pal-Waukee Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart talks on the telephone from his office in Hangar 1.

Aviation Administration) and the state on one hand, and the communities on the other. In some cases, he also has to balance the different interests of the two communities."

Prospect Heights and Wheeling purchased Pal-Waukee Airport at the end of 1986. When officials hired Stewart, they pledged that the airport would run more smoothly.

Prior to his arrival, day-to-day operations had been handled by a consultant and airport improvements were moving slowly. While the partnership remains a tumultuous one, Stewart said he manages to stay in the eye of the storm.

"I've seen a big movement in the dedication of people involved," he said. At first, you know, you come in, and you've got nothing but an office with four bare walls. I wouldn't like to take undue credit, but I think we've come a long way."

Division of power

Still, officials from Wheeling and Prospect Heights continue to differ on how power and money should be divided. The airport is governed by the Pal-Waukee Airport Commis-

sion, but its actions must be approved by both municipalities.

That split of power is another problem Stewart faces, and some airport officials say they can't rate his performance because they aren't his only critics.

"He does a pretty good, diplomatic job," Commission Chairman Carey Chickerno said. "But it is difficult for him to proceed because of our inability to give him direction."

Like other commissioners from Prospect Heights, Chickerno has spoken out in favor of increasing the commission's power.

"The one fundamental problem is we don't have the ability to give him good direction," Chickerno said. "Does he work for the commission or the municipalities?"

Wheeling officials give Stewart a more glowing review at the one-year mark.

"Fred is a real asset to the airport," Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said. "He's made a big difference as far as getting information to us."

'When you work in our business, you learn that you make recommendations to the powers that be, and then they make decisions. If they don't follow your recommendations, and you allow yourself to be upset, you become a candidate for ulcers and all. If they accept it, fine. If they don't, you've still done your job.'

— Fred E. Stewart

See AIRPORT on Page 3

MANAGER: Airport head on tightrope at Pal-Waukee

Continued from Page 1

Nevertheless, Stewart's presentation of the facts, no matter how thorough, is not enough to make the two owners agree. Stewart must answer to two bosses with different ideas, while keeping within perimeters established by state and federal governments that are paying for much of the renovations to the runways, taxiways and other improvements.

The following is a list of special events offered to children: Off-

special events for individuals with special needs of all ages.

Northwest Special Recreation Association offers programs to individuals with special needs.

The winter/spring session will be held from 10 to 10:30 a.m. on Monday and must be re-

turned by Feb. 17.

Every time a book form is returned to the library, the child will be able to add a stamp to his or her "Winter Wonderland" scene.

All children who participate in the club will receive a certificate and

Wheeling. Call 459-4100.

ed at 355 S. Schoenbeck Road.

The Indian Trails Library is located at 355 S. Schoenbeck Road.

minutes before the movie starts.

Wheeling vehicle stickers now available

BY KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling vehicle stickers are now on sale at village hall.

The stickers cost \$20, up \$10 from last year.

The fines for not having a sticker also have increased since last year. Drivers without a current sticker by Feb. 1 will pay a \$25 late fee, plus a \$50 traffic ticket.

Trustees increased the price of the stickers to \$20 in September, after a proposal to replace the stickers with a 1 percent utility tax was defeated.

Only 6,000 drivers have purchased stickers so far this year. Chris Bra-

dy, village licensing clerk, said.

"I think we have about 11,000 more to go because last year we sold about 17,000," she said.

Brady said she expects more residents to purchase stickers this week.

Senior citizens may purchase one sticker at a discount, for \$10, but must pay full price for additional stickers. Prior to the rate increase, senior citizens paid \$3 each for up to two stickers.

Revenue from the sticker sales is used to pay for street repairs.

All cars, recreational vehicles and motorcycles must display a sticker. Stickers for trucks are sold in June.

Winter/spring session to begin Jan. 23

SPECIAL RECREATION

will be available at the library beginning Monday and must be returned by Feb. 17.

Every time a book form is returned to the library, the child will be able to add a stamp to his or her "Winter Wonderland" scene.

All children who participate in the club will receive a certificate and

choice for the project.

As Freed's proposal to become the second Fixed-base Operator (FBO) is considered, officials and pilots are saying the addition of another FBO - mandated by federal aviation rules - should improve services and prices at the airport, making it more competitive with other airports.

"We feel that competition always brings improvement to all services," said Barry Dainas, past president of the Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association (PAPA).

Because a substantial amount of federal funding is being used to upgrade the airport since it was taken out of private ownership in 1985 and bought by Prospect Heights and Wheeling, the federal government requires that more than one FBO, which provides maintenance, fuel, and other aviation services, be located at the airport.

BUT WHILE DAINAS was guarded in his comments, PAPA has been more outspoken in the past. The organization has registered complaints with the airport commission, saying the quality of the services at Palwaukee, provided for the past 35 years by Priester Aviation Services, is below that at other airports.

"They (the pilots) presented us with the fact that they pay more for services at Palwaukee than at any other airport," Wheeling Trustee William Rogers said. Rogers is also a member of the airport commission, which is comprised of four members from both Prospect Heights and Wheeling, the two municipalities that jointly own the airport.

Although the airport commission has wanted a second FBO at the airport, the project was sidelined while the airport handled other issues, including land acquisition, movement of roadways and demolition of some existing structures.

With some of those issues resolved, Rogers said the airport can now focus on finding the right operator of the second FBO. Freed wants to put his operation on airport property west of Milwaukee Avenue, south of Industrial Lane.

"THERE IS no question that having a second FBO at the airport would be a great thing for the airport, the community and the users of the airport," said Barry Axelrod, current president of PAPA.

Facing future competition, and having heard complaints, Priester Aviation Services is making improvements in its operations. Charles Priester, president of the company that bears his name but which is owned by a investment group headed by golf legend Arnold Palmer, said he welcomes a second FBO at Palwaukee.

From a selfish business standpoint, Priester said he doesn't want to see Joseph Freed or any other aviation company to come onto the airport. But since he knows it's mandated by federal statutes, Priester said any new venture won't affect his business.

(Continued on next page)

"The fact that this is not another operator (currently) does not affect our services," Priester said. He said the company he heads offers the best prices and the best services at the airport.

THE FREED ORGANIZATION wants to make sure that if Priester is the best, that push comes through direct competition. His organization asked the airport commission in December to consider their proposal to operator the same type of business as Priester currently does.

Freed currently uses the two corporate jets stored at the airport almost daily, Freed associate Ira Frank said, in business trips to company holdings and offices in Illinois, Georgia, Ohio and New York. In those trips, Freed has seen other airports that already have more than one FBO, Frank said.

"We feel we're very well-suited to become a part of (the airport)," Frank said. "We're very active in the community and we want to continue that activism in the community. It's something that there is a tremendous need at the airport. We, maybe more than anyone else, are aware of the need for a second FBO at the airport, because we use Palwaukee."

Right now, Priester Aviations Service is upgrading its terminal to include a pilot's lounge while improving its customer's facilities.

Village eyes standards for cable TV operator

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Wheeling may join other area municipalities by adopting service standards that cable operator TCI of Illinois, Inc. must meet or face fines.

The recommended service standards come after recent attempts by some municipalities to force TCI to improve its phone service. Several of those attempts were thwarted when those villages and cities had difficulty defining acceptable service standards.

Those new standards, which call for quicker response time to phone calls, service calls and installation requests, may soon be required by municipalities, said Carole Stannard, executive director of the Northwest Municipal Cable Council (NWMCC).

After battling with TCI to upgrade its response to customers' phone calls, Stannard said the cable council decided to define the service guidelines TCI and other cable companies must maintain.

CABLE COUNCIL MEMBERS began formulating the standards in October after they found it difficult to get TCI to meet performance standards in the franchise agreement. Under most municipalities' cable television ordinances, the cable company must provide "adequate" service.

But "adequate" had never been defined before, said Dave Kowal, Wheeling's representative on the cable council.

"I think spelling out exactly the

within 10 working days of a request.

MARK HESS, GENERAL manager for TCI's 13-community service area based in Mount Prospect, said the standards should be goals only, and that well-defined measures of service should be avoided because service requirements change over time.

"We really think standards should be customer driven," Hess said. "The customer is the most important thing in the deal, anyway."

Although Hess said his company has been continually trying to upgrade its service, he said the cable council's actions may have helped speed TCI's efforts.

"The actions they have taken have netted them the results they wanted, and the results I've wanted," Hess said. "Customer service is all that matters."

CURRENTLY, MOUNT Prospect is in the process of including the new standards in its cable ordinance. If adopted, any cable operator in Mount Prospect will have to meet the new standards or face fines of \$200 a day for each area of the new guidelines that is violated, Stannard said.

TCI's objection to the standards, Hess said, was that they were not negotiated. He said the company would rather see those standards put in the municipalities franchise agreement - which licenses specific cable opera-

standards, there will be no room for (questions)," Kowal said, "because we will eliminate 'adequate phone service' and put in what is adequate."

Kowal said he is considering a recommendation to Village Manager Craig Anderson that the issue be adopted by the board of trustees. He said a final recommendation, however, will depend upon a review of the proposed standards by Anderson and Village Attorney James Rhodes. Kowal said it will be about a month before a recommendation is made to trustees.

ADOPTING THE STANDARDS, Kowal said, would make it easier to determine whether TCI, or any future cable operator, was providing proper service. The council used information from cable companies nationwide to determine realistic standards, Stannard said.

"We believe they're reasonable," Kowal said.

Among the new standards, the council recommends all cable companies:

- Answer all phone calls within four rings.
- Leave no caller on hold more than two minutes.
- Respond to a service problem within 24 hours and have it fixed within 48 hours.
- Document those cases when the 48-hour rule cannot be met, while responding within one week and fixing the problem within one month.
- Install cable lines in serviceable areas

(Continued on page 13)

tors - rather than in the cable ordinance. Any additions to the franchise agreement must be negotiated, he said.

The NWMCC had been studying TCI's response time to phone calls, and two communities, Arlington Heights and Bartlett, have already voted to fine TCI. Park Ridge, Des Plaines and Mount Prospect have levied fines, but are giving TCI additional time to comply before imposing the fines. Other communities, Wheeling included, considered levying fines but never imposed them.

The council had said TCI was taking too long to answer calls while leaving customers who did get through on hold too long. TCI countered that it was improving the situation and that it was "adequately" providing the necessary services.

BUT STANNARD SAID that while researching the phone problems, the council unearthed reasons why so many phone calls were creating a response time problem.

TCI was consulted on the standards and has agreed in principal to them, she said. They have, however, balked at making the standards mandatory, with fines resulting if they aren't met, she said.

In order to levy a fine, a municipality must first send the cable company a notice identifying the problems. The company then has 45 days to improve service or face fines, Stannard said.

Fitness-tanning spa gets planners' OK

By DWAYNE T. WONG
Daily Herald Correspondent

Two local businessmen are proceeding with plans to open a fitness and tanning spa in Wheeling's Tahoe Shopping Center.

On a 5-0 vote, Wheeling plan commissioners approved a plan by Donald A. Hirsch and Rick T. Aiello to build a fitness and tanning center. The center, to be called Body Electric, would be built in the Tahoe Shopping Center at 1794 Hintz Road. The 3,830 square-foot store front is now vacant.

The proposed fitness center would feature tanning equipment, body toning machines, a small weight area and aerobics areas. Because of its small size, the cen-

ter would not have shower or locker room facilities.

The business' operating hours are scheduled to be from 7 or 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week. As a condition of the planners' endorsement, there cannot be more than 42 people in the building at one time.

Twenty-seven parking spaces in the shopping center lot would be set aside for Body Electric customers.

With a positive recommendation from the commission, Hirsch and Aiello must now seek village board approval.

Trustees will discuss plans for the Body Electric fitness center at 8 p.m. Feb. 6 at the village hall, 255 East Dundee Road.

Zoners revising village sign code

By KERI WYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Zoning Board of Appeals is revising the village's sign code and asking developers to comply with the new standards.

The zoning board has approved two sign "districts" for the strip shopping centers at the corner of Wolf and Dundee roads. The districts will assure that all signs in that area will be of the same size and lettering.

"We want to do away with having

anyone put up anything they want," Zoning Board Chairman Barry J. Fieldsteel said. "We want the signs in the village to be a thing of beauty and pleasure."

One shopping center, on the southwest corner of Wolf and Dundee roads, is already open. Its main tenant is a White Hen Pantry convenience store.

The other center, on the north side of Dundee Road, is still under construction. Signs in both centers will have signs in four basic colors, with the same style lettering.

"All the strip malls in town must have coordinated signs," Zoning Administrator Thomas Fennel said.

Next month, Fieldsteel said, the board will continue to revise the sign code it has been working on for about two years.

The zoning board has done research on the village's signs by driving through town in a van, Fieldsteel said. He said he noticed several electronic message boards, in which a lighted message flashes across part of the sign, in a nearby community. He decided not to allow that type of

sign in Wheeling.

"You can't look at it long enough to read anything, but your eye is still riveted to it, when you're supposed to be driving a car," Fieldsteel said.

All the signs in the village will have to be changed to comply with the new laws, he said.

Fieldsteel said he would like every center to have coordinated signs and decor, like Lynn Plaza at Dundee and McHenry Road.

"To us, a place like Lynn Plaza is beautiful," Fieldsteel said.

Wheeling joins highway extension coalition

1-18-89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials are joining a coalition supporting the controversial northern expansion of Route 53, despite efforts by other villages to block the project.

Wheeling trustees have unanimously approved a resolution supporting the 12-mile expansion from Lake-Cook Road to Route 120, near Grayslake.

The resolution maintains that the current termination of the highway at Dundee Road forces motorists between Route 53 and the Tri-State Tollway to use local streets in Wheeling. Therefore, the extension would improve traffic patterns and reduce congestion in town, the village board contends.

"It's one (resolution), frankly, we thought long and hard about," Village Manager Craig Anderson said. "After giving it some due considera-

tion on its impact on Wheeling, the staff felt it could reduce some traffic in Wheeling and put it onto Route 53."

Villages advocating the extension — including Buffalo Grove, Barrington, Wauconda, Palatine and Arlington Heights — have also passed resolutions supporting the effort.

"Although it's not adjacent to Wheeling," Anderson said, "the impact would be positive in reducing (traffic)."

Buffalo Grove officials have posted petitions in village hall for residents who favor the northern stretch of highway to sign.

Long Grove residents continue to circulate petitions and gather ammunition to halt the expansion. The village is joined in its fight by Hawthorn Woods, Kildeer and Mundelein, where residents also are writing letters, passing petitions and holding hearings on the Route 53 extension.

Judge to rule on fire district merger

1-19-89

By KEVIN DOUGHERTY
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Cook County Circuit Court judge is expected to rule next week that a March 1988 referendum concerning the consolidation of two fire districts serving Prospect Heights and parts of Wheeling Township lost by default.

Attorneys on both sides of the issue believe Judge Francis A. Barth will decide the referendum lost because there is no conclusive evidence that voters in each fire district independently approved of the consolidation, which is required under state law.

The uncertainty centers on two key precincts that lie in both fire districts. Vote totals in those precincts were not separated by district, obscuring the results.

Barth "will probably determine that it didn't win," said Donald Kreger, an attorney for the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District. "It looks like we can't get enough of a conclusion that it was in favor."

"There is no method to divide up the vote," added Wheeling Village Attorney James Rhodes. "There is no way to determine who voted 'yes' or 'no.'"

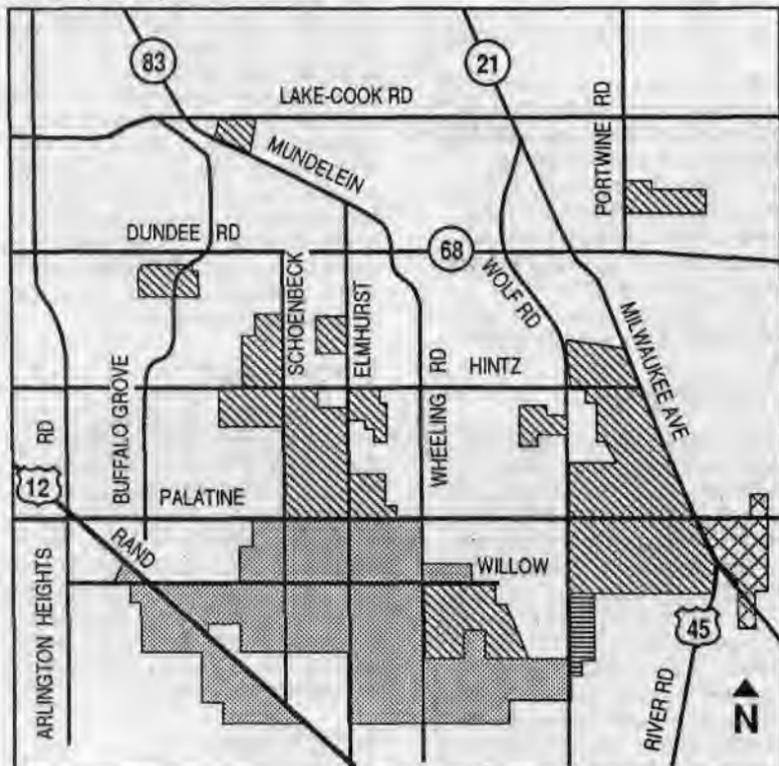
The referendum asked residents in the two fire districts if they favored merging the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District with the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District.

Prospect Heights fire district officials pushed for the referendum to give them jurisdiction over, and property taxes from, the whole city of Prospect Heights and a number of unincorporated areas between Prospect Heights, Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

Unofficial totals showed voters in the Prospect Heights district favored consolidation by a 1,122 to 283 vote. Voters in the Wheeling Township district opposed it 564 to 355.

The key issue left unresolved were vote totals in two precincts that cross fire district lines. Voters in those two precincts favored consolidation 369 to 111, but those votes were not identified as belonging to one fire district or the other and officials are uncertain how they affect the totals.

Conceivably, those two precincts



Location of Prospect Heights and Wheeling rural fire protection districts

- Prospect Heights rural fire protection district
- Mount Prospect fire protection
- Glenbrook fire protection
- Wheeling rural fire protection district largely protected by the Village of Wheeling Fire Department

Daily Herald Map

could swing the vote either way.

The issue 'will return'

Prospect Heights Fire Chief Donald R. Gould Jr. vows the issue will be back before the voters if Barth rules against the referendum.

"It's an issue that has got to be addressed," Gould says. "We need to know the true outcome."

Gould says the plan is to eventually have the entire city protected by the Prospect Heights fire district. Currently, the city is protected by four different fire departments — Prospect Heights, Wheeling, Mount Prospect and Glenbrook. The Prospect Heights fire district is negotiating to cover the small area in Prospect Heights that Mount Prospect

now protects, Gould said.

Prospect Heights residents are confused by the piecemeal arrangement. Gould estimates that 80 percent of the Prospect Heights residents who call the department's dispatching service are redirected to the proper agency.

"There's a tremendous amount of confusion," Gould said.

District in favor

While the village of Wheeling opposes consolidation, the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District Board supports the effort as a way to lower administrative costs.

The Wheeling Township fire district, which does not have men or equipment, contracts with local fire

departments for service. While two-thirds of the district is in Prospect Heights, the lion's share of the district is protected by the Wheeling Fire Department.

Wheeling expects to receive about \$543,000 this year from the Wheeling fire district for its services. Prospect Heights stands to make \$32,000.

Prospect Heights fire officials say Wheeling village officials are only trying to retain the money they get from the Wheeling Township contract.

Wheeling village officials contend the Prospect Heights fire district is operating at a deficit and needs the consolidation.

Gould says the district is simply paying off a \$100,000 loan for equipment and cash the board needed to borrow a few years ago to cover a revenue shortfall.

"I don't know many organizations that don't borrow money to make major expenditures," Gould said.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson views consolidation as "an unnecessary change." He says the full-time firefighters in Wheeling would provide better fire protection than the volunteers who shoulder much of the burden for Prospect Heights.

"Perhaps the folks in Prospect Heights are looking at this as an opportunity to create a full-time department," Anderson said.

While the Prospect Heights district depends on part-time firefighters, the station is manned 24 hours a day by at least two firefighter/paramedics, Gould said.

The fire district plans to gradually increase its manpower so that it will eventually have eight men on duty around the clock, providing the two fire districts are consolidated. New engines and ambulances would be added to the six now in service and district officials want to build a second station near Pal-Waukee Airport to improve its coverage.

In the meantime, those plans will have to take a back seat to the referendum. The earliest the question could appear on a ballot is November.

"It's unfortunate that it's gone this far and nobody knows who won," Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District President Frank Schwab said.

Thurs., January 19, 1989

Wheeling cop accused of gambling, battery

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger is seeking to fire a 10-year police officer accused of illegal gambling and battery.

Richard R. Imber, 35, also is accused of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Haeger is recommending to the village fire and police commission that Imber be dismissed from the police department.

The commission will review the charges at a hearing set for 7 p.m. Feb. 16 in the Wheeling municipal building, 255 W. Dundee Road.

In the meantime, Imber will remain on paid leave indefinitely "because of the gravity of the

charges filed against him," said Deputy Police Chief J. Michael Hermes. Imber's salary is \$34,812 a year.

The gambling charges, which include bets on poker, dice and backgammon games, stem from three separate incidents, Haeger said. The incidents allegedly occurred at Vivian Lee's, a restaurant/lounge at 604 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Wheeling.

The most recent incident allegedly took place Jan. 6, when Imber was arrested by an undercover Cook County Sheriff's Police officer for resisting arrest and gambling on a backgammon game.

During an "altercation in the (restaurant) parking lot we obtained information relative to our

ongoing (gambling) investigation," Haeger said. He refused to reveal the nature or extent of the investigation.

Prior to the Jan. 6 incident, Haeger charges that Imber gambled on a game of dice at about 2:50 a.m. May 5 at Vivian Lee's. Imber also was involved in a poker game on Oct. 17 at the restaurant, Haeger charges.

Imber could not be reached for comment. His attorney, Noel Wroblewski, of the Combined Counties Police Association, refused comment on the case.

An investigation is continuing to determine if Vivian Lee's violated its liquor license, Haeger said. The restaurant may serve alcohol until 2 a.m.

Council pushes cable TV guidelines

BY ELLEN SCHMID BLIX
and MICHELLE BUETOW
Daily Herald Staff Writers

The Northwest Municipal Cable Council wants a set of guidelines it has written to become law in evaluating the performance of TCI of Illinois cable company.

But the cable company is claiming it won't be held by the rules, which set specific standards the company must meet. For instance, the guidelines require TCI operators to answer the phone by the fourth ring and leave no customers on hold longer than two minutes.

The cable council drafted the standards with TCI representatives while the company was being threatened to improve its service or face \$200-a-day fines from towns that belong to the council. The council rep-

resents Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect, Prospect Heights, Wheeling, Des Plaines, Hanover Park, Bartlett and Park Ridge.

On Wednesday, the council removed the threat of fines, saying TCI was in substantial compliance. Arlington Heights, which already has levied fines against the company, and Wheeling abstained from the vote.

The council also forwarded the guidelines to member municipalities for them to review during the next month. To become enforceable, each town holding a franchise agreement with the cable company must adopt the guidelines into the franchise ordinance.

The franchise agreement currently states that TCI must supply "adequate" service. The guidelines are meant to define what service is "ad-

equate."

"The ordinance is not punitive or restrictive. Its terms are reasonable and adequate," said Gerald "Skip" Farley, a Mount Prospect trustee and the village's representative to the cable council.

Mount Prospect already is in the process of adopting the guidelines into the franchise law, Farley said.

But council Executive Director Carole Stannard and Park Ridge representative Dale Claus worried about the legal implications of the villages adopting the laws without TCI's approval. TCI has a policy of refusing to pay fines, Stannard said.

"Cable has historically been an abusive monopoly," she said, explaining that she fears TCI will violate the amendments, then take the municipality involved to court, burdening the town with costly legal

fees.

"I don't believe a franchise can be changed without give and take in the process," TCI General Manager Mark Hess said, agreeing that the matter might wind up in court. "TCI does not agree that franchises can be changed unilaterally."

However, Stannard said the legal ground may be firm.

"Our belief," she said, "is that we're given the right in the franchise ordinance and the (federal) cable act to enact consumer protection."

Since the member towns first threatened fines against TCI in August, the company has corrected many problems, officials admit, such as perpetual busy signals on the customer service line. But Stannard said the company has a long way to go before the communities it services are impressed.

Airport official wants to end fuel monopoly

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In an effort to break up a monopoly at Pal-Waukee Airport, an airport commissioner is suggesting that Pal-Waukee owners start selling fuel there.

Pal-Waukee Commissioner Carey Chickerno said a "fuel farm" would spark competition for the sole provider of fuel at the airport, Priester Aviation. The outcome, officials hope, would be lower fuel prices for customers.

"Heck, we can certainly pump gas," Chickerno said. "You have to hire some certified people to do that. We've got a guy here who has a monopoly. In my opinion, he's absolutely abusing that monopoly."

ly."

Airport officials fear they are losing business at Pal-Waukee because pilots are using airports in Waukegan, DuPage County and Kenosha to replenish their fuel tanks.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights bought the airport for \$22 million from the Priester family in 1986. The company holds a monopoly on fuel sales and other airport services by continuing as the major provider based at the airport.

"We're definitely losing business," Chickerno said. "All we want to do is get a competitive balance here."

Pilots say they can buy gas at other airports for as much as 30

cents less a gallon than the \$1.90 a gallon that Priester charges.

Charles Priester, president of the company, could not be reached for comment. But airport officials said Priester conducted a survey of airports' service prices and found his prices are comparable. Priester is expected to discuss the results of his findings with pilots and airport officials.

The villages should consider providing fuel at the airport while some improvements are under way, Chickerno said. Those improvements include relocating the Wheeling Drainage Ditch and moving the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads.

Profits from fuel sales could be funneled into the airport, he added.

Wheeling to hold own police exams

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling will conduct its own exams for police officers in order to fill vacancies on the force by this summer.

The village is foregoing its usual testing process with the Northwest Municipal Conference, which likely will begin its testing in April.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said two upcoming potential openings in the police department should be filled as soon as possible.

Participating in the consortium could mean waiting until October for replacement officers to attend a training academy.

"The reason we want to go with this is mostly for timing," Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said. "We feel we do not want to be delayed."

With the consortium, several police departments share the cost of testing potential police officers and make up eligibility lists based on the results. When new officers are need-

ed, police departments feed off the lists, which are good for two years or until they are exhausted.

However, names on one list also could be on other lists, and the names tend to dwindle quickly, Anderson said.

Wheeling's current eligibility list, which started with 60 people, has been depleted to only two candidates.

The cost for participating in the consortium is about \$3,000. But for Wheeling to conduct its own testing, other costs, usually split by the de-

partments in the consortium, would be absorbed by the village. Those costs include officer overtime, advertising, polygraph and psychological evaluation charges.

The village is transferring \$5,000 from a contingency fund — held for emergencies that occur during a fiscal year — to other village funds to pay for the testing.

The money also will be used to pay the cost for the promotional examination process for a police sergeant since that list is exhausted.

Seniors say sticker fee hike is unwarranted

When Wheeling officials considered implementing a utility tax to increase revenues last year, local senior citizens criticized the plan and said it would make more sense to raise vehicle sticker fees. Now that the village has gone that route, seniors say the hike was more than they expected.

With the deadline nearing to buy vehicle stickers, a local group of senior citizens is objecting to the fee increase approved last fall.

Members of the Wheeling chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) are labeling the increase that senior citizens will pay - from \$3 per car to \$10 a car - as unfair and too high. The cost of a vehicle sticker for non-seniors doubled, going from \$10 a sticker to \$20.

Last September, after the village board elected to raise sticker fees rather than create a 1 percent tax on village gas, electric and phone bills, trustees also agreed to raise the vehicle sticker fee that senior citizens pay.

But Bob McIntyre, secretary for the Wheeling chapter of AARP, said the hike in senior fees outstripped that which their younger neighbors had to pay.

AFTER EXPECTING TO see the senior fees double like the basic fee, McIntyre said the hike "seemed to be

Waiting to buy a village sticker? Procrastination could cost you

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Wheeling vehicle sticker scoff-laws will soon learn it costs a lot more to procrastinate in 1989 than it did in 1988.

Starting Feb. 1, the combined late fee for the sticker and fine for not buying the tag will go from \$40 to \$90. These figures include a more than 300 percent increase in the cost of fines.

Village finance director Bob Fialkowski said the fines, which jumped from \$15 last year to \$50 this year, climbed along with the new vehicle sticker fees approved by trustees last fall.

For those who buy their stickers on time, the cost will be \$20 for each passenger car. Senior citizens will pay \$10 for the first car they register and \$20 on each succeeding car.

Village hall will be open this Saturday, Jan. 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to accommodate late sticker sales. The doors will also be open until 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31 to

rather unfair."

McIntyre said a survey by the AARP showed that while Wheeling had one of the highest senior sticker rates compared to some neighboring

handle sticker stragglers, Fialkowski said.

The sticker fees were raised in 1988 for the first time since they were established in 1973. The increase came after a proposal was defeated that sought to abolish the vehicle stickers and replace them with a 1 percent tax on residents gas, electric and phone bills.

While the cost on trucks rose varying amounts, passenger car costs went from the 1973 figure of \$10 to \$20. The increase was adopted to raise additional revenue to cover the costs of maintaining the village's road and sewer system. Sticker fees for recreational vehicles will be \$25 and \$12 for motorcycles.

Stickers can also be purchased at Hoynes Savings and Loan Association, 699 W. Dundee Road; Wheeling Currency Exchange, 857 W. Dundee Road; Dundee/Milwaukee Currency Exchange, 275 E. Dundee Road; First National Bank of Wheeling, 125 McHenry Road and First Colonial Bank Northwest, 800 S. Wheeling Road.

communities, most of which posted higher per capita incomes than Wheeling in the 1980 U.S. Census.

According to the survey, seniors in Northbrook pay \$13 per sticker, while

those in Buffalo Grove pay \$1. But both of those communities have higher per capita incomes, McIntyre said.

But village finance director Bob Fialkowski said the AARP may be comparing the wrong data. He said the incomes of seniors is often higher than the average. "It seems to me they are making the wrong comparison," Fialkowski said.

THE PROPOSAL FROM the village administration called for seniors to pay the full \$20. Trustees amended that proposal to include the lower, first car fee of \$10. "The seniors are getting a 50 percent discount on the fee based on the fact that they are older than 65," Fialkowski said.

Changing the fee schedule was necessary because the village needed to generate more revenue for the road and bridge fund, Fialkowski said at the time trustees were considering the hike.

The AARP had opposed creation of the utility tax, and many seniors encouraged an increase in the vehicle sticker fees rather than face a utility tax. But some of those seniors say the approved hikes were too high.

"It's too much, it's not justified for the purpose he (Fialkowski) said was needed," said Marvin "Syke" Horcher, legislative chairman of AARP.

HORCHER COMPLAINED THAT Fialkowski's proposal for the utility tax would generate \$360,000, or as much as setting the sticker fee at \$15, rather than \$20.

Unfair complaints

Recent complaints by some senior citizens that the village's new fee structure for vehicle stickers is unfair have a hollow ring to them.

When village officials discussed options for raising needed revenues last year, talks centered around two possibilities: implementing a utility tax or hiking vehicle sticker fees.

After much justified criticism from seniors about the utility tax plan, the village board followed through and adopted higher sticker fees. Now that the decision has been made, some seniors are claiming the fees are unfair and excessive.

The bottom line is that the village is still offering seniors a 50 percent break on what other non-seniors will pay for village stickers. While these vocal seniors may not like the new system, it was warranted and was implemented in such a manner as to continue to offer a reasonable discount over the fee non-seniors pay.

Pal-Waukee to construct parking lot for its patrons

By Trish Lichtenstein
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Pilots at Pal-Waukee Airport won't have to worry about their cars taking up airplane space as officials begin paving the way for a new parking lot for airport patrons.

The blacktop lot is needed to relieve some of the congestion near the aircraft hangars, airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said.

Some pilots park their cars by the Hangar Restaurant, off Milwaukee Avenue, and walk to their planes. But most pilots move their aircraft out of the hangars and park their cars there.

"It's not a good idea to do that," Stewart said, because the cars sometimes get in the way of aircraft.

In addition, about 90 tie-downs, or

open storage sites, will be added near the southeast section of the airport, owned by the villages of Wheeling and Prospect Heights. Because of the design of the new storage sites, cars could not be parked there.

Construction is expected to begin this spring on the new parking lot outside the fenced area, along Milwaukee Avenue, just north of the manager's office in Hangar One. Although plans are not complete as to how many new parking spaces would be created, Stewart said there would be more than 20.

"If you start out with zero," Stewart said, "anything is an improvement."

The lot is expected to be completed by the end of this summer, he said.

Schoenbeck Road repairs planned

By Kevin Dougherty
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Summer road construction work in Mount Prospect and near Wheeling will include repairs to Schoenbeck Road from Rand to Camp McDonald roads.

The project involves adding curb and gutters to the two-lane road, but engineers have yet to determine if the 1,000-foot stretch needs to be resurfaced or reconstructed. The latter project costs more.

In addition, the intersection at Schoenbeck and Rand roads will be reconfigured so that Schoenbeck meets Rand at a 90-degree angle. Charles J. Bencic, the village's director of inspection services, said the change will enhance motorists' visibility and ability to turn.

"The angle that (Schoenbeck Road) comes in (to Rand Road) is not a good angle," Bencic said.

Lexington Homes Inc., which is building town houses northeast of

the intersection, is paying for the intersection work as well as for improvements to about 1,000 feet of road on the south end. The improvements are part of the developer's agreement with the village, Bencic said.

The county is expected to front the bill for the remainder of the project in exchange for turning jurisdiction of the road over to the village. The village, however, is paying for the final set of engineering plans, estimat-

ed to cost no more than \$8,200.

"When it is a localized road like that, they (the county) would prefer the local municipalities take ownership of the road," Bencic said.

Once Lexington's development is completed, Bencic said a traffic study will be conducted to see if a traffic light is needed at Schoenbeck and Rand roads.

"Right now there is not enough traffic on the road to warrant it," Bencic said.

Village hopes to corral dwindling open spaces

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

While open space advocates in Lake County successfully push for the conservation of undeveloped land, a somewhat similar, yet far less grandiose, plan is being considered in Wheeling.

With the village's amount of open space far below a set national standard, the village's community development department is now completing a study that will identify undeveloped land in the village that could be used to supplement what now exists.

Accompanying that study will be an outline for a bike path network through the village that could tie into both the forest preserve and village parks.

A completed study, indicating potential open space sites, is expected to be sent to the Wheeling Park District for consideration next week, village planner Bob Sullivan said.

SULLIVAN SAID THE village and park district are working on a cooperative effort aimed at identifying sites that could be acquired or leased. Sullivan said the study is focusing on identifying possible open space sites and giving them a priority ranking for acquisition, donation or leasing.

"Open space and the environment - most people are for it," Sullivan said. "Features like that can enhance the appearance of Wheeling and the quality of life in Wheeling."

Currently, the village has about 125 acres of park space within the village, excluding the 125 acres of land at the Chevy Chase Golf Course. The standard as proposed by the American Parks and Recreation Association states a community should have 10 acres of open space for every 1,000 residents.

With the village being the home to more than 28,000 people, that standard is far from met, Sullivan said.

MUCH OF THE study, Sullivan said, centers on land along the village's creeks and the proposed diversionary channel, which is expected to take water 8,000 feet from the Buffalo Grove Creek to the Des Plaines River. Bike paths and other more passive land uses could be set aside in those areas to augment the playing fields and parks already found in the village.

Waterfront sites are attractive targets for addition to the existing park system because they are visible, aesthetic and are easily accessible to residents, Sullivan said. And unlike larger parcels of undeveloped land, they are cheaper because their building potential is limited by the waterway that makes them attractive.

The village might also consider larger parcels, including the one surrounding the lake south of Lake-Cook Road, east of Northgate Parkway, Sullivan said.

Park District Manager Karop Bavougian said the park district and the village should engage in active pursuit of additional open space. "I think it's something we're going to have to grapple with," Bavougian said. "Because if we don't do it now, it'll be gone."

AT THE MOMENT, however, because of the preliminary status of the project, no funding has been set aside by the park district for new land acquisition, Bavougian said.

Although the project is in its early

phases, support for the study came from Village President Sheila Schultz, who said one of the goals of her next four years in office will be green belt development.

Schultz is running unopposed in the April 4 election. Without a challenge from a write-in candidate, Schultz will serve her third four-year term as village president.

"Open space is a quality of life issue," Schultz said. "You want to keep a little bit of the country and a little bit of the suburbs as you develop."

AS FOR HER fellow trustees, Schultz said the study, and its eventual implementation, would have their sup-

"I think (open space is) something we're going to have to grapple with, because if we don't do it now, it'll be gone."

**— Karop Bavougian
Director
Wheeling Park District**

port. "I think they'd be amenable to protecting land like that (open space)," Schultz said.

Funding for such acquisitions is the biggest stumbling block, and the one the community development department is now studying. Sullivan said federal and state grants are being investigated to determine if monies can be secured from those sources.

Once a list of potential properties is identified, Sullivan said the village would work with the park district to determine how to implement the plan while seeking park district support.

Several different avenues could be pursued to secure use of the targeted properties, Sullivan said, including outright purchase. He said the parcels could be leased, or conservation easements to waterfront properties could be granted to the village.

A CONSERVATION EASEMENT would allow the village access to a property in which the village would "conserve" the natural feature of the property while not owning it.

There are no estimates how much the entire project could cost the village or the park district, Sullivan said.

"I think we need to look at acquiring more property, otherwise we're going to be what we are now and that's it," Bavougian said.

The village is now waiting for funding for the construction of a diversionary channel set to run from the Buffalo Grove Creek near Northgate Parkway and Dundee Road to the Des Plaines River.

WITHIN THE EASEMENTS the village is negotiating for the channel, the village is hoping to save enough space for a bike path. That path, Sullivan said, could conceivably be connected with other waterfront paths into Buffalo Grove and the Cook County Forest Preserve along the Des Plaines River.

Officials eye replacing Heritage Park bridge

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Cascading waters seeking a spot downstream during the August 1987 rains were stopped short of their goal at a spot along the Wheeling Drainage Ditch in Heritage Park, creating flooding along Wolf Road.

As workers from the Wheeling operations and maintenance department worked to pump out basements and streets, they noticed that part of the problem could be solved by rebuilding the park district's bridge over the ditch. That bridge, with its pre-cast concrete supports restricting the path of floodwaters, is now targeted for demolition and replacement, at a cost of up to \$75,000. The village and the park dis-

trict are considering funding for the design and eventual construction of the bridge, which the village hopes can be done by 1991.

However, plans to rebuild the bridge were temporarily sidelined last week when the park board asked for a more detailed cost estimate for replacing the structure.

FOLLOWING A REQUEST by the village to share in the design - and eventually the construction - of a new bridge over the Wheeling drainage ditch, the park board decided to delay approving preliminary funding.

"I would like to postpone the design until we can get some kind of figure as to what it's going to cost," park board member Ed Klocke said last week. "I

would like to come up with... something that's more than a ball park figure."

The village, in a letter from Scott Shirley, assistant director of operations and maintenance, said the bridge design could cost about \$15,000. Both the village and the park district are expected to split that cost evenly. Shirley said building a new bridge could cost between \$40,000 and \$60,000.

Shirley asked for the funding consideration because the village is trying to determine how much money to set aside in the 1989-90 budget for the design. After hearing the park board had delayed a funding commitment, Shirley said Monday he has drafted another letter that he hopes will convince the board to approve partial

funding.

IF BUILT, THE village would be getting a bridge that alleviates flooding problems. "It should help us in the future to keep down maintenance costs when there is a lot of rain," Shirley said. "It is one improvement that will help the (flooding) situation."

The park district would get a bridge that replaces an aging one that would need to be replaced anyway, Park District Manager Karop Bavougian said.

Bavougian said there is room in this year's proposed budget to accommodate funding the project's design phase. He said monies for building the bridge have not yet been set aside.

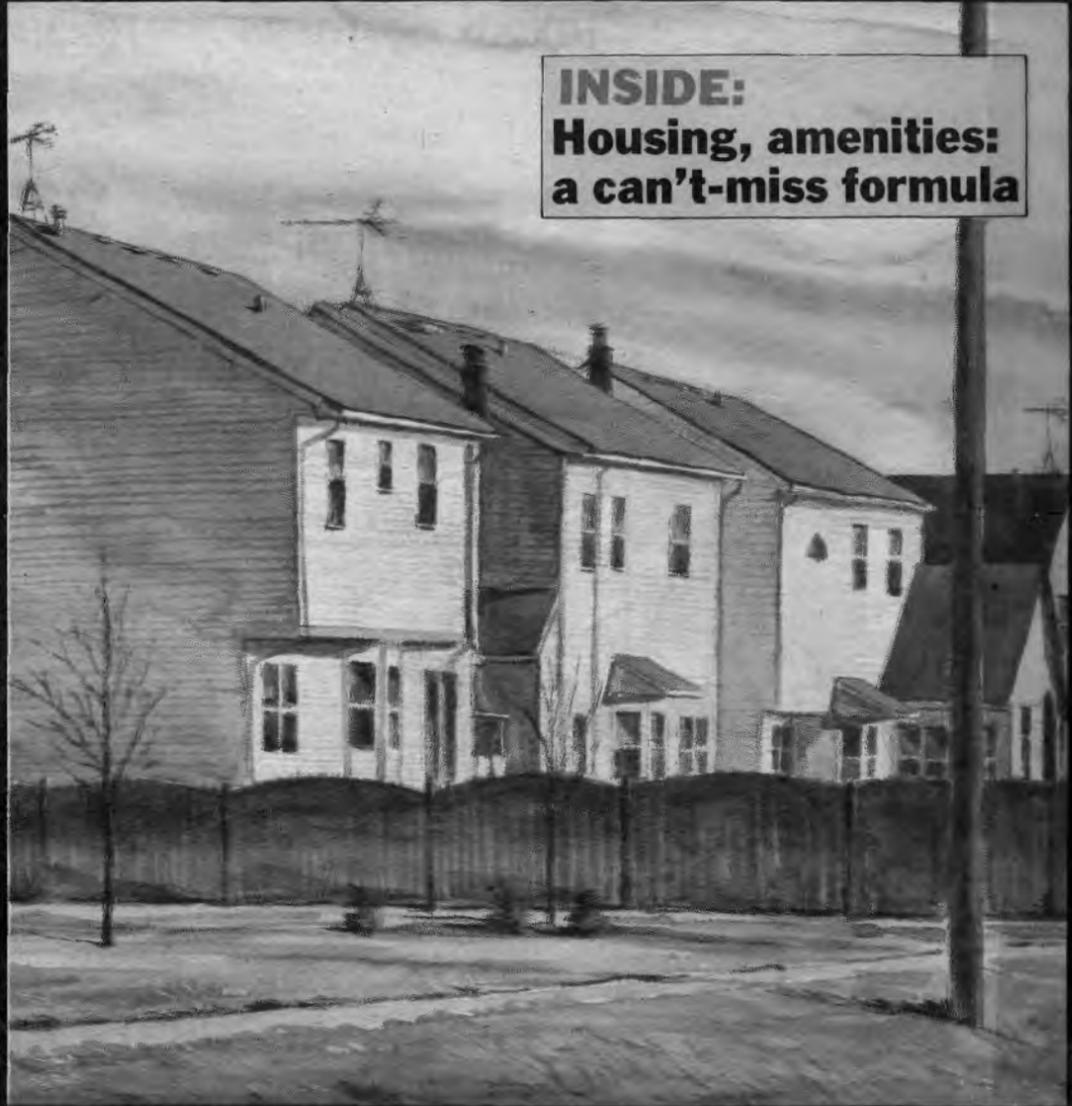
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BUFFALO GROVE ♦ WHEELING



**INSIDE:
Housing, amenities:
a can't-miss formula**

Parks

Parks' activity list stretches for miles

By Roger Rouland

Finance and real estate courses, latchkey programs, classes in karate and horseback riding, fitness centers, seniors programs—it all sounds like a list of community college course offerings.

But for Buffalo Grove and Wheeling residents, these are just some of the offerings available through their local park districts.

The recreation programs of these two northwest suburbs are examples that park districts—at least in this area—are not limited to running basketball and softball leagues.

Jim Miller, superintendent of recreation for the Buffalo Grove Park District, has been in charge of programming for seven years, and he has witnessed the changes.

"When I started here [programming] was pretty much limited to offering softball leagues and preschool programs," said Miller.

"We've done a great deal of expansion. We've expanded in every area, but our primary areas of expansion have been in programming for adults, teens and seniors."

Due to increased interest—and population growth—offerings have been widened in the areas of the arts, crafts and dance, said Miller. Officials are now looking at converting one floor of a park center into a "full-fledged dance studio," he said.

"Adult programming is a growing area for us," noted Miller. Some of the newer adult programs include crocheting, CPR classes, cross-country skiing and dog obedience classes. But youths are not being neglected, either.

Because "it's a young community, there are a lot of young families with young children," said Miller. That reality is accommodated by a strong emphasis on preschool programs for children 6 months to 5 years of age.

One of the more popular programs for children is a summer day camp program that uses more than 300 part-time instructors to accommodate 1,300 area youths.

Development and demographics have had a strong influence on the types of programs offered as well as their growth, said Miller. More than 250 programs are available annually, intended for everyone from infants to senior citizens.

But as Buffalo Grove ages, said Miller, the "tot and youth programs we're running now" will likely decrease in number.

More emphasis will be placed on "older youth—junior and senior high school students," he said.

The district itself has grown as a result of both public interest and land development, said Michael Rylko, district park and recreation director.

Rylko said his district will celebrate its 20th year this fall, having its origins in a 1969 vote that took the park system from the auspices of the Village Board.

From that first facility—12-acre Emmrich Park—the district has blossomed into 36



Photo by Timothy Boyle

Matt McKown, 12, practices his basketball form during a youth sports program at Heritage Park in Wheeling.

sites covering more than 260 acres.

Park expansion began in 1971 when "voters approved a \$1.25 million park referendum for additional facilities, including an outdoor and indoor swimming pool, four tennis courts and two preschool centers," said Rylko.

The many parks originating since then, he said, are a result of "developer donations" required by village ordinance. "Most of the [growth] has occurred through projects which started between 1970 and 1980," said Rylko.

"When the housing market fell apart," development slowed, he said. But park growth rebounded beginning around 1976, as developments were completed.

Growth of parks and park-related facilities will continue with "several more park sites coming in as developers complete subdivisions," said Rylko.

That growth has included the development of a 13,500-square-foot maintenance garage recently.

It also includes a 54-acre park under construction across the street from the city golf course. That park will include three soccer fields, four tennis courts, two baseball diamonds, a jogging and bike path, two shelters, a tot lot, a sled hill, a Frisbee golf course and a playground with handicapped-accessible equipment.

Phase one of the park project—construction of an athletic complex—has been completed.

Development of outdoor facilities, which is the second and final phase, is expected to begin this summer and be completed in the summer of 1990.

Rylko said the district recently developed a master plan for facility development, and is utilizing an interest-and-attitude survey completed last year. That survey found residents' top three facility requests to be an aquatic center with attached pool, an adult fitness center and an ice rink.

"We're working on a plan right now" for an aquatic center, said Rylko, adding that the district hopes to have a conceptual plan finished in July and seek a November referendum for funding.

Looking further into the future, Rylko predicted that the district could grow to as much as 400 or 500 acres in the next 10 years.

The Wheeling Park District, serving about 30,000 residents, is eight years the senior of Buffalo Grove's. But it, too, is "changing all the time," says Park District Manager Karop Bavougian.

The district encompasses about 250 acres, with the Chevy Chase Golf Course and clubhouse making up half of that area, said Bavougian.

The 66-acre Heritage Park was the district's first site, developed in 1964. "Before that we didn't have much of anything," said Bavougian. An indoor pool was constructed in 1969, and is attached to Wheeling High School.

"The school uses it for physical education and we use it on weekends and in the evenings," he said.

A 1977 referendum paved the way for the district to acquire the Chevy Chase Golf Club House, 1000 Milwaukee Ave. The park includes an 18-hole course and banquet facilities inside the clubhouse.

Age of equipment is one problem facing the district, conceded Bavougian, since it "has reached a point where it's time to upgrade facilities."

The future of the district, said Bavougian, will involve "redeveloping a lot of our excellent facilities."

Along with facility and equipment improvement, Wheeling "has to look at [acquiring property for future parks] because land is becoming a scarce commodity."

Bavougian said the difference between his district and that of Buffalo Grove is that the neighboring district is "much newer" and developed in an era when money was more available.

But like Buffalo Grove, Wheeling is placing a strong emphasis on programming.

"We run between 80 and 130 programs per season," said Arnie Biondo, superintendent



Photo by Timothy Boyle

Buffalo Grove Parks Director Michael Rylko studies plans for the new Willow Stream Park.

of recreation. "Last year we increased the number of programs being offered by 80 percent."

Biondo said the district's programs range from those for preschoolers to seniors. This year's increase, which included more programs being added for adults, was aimed at "better serving the needs of the residents," said Biondo.

The district, he said, tries to have neither "pie in the sky" ideas nor be "extremely passive."

Where the district needs to be active, said Biondo, is in land acquisition, development and "increased marketing efforts."

"I think we're at a point now where we've just about covered all the [feasible] possibilities," he said.

Biondo gave the district a "B" for its programming efforts, marking improvement from "a low 'C' a year and a half ago. We've made the necessary increases in quantity, now we need to make improvements in quality."

"Talk to me a year from now and hopefully we'll be doing 'A' work."



Karop Bavougian

Illustration by Sara and Michael Carlson

On the cover

Clockwise from top left: Palwaukee Airport, the water tower, a new housing development, St. Mary's steeple and the new Town Center.

Aviation



Photos by Timothy Boyle

A private plane prepares to touch down on the runway at Palwaukee Airport.

Things are taking off at Palwaukee Airport

By Marilyn Kennedy Melia

The name is as familiar around the Wheeling area as the word "O'Hare" is near Rosemont: There's a Palwaukee Bank, Palwaukee Office Machines, Palwaukee Hardware . . .

That's because Palwaukee Airport has been described as the most important airport on the north side of the Chicago region. It is one of the busiest airports in the region, after O'Hare International and Du Page County Airport, and it serves a critical role as a general aviation reliever to O'Hare.

General aviation—air traffic other than on commercial airlines—makes up some 85 percent of air travel in this country. About 400 aircraft are based at Palwaukee; most are owned by businesses and are used for business travel.

Explains Fred Stewart, airport manager, "When you're dealing with highly paid executives, their time is well worth the justification of having a corporate aircraft."

"They don't experience the delays inherent in commercial travel, and corporate planes are much better at getting to locations not well served by commercial airlines."

Ross Stemer, director of communications for Brunswick Corp., says Brunswick executives appreciate leaving their Skokie headquarters and traveling to Palwaukee, where they can fly to any of the corporation's 50 manufacturing locations, most of which are too remote to be near a commercial airport.

"We can call a taxi or limo and it's right at our hangar when we land," Stemer said. "It eliminates a lot of hassle."

Palwaukee Airport, which is bordered by Wolf Road on the west, Hintz Road on the north, Milwaukee Avenue on the east and Palatine Road on the south, straddles the border of Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

The 273 acres of airport land is municipal property. Priester Aviation Services has overseen aircraft operations since 1953. Last May, Priester sold its operations to a partnership that included golf legend Arnold Palmer and Dick Ferris, the former chief executive officer of United Airlines.

Says Charles Priester of Priester Aviation: "We were a family business and it was an appropriate time to sell. There hasn't been an external change that anyone would notice."

It appears that most airport users, as well as the villages of Prospect Heights and Wheeling, wouldn't want many changes. The airport is a boon to area business, and some firms locate in the area because they view it as an important amenity.

Brian Wendt, president of the real estate division of McLennan-Thebault, says his firm chose the name Palwaukee Business Center for the adjacent 75-acre office and industrial park because many prospective tenants would use the facilities themselves or would have clients flying into the airport.

One tenant is Waldmann Lighting, a manufacturer of task lighting for offices and factories. Says president Dale Jones, "We had sites in Vernon Hills, Lake Zurich and out of state to consider. We chose this location because of the proximity to the airport."

Jones himself pilots a single-engine Bonanza A-36 and travels frequently to meet Waldmann distributors in the Midwest and Northeast.

Through Priester Aviation, business can contract for any and all services they wish, including aircraft maintenance, piloting, aircraft charter and rental.

Flying lessons are also available for the novice interested in a new hobby, or for those training for airline transport pilot certification.

Even though psychologists say fear of flying is one of the most common phobias, companies say their executives feel at ease on private aircraft at Palwaukee.

"Most people, when the company plane is available and they can use it, prefer that option to flying commercial," says Stemer.

Palwaukee has its own air traffic control tower, and "the controllers work closely with O'Hare because O'Hare is the controlling agency for all of the aircraft in this area," said Stewart.

For all the good it does the area, some like Palwaukee simply because of the interesting air traffic. John Lehman, president of Faucet Queens in the Palwaukee Business Center, admits: "We never use the airport, but my office has a big window facing the runway. It's nice to look out at the planes taxiing in and out."



Charles Priester



Many tenants of the nearby Palwaukee Business Center are users of the airport.

Child Care



Photos by Timothy Boyle

Lea Ann Frost of Wheeling's Kinder-Care colors with 2-year-old Jacob Williams.

Kids growing — so is demand for day care

By Cynthia L. Ogorek

If you want to make some money, start an infant or preschool day care center in Buffalo Grove or Wheeling. Start lots of them. It is, you might say, a growth industry.

Take the Kinder-Care Learning Center on Lake-Cook Road in Wheeling. Director Lea Ann Frost said, "People are still coming in pretty much desperate. It's difficult to get child care for infants in this area. I have no openings until April of next year."

Frost said she is running close to capacity with 100 infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children who stay there in the afternoons until parents come to pick them up.

Teri Bornstein, director of the Young Men's Jewish Council Child Care Center, also in Wheeling, concurred. "We're at varied schedules, but we're crowded," she said.

The center, which operates on the lower level of Congregation Beth Am, handles about 80 children at different times during the day. Some are preschool, some are "full-day preschool, some come in three days a week, others only two days." Almost 40 of the children are full time, she said.

For now, they use three classrooms, but

Bornstein said they will open an adjunct center next year to serve the same age group, and eventually will start taking on older children.

A long-range planning committee is at work on a five-year plan, she added.

YMJC is an 82-year-old organization that has sponsored children's programs such as camping and day care throughout its history. Originating in Chicago, the council has also established child care centers in Highland Park.

Bornstein said the purpose of the group is to serve working families and to train leaders to do fund-raising to support the organization. She pointed out that only 75 percent of a child's tuition is covered by fees the parents pay.

Within the next year or so, the preschool sponsored by Buffalo Grove's Parks Department will start a weeklong program for its youngsters, said Sue Burkley, director of the department's public relations. At present, the park runs three 10-week sessions from September to May which children attend for two or three days each week.

Some 128 children attend each of the three sessions, said Burkley. And, you guessed it—

Times Staff



Teri Bornstein says her day care classes at the Young Men's Jewish Council Child Care Center in Wheeling are crowded.

Child Care



Photo by Timothy Boyle

Patty Sanchez, 4, practices pasting with the help of teacher Jan Mahoney at a preschool class sponsored by the Buffalo Grove Park District.

Kids growing — so is demand for day care

Continued from Page 9

there is a waiting list.

A very large number of 3- and 4-year-olds in Buffalo Grove have two working parents, Burkley said. Combine the preschool program with a host of other activities and the Park District serves about 1,500 children annually, she said.

"The numbers keep growing," she added. Although the majority are from Buffalo Grove, children from other communities can participate in any activity if there is room, she said.

"Many surrounding communities do not have park districts," said Burkley.

She also commented on the lines that form when registration opens. "It's incredible the number of little kids," she said.

Lines wind around the park building, and although district officials have even tried a lottery system, the only way they've shortened the standing time is to split the registration times and to ask the non-residents to come only after residents have been taken care of. Non-residents can pay a special fee and thereby qualify for district programs, said Burkley.

Like Buffalo Grove's park programs, YMJC has opened its doors to children from surrounding towns. That includes Buffalo Grove, Long Grove, Riverwoods and Palatine, among others.

"We're open to anyone," said Bornstein, "but they are told beforehand that there will be a Jewish content" to the activities. The center's day starts at 7:30 a.m., with most children arriving around 8:15, she said. The day ends at 6 p.m.

These times are fairly typical of all day care centers.

The only recurring difficulty day care centers seem to encounter is getting parents to leave work to pick up sick children. Most centers are not equipped to handle children with contagious diseases.

"Kinder-Care's policy is pretty typical," Frost said. But she added that Highland Park Hospital now has a program of day care for sick children.

A national corporation, Kinder-Care is not just a baby-sitting service, said Frost. Each

age group has a planned course of activities for the day.

For children 5 and up, they have a "Klub-mate" program in which they complete certain projects in order to earn badges. For instance, a recent project was "Dinosaur Days." Frost explained that during this period they studied prehistoric times and made drawings, for instance, to express what they had learned.

Toddlers and infants follow a schedule that allows time for feeding, as well as playtime and gross motor development activities.

The YMJC center opened in the fall of 1987, said Bornstein. Her program also provides children with a daily schedule, including snacks and lunch.

"We have a developmental philosophy," she said. "Play is the work of the child."

The developmental needs of each age group are considered in the curriculum planning stage. Although the accent is on play, children who come to the center after regular grade school classes, for instance, have the option of relaxing, playing or doing their homework.

With the increase in numbers of children requiring some amount of outside-the-home care each week has come a change in the type of family using the services. According to Bornstein, day care in the past was associated with low-income families. Now it's becoming a fact of life for families at just about every income level.

The cost of day care is no longer pennies a day, either. At YMJC, the rate is about \$18 daily per child, and that fee will probably go up to \$19 next year, said Bornstein.

One way for parents to cope with the cost is to get some help from their employers.

YMJC has worked out a voucher program with several local corporations, said Bornstein, adding that child care has become "part of the parents' benefit package" where they work. She said that thus far three families have been able to take advantage of the program, and that YMJC would like to become more involved in setting up on-site, non-sectarian daycare programs at these and other corporations.

Wheeling



The ACCO Building provides one of the village's largest corporate presences.

Photos by Timothy Boyle

Wheeling is dealing with the future well

By Michael Fitzgerald

The Village of Wheeling is far different than it was in the mid-1950s, when current Village President Sheila Schultz moved there with her husband and a burgeoning family.

"It's not the open space that it was when we moved here," Schultz said. Still, she sees advantages in this.

"In a way, it's the best of both worlds—things are available to us on both ends—more recreational, open-space things further out, but real cultural 'city things' as you go in."

Wheeling has boomed since the 1950s. With a huge burst of population, coupled with enough commercial and retail growth, no one will mistake this suburb for a bedroom community.

And there remains plenty of room for growth, despite the lack of open space Schultz described.

"We're pretty much landlocked, so there's not much room for growth in terms of annexation, however," said Craig Anderson, Wheeling's village manager. "There's still quite a bit of land within the community that has not been developed, that's vacant, and there's some that could be redeveloped. So there is room for some internal growth."

Anderson adds that most growth would be likely to occur outside of the residential sector.

Most of the residential growth will come in additional single-family housing.

"There's a real desire to meet the needs of this traditional market," said Anderson. "I don't want to speak for them directly, but I would think that most of the village officials would like to encourage people to locate here on a somewhat permanent basis."

Indeed, recent development in the village has tended to be dominated by single-family construction.

"We want to have homes for people who have a growing income, and want to stay here with a bigger home and the amenities. And [right now] they feel they have to move to another suburb to get that," said Anderson. "We'd like to keep them here."

"It's a good location in terms of geography. We're close to I-294, close to O'Hare, close to that Tri-State corridor, and close to major



The entrance to the Village Hall at the Municipal Building in Wheeling.



Craig Anderson

arterials."

Some changes have already occurred along those lines.

"We have a good range of housing, where people's children can afford to stay here—and there is a lot of that second generation" remaining in town, said Schultz. "It's fun to see the children of my friends buying homes here."

Schultz concurs in the reasons why people move to Wheeling.

"It's a good location—easy to get to, and it has a good mix of things. We're not dependent on any one thing."

The community's balance is a strong point, especially for the future.

"We probably have at least 200 retail establishments, with wholesale establishments approaching 100, and well over 200 different services available," said Anderson.

Residential property accounts for approxi-

mately 33 percent of the village's equalized assessed valuation, commercial about 20 percent and industrial about 45 percent.

Of the village's actual land, residential occupies 30 percent (17 percent single-family and 13 percent multifamily), industrial 23.5 percent, commercial 6.5 percent, and office 4 percent with public buildings and rights of way making up the rest.

ACCO, Ekco Products, Wickes Furniture, Allstate Insurance and Emerson Electric are among the largest corporate presences in the village.

With a population of more than 26,000 to go along with its significant industrial profile, Wheeling is pretty much comfortable with its residential size.

"The big challenges for Wheeling are our airport, traffic congestion, maintenance of our infrastructure, and obviously waste disposal," said Anderson.

Most of these are in good order.

"We've made all sorts of good infrastructure improvements over the last five, six years or so," said Anderson. "A lot of what needed to be done is done; now it's a matter of maintaining that and keeping that in good shape."

As for trash, the village is beginning a recycling program, and is actively involved with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County.

Wheeling is also working with bodies such as the Northwest Municipal Conference to address traffic issues, with the varying levels of success that will accompany an issue where population is increasing faster than the infrastructure can accommodate it.

Traffic will be traffic, which leaves the airport, which Anderson says is the most difficult of the issues.

Despite its small size, Palwaukee is one of

Wheeling

WHEELING

HOUSING			
	Current	1980	% Change
Population	26,400	23,266	+13.15
Median home value	\$84,793	\$68,800	+23.25
Tax per \$100	\$9.10	\$8.27	+10.04
Median family income	\$30,339	\$23,505	+29.07
Building permits	146	58	—

SCHOOL SYSTEM			
	Current	1980	% Change
Elem. enrollment	5,513	6,638	-16.95
Expense per pupil	\$4,073	\$2,046	+99.07
Average class size	24	24	—
H.S. enrollment	11,716	16,721	-29.43
Expense per pupil	\$5,997	\$4,001	+49.90
Dropouts per 100	3	3	—
College-bound per 100	76	76	—

PUBLIC SAFETY			
	1986	1985	% Change
Violent crimes*	39	44	-11.376
Thefts	915	979	-6.54
Crimes per 100,000	3,642	4,440	-17.97

*(Murder, rape, robbery, assault and battery)

The information in this box is excerpted from "The 1988 Chicago House Hunt Book," a comprehensive guide to more than 160 suburbs and city neighborhoods. The 300-page book was written and compiled by Gary S. Meyers and Michael Carroll and is available for \$8.95 at the Chicago Sun-Times Public Information Bureau and at selected real estate brokerage chain stores, newsstands and bookstores throughout the Chicagoland area.
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She loves her town like a child

By Michael Fitzgerald

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz and family bucked a trend in coming to Wheeling in 1956—they did so in order to be closer to work.

Husband Robert Schultz worked at Commonwealth Edison's Northbrook offices, so in a time when most suburbanites moved to what was then the land of big spaces to get away from the job, the Schultz family moved to Wheeling to get close to it.

Back then, Wheeling was quite small. Today, the village has increased in size by several hundred percent, and seven Schultz children helped it get there (the six living Schultz children range in age from 23 to 37).

The Schultzes picked Wheeling for its location and because it offered affordable housing. They still live in the same house they moved into 33 years ago, before they decided to be plentiful and fill the village with offspring. As Schultz says, "we got very crowded and then we got fine again."

According to Schultz, there are a lot of similarities between being village president and being a mother, and to hear how she talks about her village makes you believe her.

For instance, she and her newly retired husband remain in Wheeling because "we have great affection for the community, and have worked very hard in the community."

Besides, "it's suburban, yet it's close enough to things we enjoy. We're in the same area as our children and grandchildren, and so we just prefer to stay here."

Schultz's involvement with the town grew as it did, and as her children did.

"I was involved with community work when my children were in grade school, things like the United Fund, and went on a village commission," she said. "And while on that commission I began to see things about the village government that concerned me, and there were other people who came to the same conclusion at the same time I did."

So, like any concerned parent, she decided to see what she could do about it.

"In 1970, there was a core who decided to form a slate for the election, which had been unopposed," recounts Schultz. "I became involved for the first time at that time."

She started off managing the new slate's 1971 and 1973 campaigns, and in 1979 she was elected a village trustee. In 1981, halfway through her term, she ran for village president.

She says, simply, "I was elected, and re-elected in '85. And I will run again this year."

Schultz ran because "Wheeling had



Photo by Timothy Boyle

Village President Sheila Schultz.

not always enjoyed the finest reputation for good government," she said gingerly, alluding to various abuses that "people protested, and that's how candidates from '71 on became involved."

"Probably, bringing professionalism to the administration was the most important thing, because we had grown enough as a village that we needed professional people to run the day-to-day operation, and the elected officials needed to be the policy makers."

"But they needed to stay out of the day-to-day operations and to not interfere with hiring and firing and those types of things, so the administration could carry out our policies without interference."

What concerned Schultz about the town was similar to the age-old parental problem of balance—at what point do you let the children live their own lives? Schultz and her fellow independents felt the village was old enough to handle itself.

Schultz says that establishing this professional atmosphere, and seeing it work, is her biggest accomplishment.

"What we have done is to establish Wheeling's reputation in the area as a well-governed place and a good place to live," she says.

"Village services are excellent, we've improved 90 percent of the streets, and we have sewer rehabilitation and we brought Lake Michigan water. So the basic things the community needs are in very good shape. We have also changed the aesthetics of the community, which were not always as good as they should have been. So we got landscaping design and we have also gotten more citizens involved in the community."

Schultz the village president is not

above trumpeting her child's accomplishments.

As for whether she wishes she had done anything differently in her tenure as village president, she ponders for a moment and then says, "Isn't that wonderful? I can't think of anything."

Actually, she does have one major frustration, which is mostly caused by growing pains.

"My greatest frustration probably has been the amount of time it takes to accomplish things—and I have learned a lot of patience," says Schultz. "If you stick with it long enough, you can usually accomplish what you've set out to do. And that I guess has been the hardest thing for me."

On the opposite end, she has gained a lot of joy from her part-time job as village president. She works between 10 and 35 hours a week, depending on the issues that face the village, and on whether she has to perform her duties as chair of the Solid Waste Disposal Commission for the Northwest Suburban Mayors and Managers Association.

The thing she likes the most is the essence of political office—hobnobbing.

"The best part is the people part—dealing with interesting people, and the people you represent in the community—the people part is very satisfying to me."

The 58-year-old Schultz works around people all the time, as head of the circulation department at the Wheeling Public Library. She has worked there for 15 years, most of that time spent as a part-time employee.

Schultz's love of people and fascination extends beyond Wheeling's borders.

"I live to travel—we never get enough of that," she says. Her travels have a Latin American bent to them—she enjoys Mexico, and her favorite trip to date consisted of visiting a cousin who lived in a Benedictine abbey in rural Guatemala. She has yet to see Europe, though she would love to do so.

Schultz's "favorite favorite" sport is horseback riding, and for "sheer exercise about the best I do is walking, and not as much of that as I should."

She is satisfied with her life, and is quick to answer that if she could do anything she wanted, she'd do "exactly what I'm doing."

"I think it's gratifying to be able to be a part of change, and in affecting your environment, and how people are served," she says. "The extra part of that is working with very interesting people, and meeting interesting people. It's just a very stimulating atmosphere."



Photos by Timothy Boyle

Among major Wheeling businesses are the Lynn Plaza shopping center (top) on Dundee near Wheeling Road and Bob Chinn's Crab House (above) on Milwaukee.

the busiest airports in the nation, in part because of its location.

Difficulty comes from how to keep it self-supporting without turning it into something that involves Wheeling, or co-owner Prospect Heights, spending tax dollars.

"No. 1, there are two communities that won it, and we don't always agree on how it should operate," said Anderson. Anderson points out that there is a commitment by both villages to maintain it as a general aviation airport.

"We have to keep the airport self-supporting, because Wheeling has pledged not to expend tax dollars for the airport, without expanding it, and keep it attractive to general aviation customers without necessarily increasing the number of planes that come in."

While things have changed a lot since the mid-1950s, including the blossoming of the airport, Schultz thinks that change is still in

order.

"Our growth is certainly slowed," she said. "We're not going to expand in area very much anymore. We still have a significant amount of space to be developed and that has to be developed very carefully. That's kind of exciting, because we have to make sure that what goes in is the very best that we can envision for us."

The vision has yet to crystallize. "There are lots of things we'd like to do," said Anderson.

"We're constantly trying to improve our sidewalks, and we'd like to have a tree replacement program. We want to enhance the way the community looks."

The village also has a tax increment financing district along its Milwaukee Avenue retail corridor. Currently, the TIF is being challenged in court, as opposing property owners have said that it was improperly

created.

"I could talk for hours about that, so to make a long story short, we'd love to do something with our TIF district, but we can't right at the moment," said Anderson. "The Milwaukee-Dundee Road area is a major intersection and major entranceway to Wheeling, so it's something we'd like to really get going on, and we're stymied at the moment."

Wheeling will have to wait a few months, until an appeals court decides whether the taxing district has to be redone or can proceed as it exists.

In the meantime, Wheeling's administration is working to create a stop on the Soo line that runs through town for local commuters who currently take the train from Arlington Heights or Deerfield.

But leave it to Schultz to provide a synopsis of where Wheeling is now, how it relates

to what it was, and where it is going.

"We're definitely a part of the metropolitan area, with all the good things that implies—you can get to the lake, you can get to downtown Chicago and all that that offers," said Schultz.

"To me, Wheeling still retains a bit of its small-town community flavor. I have a feeling of self-containment. We're interdependent with all the other suburbs of Chicago, and you still go in the stores and see people that you know, kind of the neighborhood type of feeling."

"It's, to me, as interesting to keep something going as it is to be going for the new all the time, and that's where we're at. And I think people who live here are recognizing that," said Schultz.

"We're not going to be a big, big village at any time, but we're big enough to have the advantages of size."

Education

Demographics shape schools

By Helen J. Anderson

"Now we'll swap and now we'll trade.
"My pretty girl for your old maid!"

Although it's been years since Illinois settlers gathered in local schoolhouses to square dance to the fiddler's tune, the swapping and trading continues.

Now a far cry from a mere call to change partners, today's swapping and trading involves school officials—some of whom are seeking more school building space to house students, and others who are hoping to rid themselves of excess square footage through sale or rental. All dance to the tune of population shifts and the homebuilders' baton.

It's the new numbers game, and nowhere is it more apparent than in Aptakisic-Tripp Community Consolidated School District 102, which serves elementary school students in part of the Lake County portion of Buffalo Grove, Prairie View and unincorporated Deerfield and Wheeling.

In 1980, the district's 636 pupils were housed in Tripp School, circa 1956, and in the newly completed Pritchett School. Within five years, the search for more space was on. District 102 looked to neighboring Arlington Heights Elementary District 25, and there found Rand Junior High School, closed because of declining enrollment and ripe for a tenant.



Photo by Ellen Domko

District 102's Glenn McGee in front of the old Tripp School, which will become Aptakisic School.

So District 102 christened the building Aptakisic Junior High, had its fifth- through eighth-graders take up weekday residence, and commenced writing checks for the rent.

The next year, the Board of Education appointed Dr. Glenn "Max" McGee superintendent, and board members and administrators took a long, hard look at the number of

single-family dwellings that continued to grow on the land where the deer, the antelope and the Potawatomi once roamed.

After considering several means of handling the classroom crunch, the board went to the public in April, 1987, with a \$10,900,000 bond issue referendum to finance a new 75,000-square-foot Tripp School on a new site, as well as an

addition and a face-lift designed to transform the Tripp original to a suitable junior high facility. Plans are under way to swap the latter's Prairie View address for one in Buffalo Grove through annexation.

"We had 70 volunteer workers, and local businesses donated more than \$2,000 toward the referendum effort," said McGee. "More than 70 percent of the voters cast 'yes' bal-

lots, showing their full support for education here."

McGee is well aware that bricks and mortar alone do not an education make, and he points with pride to the junior high educational program at Aptakisic, a school that takes its name from an Indian word meaning "sun at the meridian," "high noon" or "half day."

The school is one of 24 Illinois junior high, middle and high schools nominated this year by state Superintendent Ted Sanders and a panel of educators for the Department of Education's annual program honoring the nation's top schools.

A unique method of discipline at Aptakisic Junior High has worked better and better each year since its inception. RESPECT, a progressive disciplinary plan, spells out what kind of student behavior is expected and prescribes steps to be taken in cases of rule infractions. School personnel say it encourages boys and girls to take more responsibility for their actions.

"Gail Duke, then principal, was largely responsible for initiating the program; it's been refined by Bill Parker, the present principal, and Susan Mann, the assistant principal," said McGee. "The beauty of RESPECT is that it involves parents to a large degree. Even better, perhaps, is that it's set up so a student who has behaved badly can wipe the slate clean with subsequent good behavior."

McGee praised families and fac-

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Education

Demographics shape schools

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ulty for their interest in the Parent Teacher Organizations, and for their help in raising funds and planning parties and other activities for the district's boys and girls.

"'Gung ho' is the best way I can think of to describe their attitude," McGee said. "They've contributed thousands of dollars for educational extras, and a \$10,000 computer program exists because of their efforts."

If school buildings had feelings, Rand Junior High would most certainly be suffering a huge identity crisis. Renamed Aptakisic Junior High just four years ago, the building will get yet another moniker in 1990, when District 102 vacates the premises.

Waiting in the wings ready to pony up the rent is Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated School District 96, which provides public school education for Buffalo Grove youngsters who live in Lake County outside of District 102's boundaries, and stretches into Long Grove. It, too, is feeling a student population pinch.

The Board of Education signed a 10-year rental contract with District 25 last March for the use of Rand-cum-Aptakisic and plans to play the name game this month when it meets to select a new one for the building, which will be occupied by District 96's seventh-

and eighth-graders in 1990.

Currently, Kildeer School in Long Grove and Buffalo Grove's Willow Grove and Prairie schools each house kindergarten through fifth grade; Twin Groves School houses sixth through eighth.

District 96 has been doing its share of swapping and trading, too. During the 1987-88 school year, the district signed a three-year lease for commercial office space on Arlington Heights Road, where it moved its central office. Money from the sale of a half-acre provided Prairie School with carpeting, parking lot improvements, exterior lighting and a new security system. And money from the sale of a 3.5-acre parcel to the Village of Long Grove will go toward improvements at Kildeer School.

Superintendent David T. Willard says District 96's financial condition is sound, thanks to significant increases in assessed valuation over the last two years. Class sizes are reasonable and staff members received pay increases again this year, although the teacher salary schedule is still below the mean of comparable districts in the Chicago area.

Community Consolidated District 21 wishes it could be so lucky. Serving an area of about 15½ square miles, it includes portions of Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect, Prospect Heights and North-



Photo by Ellen Domko

The new Tripp School on Highland Grove Drive in Buffalo Grove will be ready by September.

brook, the Cook County side of Buffalo Grove and all of Wheeling—older, established communities where children aren't blooming like dandelions.

Consequently, the last 10 years have seen an enrollment drop of 21 percent; the 1988 Illinois School Report Card lists it at 5,572. The instructional staff has been reduced by one-third, the administrative staff by 31.4 percent. Three buildings have been sold and three have been leased. The nine elementary schools and two junior highs still in operation read like a roster of the best and brightest of America's authors, all save one born in the 19th century—Field, Frost, Kilmer, Longfellow, Poe, Riley, Tarkington,

Twain, Whitman, Cooper and Holmes.

Despite the belt-tightening, student achievement has remained high, said Superintendent Lloyd "Bud" DesCarpentrie, who was promoted from associate superintendent in 1987.

Still, the strain is starting to show.

Among 12 northwest suburban school districts, District 21 is close to the bottom in the amount of money spent per pupil. Because of dwindling resources, class size continues to rise. This school year, 32 percent of fourth- through sixth-grade classes opened with 26 or more pupils, 30 percent of kindergarten through third-grade classes had 25 or more pupils and a num-

ber of classes had 30.

Last Nov. 8, the Board of Education asked voters to approve an education fund tax rate increase of 70 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, and filed a resolution with the county clerk to use only 45 cents of that amount until outstanding bonds are retired. The education fund rate has been \$1.80 since 1971, and the referendum failed to change it. With 18,970 votes cast, the measure was defeated by 388 votes.

District 21 will go back to the public with the same referendum request April 4, hoping that voters will willingly trade a few more tax dollars for the long-term benefit of youngsters.

Education



Photo by Ellen Donike

Buffalo Grove High School's Tom Hogeman directs the chamber orchestra.

High schools strive to remain up-to-date

By Helen J. Anderson

In an era when some have dubbed buildings "One Magnificent Mile," "One First National Plaza" and "One Nalco Center" so ordinary people, let alone taxidrivers, can't find them, perhaps it's time to applaud the old-fashioned approach of calling a spade a spade.

That's what folks in High School District 214 did as they marshaled a parade of schools built between 1922 and 1973. With only two exceptions, they named their schools for the communities served: Arlington (Heights), (Mount) Prospect, Forest View, Wheeling, Elk Grove, John Hersey, Rolling Meadows, Buffalo Grove and, although left without a school label, Des Plaines. It was a simple, effective way of presenting location information.

Declining enrollment forced the district to close Arlington in 1984. In 1986, Forest View was converted to a community education center, which also houses the district's central administrative offices, production services, technical processing, film library and staff support program, as well as an alternative school for teens.

Of the remaining six schools, Buffalo Grove is the newest. Built in 1973, it draws students from Community Consolidated School District 21, as does Wheeling High School, which opened in 1964, sandwiched between Forest View (1962) and Elk Grove (1966).

Because they are part of District 214, Wheeling and Buffalo Grove high schools show similarities. Each school has three computer labs, a language laboratory, a college/career center, a cafeteria and a library. Through local libraries and the North Suburban Library System, students and staff members can order delivery of books and materials to supplement those available in the school libraries.

Nor have physical education, intramural sports and interscholastic competition been forgotten. Each school has a gymnasium, football field, baseball field, tennis courts and running track. And each has a pool owned by the local park district; students swim weekdays and park district taxpayers splash at night.

The salary for beginning teachers is \$23,408 this school year. Those with a mas-

ter's degree plus 60 additional hours of credit and 16 years of experience receive \$53,745.

Both schools enjoy an average student-teacher ratio of 17.9-1.

In 1987-88, Wheeling High School, 900 S. Elmhurst Rd., was cited for educational excellence by the Department of Education, which conducts an annual awards program honoring the nation's top schools. Principal Thomas Shirley has been in charge for 24 years.

Enrollment this year is 1,774. The 1988 State Report Card puts the ethnic enrollment at 82.4 percent white, 8.4 percent Hispanic, 7.7 percent Asian, 1.3 percent black and 0.2 percent native American, and Wheeling is one of two District 214 schools that offer English as a Second Language. Pupils in other attendance areas who qualify for the ESL program are bused to the sites.

Buffalo Grove, 1100 W. Dundee Rd., has 1,833 students, and 93.7 percent of 1984 freshmen graduated in 1988. Based on the number who enroll in college preparatory courses, 91.9 continue their formal education in institutions of higher learning, said Marvin Christensen, now in his fifth year as principal. Among other things, Buffalo Grove is noted for its fine vocal music program.

Stephen D. Berry, superintendent of District 214, the second-largest in Illinois, says, "Our goal is to develop in students the desire to learn, the knowledge, the skills and the self-image to achieve their full potential."

Certainly, the high schools of Buffalo Grove and Wheeling are meeting that goal.

Buffalo Grove and Wheeling high schools were named for the towns they serve. Other schools often are named to honor an individual, and such is the case with Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Prairie View, the only school in District 125.

Grandson of a U.S. vice president, Stevenson held public office in several capacities before he was elected governor of Illinois in 1948. The Democratic presidential nominee in 1952 and 1956, he was noted for his wit, speaking ability and the high literary quality of his speeches. Stevenson was a resident of rural Libertyville.

Opened in 1965, Stevenson High School has had three additions, the most recent one built in 1987. It draws its students from Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidat-

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Education

High schools strive to remain up-to-date

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ed School District 96, Aptakisic-Tripp Community Consolidated School District 102 and Lincolnshire/Prairie View District 102, where houses are mushrooming in a manner that would bring joy to a Bohemian houby hunter's heart. And, as enrollment in the elementary districts increases, that of the high school follows. This year, there are 1,869 students at Stevenson, and more are expected.

Its stats exude the sweet smell of success.

The percentage of those who enter as freshmen and graduate four years later is 95.5. The percentage of pupils enrolled in college preparatory courses is 94.9. And the student-teacher ratio averages a comfortable 18.6-1.

Named an outstanding secondary school in the annual Department of Education awards program, Stevenson also boasts an outstanding principal. Now in his sixth year, Richard DuFour recently won the Illinois Distinguished Educator award.

In tune with the times, among other things District 125 offers is a praiseworthy substance abuse information program.

The salary for beginning teachers is \$22,500 this school year. Those who have 21 years of experience and a Certificate of Advanced Study earn \$53,325.

Milton Herzog, District 125's superintendent, was one of the first Illinois educators to recognize the importance of providing the public with accurate information about pub-



Photo by Ellen Donike

Stevenson principal Richard DuFour with his Illinois Distinguished Educator award.

lic schools.

Herzog has often been called "the dean of school PR."

Education

Private schools harmonize with public counterparts

By Helen J. Anderson

Cooperation is the keynote among educators in the northwest suburbs, be they public school administrators or of Catholic stripe. Time was when the twain seldom met, but in today's world of state and federal mandates, working together is the only way to go.

"We enroll boys and girls who live in 12 different public school districts, and I can honestly say we have a superb relationship with every one of those districts," says Sister Ann Busch, principal of St. Mary Catholic School in Buffalo Grove. "Through them, we've been able to get funds for library books and materials under Chapter 2 and money for drug education and computerware, to name just a few things."

Sister Ann gives high marks to Dr. Glenn "Max" McGee, superintendent of Aptakisic-Tripp School District 102.

"He's wonderful to work with," she says. "He's invited our staff members to participate in 102's in-service programs, and our boys and girls who need extra help in math have been able to take advantage of Aptakisic's after-school program."

Part of the Chicago archdiocese, St. Mary was one of the early schools in the Buffalo Grove area. Classes were held in the sacristy of the original church, a building later torched by an arsonist. The corner-



Sister Ann Busch, who has memorized every student's first name, chats with Briana DiTommaso, 6, in Pam Jepson's first-grade class.

stone survived the blaze and is today a landmark.

Classes for Grades 1 through 6 were held in a white frame building until the present rectory was built. The nuns who arrived shortly after the turn of the century taught three classes on the first floor of the rectory and lived upstairs, according to Sister Ann, who says the frame building that served as a temporary schoolhouse is still in use as a home.

The four classrooms built in 1947 are the front of the present-day school, which serves children in kindergarten through eighth grade. At the time, each room held two grades. Rapid growth in the 1950s called for additions—one in 1950,

another two years later, a third in 1956. The last addition to St. Mary was built in 1980, bringing the number of homerooms to 31.

"The largest Catholic elementary school in the Chicago area?" Sister Ann repeats in answer to the question. "Well, I don't know, but we might be the largest in Lake County. Our enrollment fluctuates from year to year. Right now it's 837."

Average class size in the primary grades is 27 pupils. In Grades 5 through 8, they are divided according to ability and therefore work in groups smaller than 32.

Most of the instructors are lay teachers rather than nuns.

"There aren't many of us around
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Photos by Ellen Domke

Sharon DiDomenico calls on a student who's eager to answer in her fifth-grade math class at St. Mary in Buffalo Grove.

Schools excel via partnership

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anymore," says the principal.

Graduates of St. Mary are well prepared for high school. Some choose a public secondary school and, depending on where they live, attend Wheeling, Buffalo Grove or Stevenson in Prairie View.

Other graduates go on to Carmel for Boys or Carmel for Girls in Mundelein, Marillac in Glenview, Regina or Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart in Lake Forest or St. Viator in Arlington Heights.

"We're proud of our students," Sister Ann says. "They're hard-working and they have the support of their parents as well as their teachers."

Another Catholic elementary school principal who speaks highly of the good relationship between her school and public school districts in which her students live is Arleen Armanetti, head of St. Joseph the Worker School in Wheeling.

"They're all so cooperative and District 21, with which we work most closely, is absolutely top-notch," says Armanetti, who received her undergraduate degree from Loyola and her master's from Roosevelt.

She says that under Public Law 94-142, special-education funds are available to parochial schools as well as public schools.

"We're eligible for any federally funded program—drug awareness, math in-service, for example—and we're always included in grant applications made by the public school district," she says.

Parochial schools are able to participate in the Illinois textbook loan program, and speech and language screening services are available to St. Joseph students, although these must be conducted in one of the public schools since public school specialists do not travel to parochial schools.

Part of the Chicago archdiocese, St. Joseph the Worker was founded in 1960 by Father George Mulcahy. With one addition to the



Photo by Ellen Domke

Principal Arleen Armanetti of St. Joseph the Worker School in Wheeling.

building, it serves a student population of 205 today and boasts small classes—an average of 18 to 20 children in each.

Following her experience as a teacher and assistant principal, Armanetti was named principal three years ago. She points with pride to the school's preschool program, now in its fourth year.

"Preschool was initiated for 4-year-olds four years ago," she said. "It proved so popular that after the first year, we added a program for 3-year-olds as well."

Enrollment seems to be increasing in the early grades, she said, noting that some of Wheeling's "founding families" have reached retirement age and younger people are moving in. The school has a waiting list for first grade.

"Judging from the number of kindergartners, we're anticipating two first-grade classes next year," she says.

She's also enthusiastic about the after-school program that began last year. It operates from 2:20-6:20 p.m., five days a week. For a minimal weekly charge, children are supervised by two teachers and an aide.

Dining



Photos by Timothy Boyle

Le Francais is the most famous of Wheeling's renowned restaurants.

There's something cooking in Wheeling

By John Ruane

When fast food is the order, McDonald's or Burger King is the answer. But when quality cuisine is the request, Wheeling is the place.

It all started back in the 1800s, when Chicagoans traveling to Milwaukee stopped at Wheeling to rest and eat. Since then, restaurants have been Wheeling's bread and butter.

Today, numerous restaurants dot a two-mile stretch of Milwaukee Avenue, attracting people from around the world to sample Wheeling's never-ending food fest. LeFrancais is the most famous, having gained an international reputation.

"People who like our food spread the word," said waiter William Wagener. "People from all over the world have come here. Many times people with their own private jets will fly into Palwaukee Airport just to have dinner, then fly back. Or people on a trip from Los Angeles to New York will plan a stopover in Chicago just to come to Le Francais."

When entering LeFrancais, patrons will be greeted by a French Provincial decor. Elegant classical background music adds to the posh atmosphere.

"We've had many famous people here," said Wagener, who also takes reservations. "Bill Cosby and his family are regulars. Also, Tom Jones and Mike Ditka eat here often. Recently, Patrick Swayze from the movie 'Dirty Dancing' stopped by."

Wagener says there is no specialty at LeFrancais; everything served is special.

"Our menu consists of a combination of old cuisine with nouvelle cuisine serving game, fowl, meat and fish," he said.

The master chef is John Banchet, also the owner along with his wife and hostess, Madame Doris.

"An average meal will cost around \$85 or \$90," said Wagener. "We have two seatings daily at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. and can accommodate 90 people. We are closed on Mondays."

Another Wheeling eatery gaining notice is Bob Chinn's Crab House.

"We're the biggest seafood restaurant in the Midwest and 34th in the nation," said Pat Hohenadel, who has been with the restaurant for six years. "We serve lobster, crab and many different types of fresh fish from Hawaii and Florida."

"We post the airbills so customers can see what day the fish was flown in. That way, they're certain it's fresh."

An average lunch at the family-style restaurant will cost \$5 to \$6, while a dinner may run \$17. Seating is usually available since capacity was expanded from 200 to 650. However, even with the extra room, there is a wait on Saturday nights. In those instances, many patrons stroll over to the lounge for one of Bob Chinn's famous Mai Tais, served in a 22-ounce glass.

For those fond of German food, Hans' Bavarian Lodge provides great food and a fun atmosphere.

"We serve very good veal dishes, wonderful sauerbraten and a terrific roast duck," said



Chef John Piscopo slices vegetables for dinner at Billy and Company.

owner Jane Berghoff. "On weekends, we have a zither player strolling from table to table. We have singalongs all the time. We have a lot of fun."

The cozy restaurant seats 40. Servers dress in Old World German costumes. Each year, an Oktoberfest is held with a tent set up behind the lodge.

"We put up a big tent about the size of a football field with bands and dancing and plenty of German beer," Berghoff said.

While some prefer to kick up their heels at Hans' Bavarian Lodge, others are biting into the delicious barbecue chicken and ribs at Billy and Company.

"We have steaks and chops, a few Italian dishes and a few Greek dishes, but the chicken and ribs are the specialty," said chef John Piscopo.

Besides the casual dining room, there is a lounge with a disc jockey each night, and comedy entertainment at 9 p.m. Wednesdays.

A relative newcomer to the avenue is

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Dining

There's something cooking in Wheeling

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Clucker's, which opened last spring.

"We're known for our char-grilled chicken and cajun chicken dinners," said manager Judy Vales. "We also serve ribs, steaks and fresh fish daily."

Clucker's opens its doors at 11:30 a.m. weekdays for lunch and 9 a.m. on weekends for breakfast.

Driving down Milwaukee Avenue a bit, the scent of Italian food fills the air with Mama Daniello stirring the sauce at Daniello's restaurant.

"She still helps out with the Italian cuisine," said Betty Ogliore, head hostess for nine years. "Specialties are Chicken Daniello with black olives and Veal Daniello with wine and mushrooms."

Dinner at Daniello's, a family-style restaurant, starts at \$10.95, with blackboard specials offered daily.

Entertainment is offered Thursday through Saturday.

Yet another famed Italian establishment on Milwaukee is Eduardo's Pizza.

"We serve natural pizza, all made with fresh ingredients," said assistant manager Wendy Kolton. "No canned or salt products are used."

Eduardo's is a family-style restaurant with 32 tables. Stuffed cheese pizza starts at \$8.05, with thin-crust pizzas beginning at \$4.50.



Betty Ogliore

TASTE OF WHEELING

La Francais Restaurant
269 S. Milwaukee
541-7470

Bob Chinn's Crab House
393 S. Milwaukee
520-3633

Hans' Bavarian Lodge
931 N. Milwaukee
537-4141

Billy And Company
124 S. Milwaukee
541-6160

Daniello's
913 N. Milwaukee
459-7200

Clucker's
933 N. Milwaukee
537-6969

Hackney's
241 S. Milwaukee
537-2100

Eduardo's Pizza
402 E. Dundee
520-0666

Hackney's is the big burger restaurant in town, seating 400. For \$4.75, customers get a huge, delicious burger with onion rings and fries.

There are many other fine eating establishments in Wheeling. A quick drive down Milwaukee should fill you in—or up.



Photo by Timothy Boyle

Clucker's, which opened last spring, specializes in chicken dishes.

Libraries

A source for books — and a whole lot more

By Gini LaFleur

For information, reference and service, follow the trail to the Indian Trails Public Library, centered in the heart of the district it serves—Wheeling, Buffalo Grove and parts of Prospect Heights. This year marks the 30th anniversary for the library.

Administrative librarian Ken Swanson is proud of the library's collection and services.

"The district we serve is a 14½-square-mile area," Swanson said. "Of the district's 55,125 residents, 41,228 have active library cards. We expect our circulation this year to be in excess of half a million—probably around 600,000."

Circulation for this past year was 556,985 at the main library, plus 12,658 through the summer book van and 1,242 through the shut-in service. The library's total book collection numbers 29,172, and the library currently receives 19,418 periodicals.

According to Muriel Lischett, Indian Trails' first head librarian (and who is still active in its operation), the library wasn't always so sophisticated and up-to-date.

Her history of the Indian Trails Library describes how Buffalo Grove and Wheeling were small semi-rural communities in 1958 with a now-defunct lending library.

But new arrivals to the area became interested in forming an official library. With the help of volunteer agencies and the Wheeling Junior Women's Club, a reference facility was opened to the public in October, 1958.

The library's immediate popularity led to a successful referendum in March 1958, and the Wheeling Public Library District was established as a 10-mile area that included most of Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

The first library was housed in a small frame building at the rear of the Union Hotel on Milwaukee

Ave., in Wheeling. In 1963 the ever-growing facility moved to a double storefront location a few blocks away.

In 1974, because of increased services and popularity, the name of the district was changed to Indian Trails Public Library District. And in 1981, a new five-acre, two-floor facility, which the library presently occupies at 355 S. Schoenbeck Rd., was opened.

Swanson added that with the final payment on the building this spring, the staff and board plan to re-evaluate and assess the future goals of the library.

"Around the end of June, we plan to look at our space and collection, as well as other areas of electronic information delivery, computers, and, in general, how we serve the public," he said.

Swanson, who has been with the library for 17 years, added that at that time any building expansion will also be discussed.

Indian Trails is a member of CCS (Computer Circulation System), a consortium of 25 other libraries. "We pool our resources together, and we have access to the collection of these 24 other libraries," Swanson explained. "If the material that a patron requests is on the shelves at one of these libraries, we can get a loan overnight."

If you ask Elaine Burke, head of adult services, what makes Indian Trails an exceptional library, she'll quickly respond, "our service." Burke, an 18-year staffer, added, "We have a very patron-oriented staff, and we really go through every effort to give patrons good service and fulfill their requests."

"We have a very good, current collection of paperbacks, close to 30,000, that generates a high circulation. We're building a basic compact disc collection, and our audiovisual collection (1,301 items) is supplemented by our membership in Suburban Audiovisual Services."

"Plus our magazine collection is enhanced with Info-

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Photo by Timothy Boyle

Administrative librarian Ken Swanson says the library plans to assess its needs and future goals this year.

Libraries

Source of books —and lots more

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Trac II, a CD ROM database with close to 400 periodicals. We have Time Magazine on microfilm dating back to 1923."

Reference is another much used area. With the implementation of the Night Owl Reference Service in July, Indian Trails joins 29 other area libraries that offer this service which, free of charge, provides answers by phone to patrons' questions after regular library hours. A trained staff is on duty to provide Night Owl service seven days a week, and is available until midnight.

Burke's staff answered 4,500 reference questions during last November, and during 1988, as many as 38,338 requests were handled.

And if you're out of menu ideas, the library has the answer there, too—there's an extensive cookbook collection numbering over several thousand titles. And before you take that next vacation, Burke suggests you check the travel section.

"We have the very latest in titles. In fact, the travel books in our collection are the same ones used by travel agencies," she said. Patrons can also find the very latest maps, including the 1989 Rand McNally Road Atlas, featuring the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

The library's special outreach program takes services to people who cannot get to the library on their own. These services include literature readings at nursing homes and senior centers, as well as free delivery and pickup of library materials at those locations, all free of charge. Last year this program reached 546 homebound patrons, and 199 patrons in nursing homes and senior centers.

Swanson said the summer book van has been enormously successful.

"It's really very informal. Our van has scheduled stops at around 45 playgrounds, parks and recreational areas. Since we are a district library, it's sometimes a little difficult for children to get to the library in the summer.

"There are just too many busy streets here for them to cross or ride bikes. We load up as much as our collection as we can in the book van." Selection, purchasing and processing of materials for this summer's routes has begun.

Young people's programs are also a priority. This spring will see a continuation of the Read With Me and Preschool



Elaine Berg of the adult services department does some research on the Bibliofile. Photo by Timothy Boyle

Storytime offerings. And National Library Week—April 9-15—will be celebrated with a special event, the "Mathematical Mother Goose Game." A baby-sitting workshop and eighth annual Battle of the Books are other upcoming activities.

The library's slogan is: "Ask A Professional—Ask Your Librarian." With services available 72 hours a

week and a strong commitment to its patrons, Swanson and the staff hope to fulfill the Board of Library Trustees' mission statement: "...To develop and maintain balanced collections of materials and a variety of resources and programs expressing the infinite richness and diversity of ideas . . . and to encourage and facilitate their use by the community."

Retail

Population grows —so does shopping

By John Ruane

The suburbs of Buffalo Grove and Wheeling are building for a bright economic future. Both suburbs are in the process of developing shopping areas to accommodate a growing population.

Currently, Wheeling has no major shopping center complex. The town's largest retail center is Riverside Plaza, though population growth has created a demand for more shopping outlets.

"Our plans are to redevelop some of the underdeveloped and underutilized areas with strip shopping centers," said Mike Klitzke, director of community development. "We don't think a [major] mall would fit the needs of the community. When people want to go to a mall to do some major shopping, they will usually travel to Buffalo Grove or Schaumburg. But when they just want to pick up a few things, it's more convenient for them to travel five minutes to a strip shopping center in the area."

The strip shopping centers are helping Wheeling's general fund as well. According to Bob Fialkowski, Wheeling's director of finance, the town drew \$2,371,000 in revenue from sales tax last year, up \$20,000 from the \$2,351,000 collected in 1987. The money is used for police and fire protection and general administrative needs.

"There is definitely a good economic future in Wheeling," said Fialkowski. "The substantial industrial base provides a fairly large value. That, plus the steadily growing sales tax revenue and steady growth in housing makes our economic future look very strong."

"Also, one of the real assets to Wheeling's economic stability is the fact we are not dependent on any one business to survive. We draw our revenue from a number of different businesses."

The other businesses Fialkowski refers to are located in the various industrial parks in Wheeling.

"We have many established businesses here," said Jackie Pollack, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, including "the Ecko Company, manufacturers of pots and pans; Orval Kent makes prepared food; J.W. Allen & Company makes bakery supply foods; Spectrum manufactures tool and die; and Valspar Corporation, which manufactures paints, varnishes and waxes."

"Those are just some of the manufacturers in the industrial parks. We also have many other professional people doing business. There are many doctors, lawyers, accountants and bankers doing business in Wheeling."

Wheeling has no trouble drawing new businesses to the area, which explains why enticements are not needed—or offered—to attract entrepreneurs.

"Most people interested in opening a business in Wheeling come to us," said Klitzke. "It's a good location with large population centers, expressways and major arterials. We have no actual incentive programs to attract business, but when someone is interested in starting a business, we try to work with them to get them started."

Buffalo Grove is enjoying the same economic growth as Wheeling, but has bigger plans. Its downtown Town Center, currently in various stages of completion, will take focus as a place to live, work and shop in Buffalo Grove.

The complex will include a major shopping center, townhomes, a mid-rise condominium building, offices and possibly a congregate care facility, which is still in the planning stage.

"The shopping center is not a mall," stressed Frank Hruby, Buffalo Grove's director of building and zoning. "It is unique with outdoor walkways lined by fountains. It will be beautiful. We have the first building constructed and already 70 to 80 percent leased. Melvin Simon, one of the bigger developers, is doing the project and we feel very good about that."



Photos by Timothy Boyle

Mike Klitzke says Wheeling is targeting redevelopment of some areas.



Chamber of Commerce executive secretary Jackie Pollack has work piled high.

"It's a terrific thing for Buffalo Grove. It is centrally located and a focal area as far as commercial use. Simon is focusing on an upscale marketing strategy in an attempt to draw good merchants."

Lake-Cook Road is emerging as a main commercial corridor. Office buildings and Hilton's Cresthill Hotel are being built along Lake-Cook between Arlington Heights Road and Ill. 83. The hotel is due to open in June.

Robert Pfeil, village planner, says the success of the area is due to good planning.

"We have had a lot of success with planned industrial parks," said Pfeil. "We mark off areas for development, then developers buy the land and start construction."

"For instance, we have zoning for six industrial parks right now. Six are active, one is not. The area is growing and there is a demand for more mercantile. This was our busiest construction year ever. We already expect this coming year to be bigger with more residential and commercial construction. We have a lot of land here to build on."

Bill Brim, the village's financial director, says the end result will benefit Buffalo Grove's educational system.

"The more areas we develop, the more property tax we collect—which helps our schools," said Brim. "Last year, we collected \$2,025,174 in sales tax—considerably higher than the previous year's \$1,854,975."

Gentle hand for teens, parents

By Miriam Di Nunzio

If you are a troubled teen, or the parent of one, you can find the help, support and guidance you may need at Omni Youth Services, at 222 E. Dundee Rd. in Wheeling.

Serving the communities of Wheeling and Buffalo Grove for more than 15 years, Omni has helped make life less stressful, tumultuous and basically more "normal" for thousands of teens—age 11 through 18—and their families.

"In the beginning, Omni worked strictly in conjunction with area police departments during crisis kinds of situations," explained Kathleen Borland, the Central Area program director for Omni in Wheeling.

"We were an outreach program for teens and troubled youth in the area. But we have steadily grown into a counseling agency for parents, teens and their whole families."

Family counseling is a big part of what Omni is all about, according to Borland.

"When a youth is in some kind of difficulty, it's not just the youth that needs to look at how to improve a situation," she said. "Family members in particular need to work together to jointly try to see how to improve what's going on."

Borland and a staff of master's degree-level counselors helped 532 residents last year in the Wheeling and Buffalo Grove areas. Everything from teen runaways and suicide to coping with a divorce has seen its way into the case files of Omni's staff.

"We really are looking at helping all youth and families who have teenagers, because we really believe that being a teenager is really hard in this day and age," Borland explained.

"Being a parent of teens today is very hard too. There are just so many more complications."

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Photo by Ellen Dornik
Kathleen Borland, Central Area program director of Omni Youth Services, works on a family counseling matter.

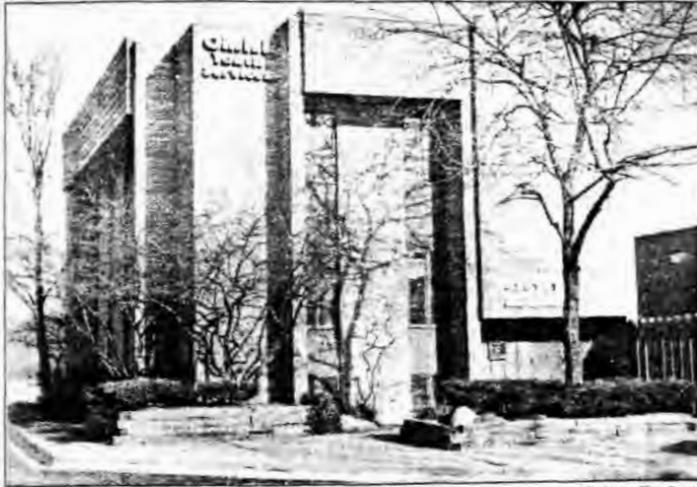


Photo by Ellen Dornik

Set off the street and easy to pass by is Omni Youth Services, 222 E. Dundee Rd.

Omni helping teens

Continued from Page 41
tions in the world today than there were 20 years ago. [Illegal] substances are much more readily available today, and kids often have the resources necessary to obtain them—even more so than even just a decade or two ago.

Omni continues to work closely with the Police Departments of Buffalo Grove and Wheeling. One staffer regularly meets with juvenile officers to talk about pending cases or to accept general referrals. A counselor is on duty 24 hours a day, and is contacted when necessary through the Wheeling police dispatcher.

"For example," said Borland, "if a teen runs away and is picked up by the police, it is our job, no matter what time of day or night, to go to the station and intervene. In very few cases, when the teen won't go home, we connect with shelters in the area for temporary shelter."

"But generally, through our crisis intervention, we are able to unite the family again or at least get the child to a relative's house."

The job for Borland and her staff doesn't necessarily end there, either. Continued counseling is provided for the entire family to determine the true nature of the problem and to deal with it in a positive way.

"Actions such as running away or taking drugs are what we call 'acting out' behavior," Borland said. "It is a change in behavior that signals there's something wrong deep inside."

"Substance abuse, one of the most common forms of acting out behavior, is a pressing problem in this area in the sense that teens are feeling a lot of stress; and coping with that stress in a healthy way is something we try to help them learn to do."

"It's unfortunate, but because drugs and alcohol are so easily available, teens turn to these substances to deal with whatever stress they feel is too overwhelming."

Borland describes the Wheeling and Buffalo Grove area as rather affluent, with a lot of pressure to succeed and "fit in."

"Parents have very high expectations of their kids and how they want them to succeed," she said. "And when they can't live up to these expectations the teens act out by usually turning to alcohol or using drugs with their friends."

"This area is filled with very caring families, with parents who have lots of pressure on themselves and who have the additional stress and pressures of raising a teenager."

"For all those years, the parent took care of this child—kept him or her safe—and now they have a teenager. Being a teenager means breaking away from mom and dad, taking on life, for the first time perhaps, on your own and this is very stressful for both parent and child."

Borland explained that about half the

Here's where to call

Anyone in need of Omni's services can call the Wheeling location at 541-0190. Other Omni offices are located in Arlington Heights, Lake Zurich, Mundelein and Prairie View.

families in the two towns are "intact" families, with the rest comprised of remarried households or single-parent families.

"There are things that make a teen more vulnerable to coping with problems and one of the biggest things is divorce," Borland said. "It's an additional stress for children in remarried families or a single-parent family."

"Teens in these situations tend to struggle more than others, and it's not because the family isn't a 'good' family. Lots of good families have trouble with teens. It's just a growing period in every child's life that signals a breaking away from parents, being different from mom and dad."

"And for parents it's hard when a child starts to think differently or starts developing his or her own identity and opinions. That's why Omni works with all kinds of kids from all kinds of families; because the underlying problems tend to be very similar in all types of situations."

Borland stressed that Omni really is there for people at any time, and not just when a teen becomes an addition to the police blotter.

Also, a teen can contact Omni for help directly at all times. Under Illinois mental health laws, a counselor can see a minor up to five times without parental notification, but, "it has never come to that in this area," Borland said.

Omni's counselors also work with local schools.

"One of our counselors will meet with school administrators and counselors, or we'll help them run (therapy) groups, or sponsor preventive workshops," she said.

Fees for the services provided at Omni Youth Services are on a sliding scale.

"It actually costs us \$75 an hour," said Borland, "but no one has ever had to pay that much. If it is determined that a family or individual simply cannot afford any fee, that's OK, too. No one is ever turned away."

Omni also receives funding from Wheeling and Buffalo Grove, as well as Wheeling Township and other funding agencies.

"I think one of the main reasons Omni has survived and grown for so many years is that we do receive funding from many sources," Borland said. "Many other organizations similar to ours start up and then have to cease operation because the funding is gone. We have been very fortunate and very thankful."

History

How past led to 'Restaurant Row'

Continued from Page 45
either six or eight parties.

"Of course, we took the bills in," she said. "We had to write tickets, too, if they called Chicago."

Outside of the restaurants and several small businesses like hardware stores along the avenue, there weren't many occupations in Wheeling besides farming.

In the very early years, Wheeling was a dairy center. Most of the farmers had come from the Schleswig-Holstein area of Germany known for its fine cattle herds.

Milk was sold locally to households, restaurants and creameries where it might be made into cheese. If they didn't sell it in town, they put it on the milk train bound each morning for Chicago.

Because of all the livestock in the area, one of the most important people in town was the veterinarian.

Dr. George Schneider, the first vet, covered a territory from Lake Forest and Libertyville on the north to Itasca and Addison on the south—all on horseback. While he was on the road treating horses and cows, his wife Maria managed the family's fragmented farmland, now part of the Shadow Bend Subdivision.

Once the automobile became affordable, it became easier for farmers to get produce into Chicago and truck farms came into vogue in the 20s and 30s.

Heading out at 2 or 3 in the morning, farmers packed their lunches and a load of onions, carrots, beets, peas, beans and tomatoes to sell to Loop restaurateurs and grocers. If the farm was producing well, they may have made two trips a week.

West of Wheeling, the farming community of Buffalo Grove was experiencing much the same history. Both were settled principally by German dairymen, although the Germans who settled Buffalo Grove were mainly Catholic, while their Protestant brothers tended to live in Wheeling.



Photo courtesy of Wheeling Historical Society

The old Weidner Cheese Factory in Buffalo Grove.

Like the dairymen in Wheeling, Buffalo Grovers sold their milk to cheesemakers. J.B. Weidner was one who had a cheese factory on Dundee Road. An average herd was 40 cows and this was Buffalo Grove's prime industry until the land began sprouting tract houses instead of cattle feed.

John Henneman was the first long-term settler. A slide presentation used by the Buffalo Grove Historical Society Museum says he came from Bavaria in 1846. Impressed with the farming possibilities north of Chicago, he sent the news back home. By the next growing season the Weidners, Sebastians, Schoenebergers, Phisters, Horchers and Raupps, too, were clearing land and building cattle farms.

The villagers were doing well enough by 1852 to build themselves a church, St.

Mary's. The wooden structure was destroyed by fire in 1852 and wasn't rebuilt until 1897. Still standing today, the stone tower is a landmark on Buffalo Grove Road.

In the museum there is a collection of 19th century French and German vestments and other memorabilia from St. Mary's Parish.

Ted Uskali, museum curator, said the exhibit is one of only three that he has seen in the area. The others are at the Chicago Historical Society and the Milwaukee County Museum.

Uskali said the name Buffalo Grove commemorates the path a herd of buffalo trod each day on its way from Wheeling through Buffalo Grove, where it stopped for a drink at Buffalo Creek, on its way to Long Grove or Deer Grove.

While Wheeling had its Milwaukee Avenue and the one-track railroad, Buffalo Grove grew mostly along Dundee Road. In the 1930s, the state decided to pave Dundee Road all the way to Dundee.

No one knows whether the state ran out of money or concrete first, said Uskali, but the paving only got eight miles west of town.

Around 1850, 64 cabins were recorded in the Buffalo Grove vicinity.

By the end of the century, eight- or 10-room farmhouses were being built at a cost of about \$2,000. They had no closets because for tax purposes closets were considered rooms, he said.

With prosperity came leisure time. The museum has an exhibit of equipment and photographs of the 1907 Buffalo Grove baseball team.

Uskali said that they got their act together and took it on the road that year when they played the Chicago Cubs.

"Apparently, they must have won. We don't know what the score was but they never were invited back by the Cubs," he said, adding that "they all look more like football players than baseball players."



Photo courtesy of Wheeling Historical Society

Two of the area's oldest settlers, Melchior and Maria Raupp.

While Wheeling had incorporated as a village in 1894, Buffalo Grove remained a community of farms until the 1950s.

By then families like the Raupps had begun selling off their land both because housing developers were offering good prices and because the farmers were getting up in years.

Developer Al Frank built 300 prefabricated houses, four to an acre in the mid-1950s, said Uskali. They sold for about \$15,000 each. (The average price paid for a house today is over \$200,000).

Shortly after these latter-day settlers took up residence, they decided their community needed the amenities incorporation would bring and voted to become the Village of Buffalo Grove in 1958.

History



Photo courtesy of Wheeling Historical Society

The interior of the old Hartman House, which today is Bob Chinn's Crab House.

How area's past led to 'Restaurant Row'

By Cynthia L. Ogorek

When she was a girl, Betty Barrie and her friends would spend Sunday evenings walking along Milwaukee Avenue in Wheeling watching the traffic go by.

At that time, the late 1920s, Milwaukee Avenue was in its prime as "Restaurant Row." Because it was the main route between Chicago and the lake country of Wisconsin, automobiles on the road "were bumper to bumper going back to Chicago on Sundays," she recalled.

The story of "Restaurant Row," however, starts back in the 1830s. The Des Plaines Valley Trail roughly paralleled Lake Michigan and had been cut by buffalo hooves and pioneer wagon wheels. According to *Wheeling Through the Years*, published in 1987 by the Wheeling Historical Society, by 1830 its name had been changed to Milwaukee Trace. Later it gained status as the stagecoach route from Chicago to Green Bay, Wis.

From 1837 on, Joseph Filkins operated his Stagecoach Tavern on the northwest corner of the trace and present-day Dundee Road. The story goes that when Filkins rang a bell, folks ran from the washing trough to the dinner table to eat all they could for 25 cents. A whiskey cost a nickel more.

Improvements were made to the road through the years. And in 1849, it was known as the Milwaukee Plank Road, although the planking ran out somewhere around Niles.

Late in the 19th century commuter rail lines began to reach out from Chicago into its suburbs, but Wheeling was not on that list. Still it had the Milwaukee Road and that was still the easiest way to get up to Wiscon-

sin for the summer.

By World War I, autos were humming along the gravel taking families to the country for the weekend or just to Wheeling for a chicken dinner.

"Restaurant row" came into its own when the auto became widely available and Milwaukee Avenue was paved in 1923. Hartman House, Chicago House, Union Hotel, Behm's, Red Mary's Wheeling Inn and Blum's were just a few of the restaurants that made chicken and steak their specialties and drew patrons from Chicago and surrounding villages.

"You knew everybody in town, then," said Barrie, who came to Wheeling as a youngster about 1920.

As an adult, Barrie, like her mother before her, ran the town's telephone switchboard on and off from 1937 to 1958.

Houses had no street numbers then and the switchboard operator was responsible for getting the volunteer fire department out on emergency calls.

The phones went dial in 1958, she recalled. Wheeling was one of the last offices to do so because of all the pay phones on Milwaukee Avenue, she added. Because of the new residential subdivisions, a switchboard could no longer handle the calls.

In 1901, she noted, there were two phones in town, one for the Village Hall and one for the Fire Department. But by 1904, service was cancelled due to lack of interest. Yet, it revived sometime after that because records at the historical society museum show there were 28 subscribers in 1910, 92 in 1921 and a whopping 232 in 1930. All the lines were

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Photo courtesy of Wheeling Historical Society

Looking south on Milwaukee in the 1940s, with the old Union Hotel on the right.

Judge: Fire district merger question failed

Herald-Wed., Feb. 1, 1989

By KEVIN DOUGHERTY
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Cook County Circuit Court judge declared Tuesday that a March 1988 ballot question about the proposed consolidation of the Prospect Heights and Wheeling fire districts had failed.

The decision by Judge Francis A. Barth was reached after attorneys for the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District and Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District settled on a way to count votes

from two precincts. The precincts lie in both fire districts, but the votes within the two precincts were not separated as required under state law.

Since there was no precise way to determine how each person voted in the disputed precincts, the attorneys used case law to come up with a formula for counting the votes. According to the formula, voters in the Wheeling Township fire district rejected the referendum 614 to 538.

Official results showed voters overwhelmingly passed the same

question in the Prospect Heights fire district — 1,308 to 344. Barth said the referendum failed because voters in each fire district did not independently approve the consolidation.

"We are disappointed that it didn't turn out the way we wanted it to," said Stephen Daday, an attorney for the Prospect Heights fire district, "but we will go back before the voters again and see if they will change their minds, some of them, and support consolidation."

Prospect Heights fire district officials may try again in November.

Fire officials pushed for the consolidation to give them jurisdiction over, and property taxes from, the entire city of Prospect Heights and a number of unincorporated areas between Prospect Heights, Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

Prospect Heights fire officials said the village of Wheeling fought the merger to keep the \$543,000 it expects to receive from the Wheeling fire district this year. Wheeling contends the Prospect Heights fire district is operating at a deficit and needed consolidation.

Wheeling vehicle stickers required today

Herald - Wed. 2/1/89

All Wheeling vehicles are required to display a 1989 sticker by today.

Vehicle stickers are sold during regular business hours at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, and may also be purchased at various locations in town.

Sticker fees were recently raised and are now \$20 per passenger vehicle per year, \$12 for motorcycles and \$25 for recreational vehicles/trailers. Senior citizens are allowed one reduced rate sticker per family at \$10.

News briefs

Countyside

2-2-89

Vivian Lee's cleared in police investigation

Wheeling police have cleared a village restaurant of any wrongdoing following a police investigation that led to charges that a Wheeling police officer was found gambling in the eatery.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said Tuesday the department has completed an investigation of Vivian Lee's, located on Milwaukee Avenue, south of Lake-Cook Road, and found the restaurant had not violated village laws.

Haeger has charged Officer Richard Imber with battery and resisting a police officer and breaking department rules which forbid gambling after the department found Imber allegedly playing poker, backgammon and dice for money at the restaurant.

Imber faces a Feb. 16 hearing before the village board of fire and police commissioners. The charges stem from three separate incidents at Vivian Lee's dating to May, 1988. Haeger has said the charges could result in Imber being fired.

At the time the formal charges were leveled against Imber, Haeger said they were the result of an ongoing investigation. A subsequent investigation was made into whether the restaurant had violated any village laws.

"We did a follow-up investigation of the gambling charges as it involves Vivian Lee's and we found none," Haeger said. "They are cleared."

Train station site tapped

Wheeling has tentatively selected a

potential site for a commuter railway station in the village.

Should transportation officials go ahead with plans to add commuter rail service to the Wisconsin Central Railway lines, the village will suggest its train station be developed on property off Boehmer Road, on the northwest corner of Heritage Park.

At a Tuesday meeting at the Wheeling Park District about open space, a plan presented by Village Planner Bob Sullivan indicated the train station could be built on the right of way now existing off the railway line.

But parking for the station would likely have to go on park district property. If the Metropolitan Transportation Agency (Metra) decided to go forward with the commuter line, it would have to work out an agreement with the park district over use of the land.

Pool agreement extended

The High School District 214 school board last week agreed to continue leasing the Neptune Pool at Wheeling High School from the Wheeling Park District.

With the original agreement signed in 1969 expiring in November, the school board agreed to ask the park district to extend the arrangement that allows the school to use the pool while paying for a portion of its maintenance cost.

Both the school district and the park district must approve the agreement

extension.

The park district built the pool on land the school district conveyed to it. The school district agreed to pay for nearly 40 percent of cost of the pool and agreed to pay for 55 percent of the maintenance of the facility.

Before the extension is final, both groups will have to again agree on the terms, including when each is entitled to use the pool.

Senior poker trumped

Village officials, after learning that senior citizens have been playing poker for money at the Pavilion Senior Center, have ordered center members to refrain from gambling at the facility.

Community development Director Mike Klitzke said the seniors have been ordered to stop playing poker for money.

"Playing for money, the way I understand it, is illegal," Klitzke said. "The village is not going to have any gambling going on. And when we heard about the potential, we wanted to stop it."

Klitzke had told the poker group, which meets at the center on Thursdays, that gambling was *verboten*. Last Thursday, he returned to the center again with his message.

Although the stakes were reportedly low, Klitzke said the village, the operator of the senior center, would not tolerate it.

"I don't care what the stakes were, money is money and gambling is not

permitted," Klitzke said. "Gambling is not allowed and we're not going to permit it in the senior center."

A notice has been sent out to all groups indicating the policy, Klitzke said. "I think we've heard the end of it," he said.

Phone lines going down

Let the kids know now: the lifeblood of their existence - the phone - may go dead for a few brief minutes Friday night.

Illinois Bell will be shutting down phone service for between 15 seconds and two minutes Friday for customers with a 459 or 634 phone number prefix as they upgrade computer software necessary for future improvements in phone service.

Phone company spokesman Stan Jozwiak said a new software package will replace an older one as the company prepares for the October installation of a new package of phone services.

Around 11:30 p.m., during a conference call to area emergency services agencies, Illinois Bell will pick a time when none of the agencies is taking an emergency call, Jozwiak said. Phone service will then be cut as the new software is added to the central office in Wheeling, he said.

Those people who try to make a call during the brief shutdown will get a busy signal, and those who are in the middle of a call may be cut off, said Leo Lulofs, Illinois Bell's area manager for the digital Arlington Heights district.

2-2-89 Countryside

Local procrastinators line up to beat deadline

The prospects of a \$50 fine and a fee that is more than double the normal amount found a number of procrastinators scurrying to Wheeling Village Hall Tuesday in time to beat the village-imposed deadline for buying a vehicle sticker.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

There was a brief lull, one that gave Irene Rivera, Chris Brady and Joan Murray the chance to reflect on a busy day that saw \$17,000 added to the Wheeling village coffers.

It was about 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, and the last stragglers to buy village vehicle stickers were trickling in. With Tuesday being the final day residents could buy their stickers for just \$20 before the late fee kicked the price to \$45, the trio expected a bigger crowd.

Village hall was even open until 7 p.m. to accommodate those souls who would once again wait until the last minute.

Then at 6:20, a wave of 14 came in. Applications were filled, checks were written, and five minutes later, the village had collected more than \$300 in sticker fees.

AH, THE LIFE of procrastination.

Lorriann Rife had been to the village three times Tuesday, all in order to get her vehicle sticker situation settled before she and her husband faced paying more for their car and truck. On the third - and final - trip, Rife was able to leave knowing she wouldn't have to return the next day, when the

cost would more than double.

"We always do our taxes on the last day," Rife said in explaining her Tuesday night appearance. It is normal, she said, to be "putting it off to the last minute."

Back at the counter, village workers continued to explain how to fill out the application form while telling residents how to make their checks out.

FOR ANDREW BARROWMAN, a native of Scotland, his trip was practical: It saved him a lot of money.

"If you get a ticket (for not having the sticker), it's \$50 a pop," Barrowman said. "And then you still have to get a sticker."

Most people carried the same attitude. Chris Stucky, a new Wheeling resident, had to borrow money to buy his sticker on time. But he knew this: It beat borrowing twice that amount the next day.

But the village was anticipating a more unruly crowd Wednesday, when residents who hadn't bought stickers find out the cost for the decal will more than double. If someone is caught by police without the sticker, they also face a \$50 fine.

AT 6:35 P.M., Murray answered the phone. Someone wanted to know when the stickers expired. In 25 minutes.

Village reviews sites for saving open space

Although there is still a long way to go before sites are acquired, Wheeling officials are moving forward with plans to save open space in the village for parks and other recreational uses.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Plans for preserving open space in Wheeling were unveiled Tuesday as members of the village planning staff identified 10 sites where bike paths, ball fields or passive recreation areas could be developed.

At a sub-committee meeting of the Wheeling Park District Advisory Committee (WPDAC), Village Planner Bob Sullivan and Assistant Planner Chris Washburn provided the committee with a list of properties they have identified as potential sites for open space development.

Areas along McDonald and Buffalo Grove creeks, vacant land in several dense subdivisions and the lake that lies south of Lake-Cook Road, west of Milwaukee Road were included on the recommended list.

Before any sites are acquired, however, both the village and the park district must find funding for the project. The village is investigating whether federal and state grants are available for such projects.

SULLIVAN SAID A lack of open space in the village sparked the study. With only about 15 percent of the village left undeveloped, the park district and the village should cooperate in acquiring some of the remaining open space before other plans are made for the property, Sullivan said.

The community development department's study resulted in the preliminary proposal shown to WPDAC members Tuesday. It could be revised

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once the park district and village board review the plan.

After seeing the proposal, WPDAC members lauded the efforts of Sullivan and Washburn and said the plan could result in a dramatic change in the direction the village and park district take.

"I've seen now in the last six months some changes that are so positive to this community that I think we've brought a whole new atmosphere to the area," WPDAC co-chairman Ruth Wieder said. "I see with new faces that those things are going to work."

AMONG THE SITES recommended for park space, Sullivan identified land:

- To the east of the Walt Whitman School, south of Center Avenue.
- Running along Buffalo Grove Creek, just south of Aptakisc Road.
- Surrounding the lake south of Lake-Cook Road, west of Milwaukee Avenue.
- **ON THE** corner of Wolf and Hintz roads.
- North of McHenry Road, just north of the Kingsport Commons apartment complex.
- Southeast of the Lexington Commons subdivision.
- Surrounding a lake north of Lynn Plaza on Dundee Road, west of the Wisconsin Central Railway tracks.

• **ALONG THE** McDonald Creek, south of Palatine Road.

• On Milwaukee Avenue, south of

(Continued on page 20)

Priester begins plan for resolving fee flap

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

In attempting to address complaints over service costs at Palwaukee Municipal Airport, the sole provider of those services last week pledged to give airport users \$300 in credit toward aircraft repairs.

Priester Aviation Services, Inc. announced that it would begin giving the credit March 1. All aircraft stored at the airport will get the \$300 credit, officials said.

After pilots leveled complaints over increases in hangar rent collected by Priester, company president Charles Priester called a meeting last Thursday to explain the hike in storage fees.

According to the Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association (PAPA), some aircraft owners had transferred their planes to other airports in reaction to the price hikes, which jumped nearly one-third in some cases.

AT LAST WEEK'S meeting, Priester provided pilots with a survey of service costs at other airports in the area. PAPA vice president Madeleine Monaco said a similar survey by her group produced similar results.

"We did a survey of our own and his is essentially accurate," Monaco said. "He is in line."

But while the service prices were somewhat comparable to competing airports, Monaco said many pilots were concerned that Priester had not properly communicated his price hikes to

airport tenants.

PAPA official Barry Dainas said Priester's moves are helping pilots, but added more could be done. "I feel there are some things he's done," Dainas said. "He still has some problem areas."

DAINAS SAID PRIESTER has asked for 90 days to answer complaints on other problems, including explaining fuel prices at the airport. Attempts to contact Priester Monday and Tuesday were unsuccessful.

The hangar rent increases went into effect Wednesday. Dainas said at least three aircraft have left Palwaukee and gone to other airports. Some of those left, he said, even though the other airports are farther away from those pilots' homes and businesses.

Priester apparently tried to change that treatment with the repairs credit offer. Monaco said a letter was sent to all airport tenants informing them of the credit.

THE CREDIT WILL apply to radio, engine and airframe repairs, Dainas said. Priester also hinted at potential relief in fuel prices at the airport. Dainas said he is considering adding a self-serve fuel service at the airport.

Since the airport was built, Priester has been the only fixed-base operator (FBO). When George Priester sold the airport to Wheeling and Prospect Heights, the use of federal dollars to make improvements at the airport also meant a second FBO was required at Palwaukee.

Manchester Drive, on the east side of the street.

• Off Buffalo Grove Road, just south of Lakeview Drive.

Several of the parcels, including the ones near Lexington Commons, Kingsport Commons and the Mallard Lake subdivisions were suggested to ease the current lack of accessible park space in those densely populated areas.

A MAJOR PART of the plan recommended tying together a bike path network between the existing and future parks. That network, which covers miles of proposed paths in the village, could be linked with paths in Buffalo Grove and the Cook County Forest Preserve, Sullivan said.

Tuesday's meeting was held to brief WPDAC's open space sub-committee on the village's preliminary findings. A full report is expected to go to the park district this week, Sullivan said.

WPDAC's open space sub-committee is also expected to make a recommendation to the entire committee on the village open space plan.

Ruling on TIF district is expected on Oct. 1

In a move that could end up costing Wheeling a significant sum of future revenue, the Illinois Department of Revenue has set an Oct. 1 date for a ruling on whether the village's redevelopment plan along Milwaukee Avenue should be financed in part by sales tax revenue.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Country side
2-2-89

Wheeling has been told it could lose millions of dollars in future sales tax revenue unless it can prove its tax increment finance (TIF) district meets state standards.

The Illinois Department of Revenue will rule Oct. 1 whether the village has proved that it should remain eligible for sales tax awards for its TIF district. After warning the village that such a notice was impending, the revenue department last week issued a preliminary notice of deficiency, claiming that unexpected sales tax growth in the village's TIF district may indicate it does not meet state standards.

If the state decides Wheeling's TIF does not meet established criteria for creating a sales tax TIF district, it would issue a final notice of deficiency, making the village ineligible for state sales tax revenue for the TIF district, said Peter Gudmundson, the revenue department's TIF coordinator.

WHEELING RECEIVED MORE than \$206,000 from the state in sales tax TIF monies distributed in 1988, Gudmundson said.

The village has 30 days to inform the revenue department whether it intends to prove that its TIF district does meet state standards. The village will have another 120 days from that point to submit its report to the revenue department, Gudmundson said.

After a review of the village's explanation, the state will make its findings public Oct. 1, Gudmundson said.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said Monday that Village Attorney James Rhodes and Finance Director Bob Fialkowski were directed to draft the village's answer to the state notice. He said the letter asked the village to indicate why its TIF district qualified for sales tax revenue.

"AND THAT'S what we intend to do," Anderson said.

Under TIF legislation, if a municipality proves an area is blighted or threatened by blight, it can sell bonds to improve that area and establish a taxing district that freezes property tax levels for 20 years. The incremental growth in property taxes over the benchmark figure is used to pay off the bonds.

After many Illinois municipalities found that the revenue generated from property tax TIF districts was insufficient to pay off bond obligations, the General Assembly then allowed municipalities to do the same with sales tax revenue to supplement the property tax income.

In calling for the review TIF districts, the General Assembly was trying to "correct some program abuses," Gudmundson said. Of the \$9.7 million the DOR disbursed in 1988, the village of Highland Park - one of Illinois' more affluent communities - received more than \$822,000 for its two

TIF districts.

GUDMUNDSON SAID THE General Assembly is also hoping to establish an equal distribution of sales tax TIF funds while reducing the size of the state's financial commitment to sales tax TIF districts.

Buffalo Grove, which last year received no sales tax revenue for its TIF district, was given a certificate of eligibility by the revenue department, Gudmundson said. That certificate states the village is in compliance with state TIF law, he said.

Wheeling's review was ordered when state figures showed that sales tax growth between 1985 and 1986 grew by more than the allowed 15 percent, Gudmundson said.

In answering the state's questions, the village will be able to use a recently-developed guidebook that defines what criteria the TIF district must meet. A TIF district must meet five of 14 criteria of blight to be considered legal.

THE SALES TAX review will not automatically initiate a review of the property tax portion of the village's TIF district, Gudmundson said. But he said that if the state finds the sales tax TIF district does not meet the state criteria for blight, property owners challenging condemnation proceedings could use a revenue department ruling in their defense.

The village is also now appealing a Cook County Circuit Court ruling that dismissed several TIF-related condemnation suits the village had initiated as part of its attempt to put a 130,000 square-foot shopping plaza on the northwest corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

In dismissing the suits, Circuit Court Judge Alexander P. White said the village had not proved that the TIF district met the state standards. The village has appealed White's ruling to the Illinois Appellate Court. A hearing is expected this spring or summer.

While the village awaits that hearing and the state review, Anderson said the village will not continue plans to obtain property or make other improvements using a portion of the \$4.36 million in bonds it sold for its TIF district.

"THE PRUDENT thing is to not proceed with anything until we know what we have," Anderson said Monday.

The village established the TIF district in 1985, and incorporated nearly 200 parcels of land up and down Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road. The village successfully used TIF dollars to support the redevelopment of the Arbor Court apartment complex off Dundee Road, west of Wheeling Avenue.

But when the village tried to consolidate the 17 parcels of land on the northwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road for the shopping center, six of the property owners refused the village's offers, resulting in the condemnation claims that led to Judge White's courtroom.

Cable fine on hold pending review

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village officials are reviewing a set of standards that define "adequate" cable television service while a \$200-a-day fine threat against TCI of Illinois remains on hold.

The village board is expected to vote on the performance guidelines recommended by the Northwest Cable Council in a few months, Wheeling Administrative Assistant David Kowal said.

Several other suburbs, including

2-5-89

Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Des Plaines, Hanover Park, Mount Prospect, Prospect Heights and Schaumburg say the Denver-based cable company has failed to live up to its franchise agreement. The complaints range from poor reception to inability to get through to the company by telephone.

Wheeling village trustees agreed to delay fining TCI \$200 a day until some ambiguous wording in the contract could be spelled out, said Kowal, who also represents Wheeling on the eight-suburb cable council.

"It is difficult to define what is adequate," said Kowal, referring to the company's agreement to provide "adequate" phone service.

The council, an advisory group, agreed that member suburbs should not fine TCI and those that already did were advised to abate the fine until the towns approve a set of standards for the company. An October deadline was extended in most communities.

Included in the performance measures are: all phone calls must be answered within four rings, held time should be no more than 2 minutes, requests for installation should be completed within 10 working days and a phone number for the monthly billing should be printed on the statement.

Kowal said the village attorney will review the guidelines and send any additional comments back to the cable council. A recommendation on the standards will be made to the village board by the village manager within the next month, Kowal added.

If the cable company fails to follow the standards after the village board approves them, Village President Sheila Schallert said, the company still may be fined.

Wheeling's flooding problem investigated

Hamilton, Wed., 2/8/87

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheaton engineering company will determine why some Wheeling residents experience flooding during heavy rainstorms.

The company, RJN Environmental Associates, Inc., is attempting to identify where storm and ground water is leaking into the village's sanitary sewers instead of into storm sewers. The village is budgeting \$150,000 for the project to begin this month.

When water other than domestic waste overloads sanitary sewers, it causes the water treatment plant to work harder, placing additional pressure on the system. That results in sewer back-ups and

added costs for upgrading the sanitary treatment plant.

Since Wheeling's sewage is discharged into the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, the village must follow standards for the district, formerly called the Metropolitan Sanitary District. The standards call for the sewage flow to be tested during a 3.12-inch rainstorm within a 24-hour period.

A previous study on the sanitary sewer system by Baxter & Woodman Environmental Engineers of Crystal Lake shows that Wheeling is not in compliance with the district's requirements and needs to correct the system.

The study also shows that the sanitary sewage system flow in-

creases during rainstorms.

The methods of inspection range from testing manholes to checking residential sump pumps for illegal hook-ups, said Wheeling Director of Operations and Maintenance Robert D. Gray.

Knowingly or not, some residents may have hooked up their sump pumps directly to sanitary sewers rather than leaving them outside their houses to allow for water to run off during a storm. The illegal hook-ups usually cause sewage back-ups for neighbors, Gray said.

"I would imagine we're going to find a number of illegal connections in the private sector," Gray said. "It's going to cost somebody some back-ups in the basement."

Buffalo Grove Road gets new name, sort of

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

In an effort to alleviate confusion, Wheeling trustees have agreed to rename a section of Buffalo Grove Road to Old Buffalo Grove Road.

Following the completion of the Cook County Highway Department's roadway improvement project, a part of Buffalo Grove Road between Hintz and Dundee roads now meets Windsor Road on the west at Hintz Road. As a result, there are two roads named Buffalo Grove Road.

"If there's anything that can be very confusing, it's Old Buffalo Road and new Buffalo Grove Road," Wheeling Trustee William A. Rogers said. "I really think another name would have been better."

However, he voted with the village board to rename the old section of the road to Old Buffalo Grove Road.

Buffalo Grove Road, north of Hintz Road, serves as a common boundary between Wheeling and the village of Arlington Heights. Arlington Heights trustees also recently approved the renaming.

Sign changes already have been made to identify the streets, Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

No buildings have addresses on the new section of Buffalo Grove Road, and only one building in Wheeling's Mallard Lake complex has an address on the old section of the road. But Michael J. Klitzke, Wheeling's director of community development, said the one address should not pose any identification problems for emergency vehicles.

Wheeling to purchase seven squad cars

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The village of Wheeling will spend about \$88,000 this year to buy seven squad cars for the police department.

The department will trade in six squad cars — including three 1987 Chevrolet Caprices, one 1986 Caprice and two 1985 Dodge cars — for six 1989 Chevrolet Caprices. The department's fleet now will number 23, including an unmarked car for

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger.

Haeger's 1988 Caprice will replace a 1985 Dodge, which currently is used by the deputy chiefs/administration. The old car will be used by community service officers.

The extra police car will be used by the supervisors of work shifts to "enhance supervision on the streets," Haeger said.

Orders for the cars must be placed with S & K Chevrolet in Peoria by Feb. 23 to use a state bid award. Each year, the Illinois State Police

buys new cars in bulk and allows local police departments to buy some of the cars, usually for prices lower than what the departments could obtain on their own.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said he had considered having the village conduct its own bidding on the cars, but determined that using the state bids would net a better price and a better chance of getting the options the village wants.

The cars are expected to cost no more than \$12,525 each and be ready

for use by May 1.

The old cars are running with high mileage and need to be replaced to reduce the cost of repairs, Haeger said. Police cars average about 30,000 miles a year, and the 1985 cars have from 80,000 miles to 90,000 miles on them.

Haeger said he determines which cars to replace by reviewing the mileage, what the cars are mostly used for and the number of employees who will be assigned to patrol streets.

Realtors review referendum and home values

By Dennis Anderson
Staff Writer

Buffalo Grove and Wheeling Realtors Friday told Community Consolidated School District 21 administrators that property values in the district will likely drop if voters don't approve a property tax hike April 4.

Speaking at an informal gathering called by District 21 officials, the dozen Realtors said a community's strength is its schools, and if the schools suffer, so will property values.

District 21 is facing a projected \$3 million deficit in its education fund, which can only be offset by the referendum, school officials said. To address the impending deficit, the District 21 school board last month announced \$1 million worth of cuts to be made if the referendum isn't passed.

The Realtors said the district has a good reputation in the area. However, they say if the proposed cuts are made the news could have a negative impact on the district's image.

"OUR SCHOOLS have a good reputation because we have gotten a lot of positive p.r. (public relations) lately," said Leslie Dee Gooze, a Realtor for Martin Marbry Realtors in Buffalo Grove. "It's very difficult to keep that reputation if you don't move forward."

"I look at Wheeling High School and I'm simply amazed at some of the colleges our children are getting accepted to. And where did those kids come from? Our grammar schools."

"The first question people ask when they are looking for a new home is, 'How is the school district?'" said Realtor Dennis Gilbert of Martin and Marbry Realtors. "A majority of the taxpayers here don't have children in our schools but (the referendum) does matter to them in terms of their property values. Either property values don't go up as fast or they don't grow at all."

"You can take the same exact house built by the same builder and put it in five different neighborhoods and the difference in price could be between \$50,000 and \$60,000," said Realtor Sharon Sims of Re-Max Suburban. "People will pay top dollar for a house in a neighborhood with excellent schools."

"PEOPLE ARE coming here because they've heard something good about the area. The people who are coming to the area are college graduates and are looking for good schools."

Realtor Jon Paul of Re-Max Suburban said, "You have to consider the old adage, 'You have to spend money to make money.'"

If approved, the referendum would raise the taxes of a home valued at \$100,000 by about \$115 per year, district officials said.

District officials said the Realtors told them what they thought all along — if the referendum fails it will have a negative impact on property values.

"(RESIDENTS) won't be able to sell a house," said Marla Topliff, co-chairman of the referendum support group Citizens for 21.

Before the meeting ended, a number of the Realtors agreed to include information supporting the referendum in their mailings to residents.

Local police give views on drug fight plan

By Bob Kehoe
Managing Editor

Local police chiefs are welcoming Gov. Jim Thompson's call for pumping \$50 million more into state efforts to combat the state's drug trade.

Their own priorities for waging the fight, however, aren't necessarily the same as the governor's.

While saying certain aspects of Thompson's proposals for beefing up drug enforcement have merit, Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger and Buffalo Grove Police Chief Leo McCann have reservations about Thompson's call for clarifying the state's driving under the influence of drugs law.

In his 13th state address last week, Thompson called for setting up standards similar to the .10 percent blood alcohol content level used to determine whether a driver is drunk.

Both Haeger and McCann say there is little need to set up standards for drug concentration levels in a driver's system, particularly since under present statutes it is

(Continued on page 23)

illegal for drivers to have any drugs such as marijuana or cocaine in their system.

THE TWO CHIEFS are with the governor, however, in calling for adding law enforcement personnel to wage the war on drugs.

Haeger said beefing up enforcement could be particularly useful to local municipalities in addressing issues such as the effects gang influence is having in suburban areas.

While saying he doesn't think there are gangs operating in Wheeling, Haeger said there is a need for further study on whether "gang influence" may be playing a part in local crimes, including drug trafficking.

McCann agrees that adding personnel may help police on the streets, but he said he would like to see more emphasis on basic issues such as how the state's correctional system will deal with an overflowing inmate population.

"IT'S NOT a glamorous issue," McCann said in assessing why jail crowding hasn't received more attention either from the governor or the state legislature. "But where are we going to put these people and how are we going to do it in the future?"

In discussing Thompson's call for requiring parents whose children are convicted of drug offenses to pay, "within their means," into a substance abuse treatment fund, both chiefs said the request has interesting possibilities.



Coosneck Side Chair
Reg. \$900, Now \$539

Sump pump hookups may be costly problem

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

After spending more than \$4.8 million dollars to fix its sanitary sewer system, Wheeling will have to spend another \$150,000 this year to try to correct flaws that weren't found the first time around.

Teams of workers will be going into village homes trying to find illegal sump pump hookups that village officials say are contributing excess storm water to the sanitary sewer system.

And the owners of more than 2,000 homes and buildings in the village may be asked to pay for disconnecting their sump pumps and floor drains that are hooked up illegally to the sanitary sewer system.

Homes in the Dunhurst, Hollywood Ridge, Eastchester and other neighborhoods are scheduled to be checked this spring as the village attempts to crack down on the illegal hookups.

OFFICIALS ARE BLAMING the hookups, along with some miscommunication, for putting the village in violation of sewer standards they expected to meet last year.

The additional sewer study was prompted when data previously expected to prove the village had met standards set by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC) proved just the opposite. After millions of dollars and years of working on the sanitary sewer system, village officials now blame the illegal hookups with causing the latest problem.

"I think we're in good shape now but we aren't in compliance," said Bob Gray, director of operations and maintenance. "But I think we're close."

The village must undertake the new work in order to meet standards set by MWRDGC - formerly the Metropolitan Sanitary District - as part of the federal government's Clean Water Act.

AS AN OUTCOME of the 1973 law, the MWRDGC ordered that all its contributing communities must meet certain sanitary sewer outflow standards. Storm water infiltrating the

sanitary sewer system through leaks, cracks and illegal hookups has overburdened the system, making it difficult for the MWRDGC to process sewage.

The federal government told the MWRDGC and thousands of other municipalities and sewage districts that it would not provide funding for sewage plant expansion if they were treating unnecessary storm water.

The MWRDGC then told each community it serves that it had to prove that its sewers only contributed 150 gallons of sewage water per person, per day to the system.

Wheeling officials thought they had met that criteria last year when the engineering firm of Baxter and Woodman completed an outflow study and concluded the village was at 146 gallons per person, per day.

HOWEVER, CONFUSION OVER a consulting firm's interpretation of MWRDGC compliance rules led to the need for a second study, Gray said. In a letter sent to Gray last week, Baxter and Woodman officials said they based their data on a rainstorm that one MWRDGC official said was large enough. However, subsequent conversations and correspondence with the agency found that the village needed to provide data from a larger storm.

Village officials say the larger storm projections will push the village over the 150 gallon limit.

"It's obvious from the data that if we do extrapolate that we'd be over," said Scott Shirley, assistant director of operations and maintenance.

At least one trustee complained about the work Baxter and Woodman did. Trustee William Rogers said the miscommunication between Baxter and Woodman and the MWRDGC may have hurt the village.

"I JUST thought that our consultants didn't do a good job if they were relying on a verbal approval for something this large," Rogers said.

On Monday, village trustees hired the consultant engineering firm of RJN Environmental Associates, Inc. to do the initial study of several neighborhoods to check on illegal hookups.

Officials study possible sites for parks

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Although open land in Wheeling is sparse, park district officials want to identify the areas that should be used for parks.

Working with village planners, the park district advisory board's open space subcommittee is studying about a dozen undeveloped sites to determine which would be suitable for future parks.

Only about 15 percent of general open space left in the village, most of which is near creeks or industrially zoned areas, Village Planner Bob Sullivan said. The group is studying which areas are wetlands, which are buildable and which would serve as appropriate

buffers to parks.

The advisory committee expects to make a recommendation on open space to the park district board after the April 4 election.

"Open space is a topic that's on everybody's mind these days no matter where you are," committee co-chairwoman Ruth Wieder said.

The committee's recommendation will be used by the board only as a future advisory tool since there currently is no money set aside in the park district for acquiring open space.

Subcommittee member Barb Dittman said the group will narrow down the list of open space sites to about four and visit them. Then the areas will be rated "in hopes that the park district would

purchase and develop" the land, she said.

Some of the areas being considered by the committee and village include parcels along Buffalo Creek, where a bike path is being proposed, and a piece of land on McHenry road on the east side of Lexington Commons.

The open space issue is especially important to the park district, Dittman said, because Wheeling's current population of 28,000 is expected to boom to about 40,000 residents by the year 2010.

"That's a lot of people to provide park district things for," Dittman said. "We have to project into the future so that the park district runs on an even keel."

Homeowners answer the challenge

2-16-89

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Leah Zeldes Smith is sitting on pins and needles while the fate of her home remains in limbo.

For a year, she's been playing a waiting game with Prospect Heights, Wheeling and Pal-Waukee Airport officials while they decide where to relocate the intersection at Hintz and Wolf roads.

The Smith's home, as well as several others in the 30-house Wolf Run Estates subdivision off Wolf Road, are targeted for demolition to make room for the two roads that would intersect just west of where they do now.

"If you were going to ask me do I regret buying this house — yes," said Smith, who moved onto Kerry Lane two years ago with her husband, Richard. "When we bought the house we figured the worse it could be is that our house would be at the corner of Wolf and Kerry (Lane). We didn't figure we'd be in this long period of limbo. We can't make any plans."

The challenge is the biggest for the 18 members of the Wolf Run Association of Homeowners, which has experienced several triumphs during the year of its existence.

First battle

The homeowners association was borne out a "common problem," homeowners association president Robert Holtz said.

Residents then had complained that the owners of a pool company at the corner of Fox/Cindy Lane and Wolf Road were not keeping up their yard. After numerous letters and calls to Cook County officials, the property now is enclosed with a fence.

"It's really beginning to shape up rather than go down the tubes," said Holtz, a 30-year resident of Wolf Run. "We're not going to live by that



Along with their neighbors, Robert Holtz and James Abele, in the foreground, are proud of the accomplishments of the Wolf Run Association of Homeowners, especially the newly-erected fence in the background that buffers their houses from a nearby business. Holtz is president of the group and Abele is secretary.

Daily Herald Photo/Rich Chapman

philosophy. We're here. We've been here since 1957."

Considering that their first victory, the group stuck together. It persuaded Wheeling Township officials to begin repairing and repaving township roads in the subdivision this spring that were surrounded by industrial businesses. Parts of the subdivision are incorporated in Wheeling but most of it lies in Wheeling Township.

The group also was successful in having signs installed that identified Wolf Run Estates and dead-end streets.

"We've been continuously whittled away by Prospect Heights and Wheeling," said Holtz, who has lived in the subdivision for 30 years. "Our little group here is pretty active."

Intersection fight

The group's current undertaking with the intersection is no doubt its most catastrophic as association members attempt to keep their neighborhood together and guess

their own fate at the same time.

The Smiths knew when they bought their house that the intersection just north of their home would be moved away from the end of Pal-Waukee's main runway to create a "clear zone" for planes and to comply with federal safety standards.

But what they didn't know was where or when they roads would be moved. To this day, no one really does. And the residents are tired of waiting while their destiny is being decided and their neighborhood could slowly slip away.

Holtz and others in the association claim that their neighborhood is being ignored because the township is also holding back from making any major road repairs in the subdivision until a decision is reached about the intersection's new location.

"If I had to move in a hurry I just couldn't do it," Smith said. "I can't sell my house now. Would you buy it?"

Like the Smiths, who hesitate to

"It's very difficult for the property owners to guess and wait. We hope we can get this resolved as soon as possible. The problem is once you take part of the neighborhood away, what do you have left? There's a lot of impact that needs to be settled"

—Wheeling President
Sheila H. Schultz

make major renovations to their home while the neighborhood's fu-

See WOLF on Page 3

Continued from Page 1

... remains in limbo. Smith can be reached at Stablelives, 297-9977. To register for screenings, contact low-up treatment. can contact their physician for fol- participants. If an abnormal cholest- terol level is detected, individuals Results will be sent directly to the

combination of five previous proposals.

The commission is made up of are returned. the same time the cholesterol results receive the questionnaire results at Health Maintenance Institute of America, Inc. Individuals will check questionnaire processed by terol test and a computerized heart

offered this month

20.7 to 7:30 p.m.
● Tuesdays: Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 21, 9:30 to 10 a.m., 10:30 to 11 a.m.
● Wednesdays: March 1, 8, 15, 22, 9:30 to 10 a.m., 10:30 to 11 a.m. or 1:30 to 2 p.m.

This program is for pre-kindergarten children only. Children must be 3 years old by March 23. A Program Card is required to register. Only registered children may attend. No guests allowed.

Plan to ease flooding set at subdivision

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer
Courtesy 2-16-89

What difference a "little" rain will make.

After eight years of discussion, Wheeling officials finally heard what they sought: that the residents of the Lakeside Villa townhomes are willing to sacrifice beauty for safety.

At an informal meeting Tuesday night at the Lakeside Villas clubhouse, residents there agreed that the water level of the complex lake should be lowered. The move, which will mean exposing additional shoreline, is a safeguard against future flooding.

By agreeing to lower the lake level, the residents gave the village the green light to construct a storm sewer project to the east of Lakeside Villas that is expected to cure some flooding problems that have plagued the 242-unit complex.

BOB GRAY, director of the village's operations and maintenance department, told residents that unless the lake level was lowered, the storm sewer construction would be of little value to residents of the complex, located north off Hintz Road, east of Old Buffalo Grove Road.

"If the lake is not lowered, it complicates the problem and limits what the village can do," Gray said. "The key point of this entire plan is to lower the ground water elevation and create some emergency spillway."

(Continued on page 15)

In August, 1987, there wasn't much "emergency spillway." A nine-inch rain sent water from upstream areas cascading into Lakeside Villa homes. With no where for the water to go, basements began flooding and caused thousands of dollars in damage.

Many residents were used to yearly, minor floods, and did not want to ruin the "aesthetics" of the lake by lowering its water level. On Aug. 14, 1987, all that changed.

"I THINK aesthetics are not important at the moment," said resident Charles Brown, "not after what I and others have gone through. We've gone through hell." Brown was one of the hardest hit victims, as water filled his basement and came up onto his first floor in 1987.

Under a plan described by Gray before nearly 30 Lakeside Villas residents, the village expects to construct a storm sewer running east from the townhome complex that would act as an emergency route for flood waters.

Previously, the complex could not accommodate extra water because both the height of the lake level and the lack of an eastern release for the water combined to back up floodwaters in Lakeside Villas, Gray said.

During the 1987 flood, with storm sewers that ran into the lake already full, water from neighboring, upstream developments found its way overland through the streets and some homes.

Years recalled with exhibit of valentines

BY LINDA BAENEN
Daily Herald correspondent

The year was 1925, a time in Wheeling when one teacher taught three grades of youngsters in a single classroom and the curriculum was reading, writing, and arithmetic.

It's a time that lives now only on old black and white photographs. And though the young faces may look different, the valentines they exchanged would not.

For Betty Barrie, curator of the Wheeling Historical Society, a chance to look back at those years came at the beginning of this month when a box arrived at the museum from her third grade teacher. The box held the valentine cards that were given to her teacher from her third, fourth, and fifth grade classes.

"Miss Richman, that was her name at the time, came to what was then called Wheeling school for her first teaching job," says Barrie. "There was about 36 children in the classroom 12 in each grade. The building consisted of two rooms on the first floor and one on the second floor, but that one was unfinished and unuseable."

The cards are part of a monthly-long valentine exhibit, which opened Feb. 1 at the Wheeling Historical Society, 251 Wolf Road. Encased in glass, the exhibit contains more than



Betty Barrie arranges a display of old valentines at the Wheeling Historical Society.

Daily Herald Photo/Bob Chwedyk

40 valentine cards displayed amongst a picture of that third, fourth, and fifth grade class.

"All of the photos were in really good shape when I received them," says Barrie. "I believe that she had kept them in her attic after all of these years."

A variety of cards are displayed at the exhibit; some are the traditional children's valentine cards similar to those distributed in grade schools of today. Others are hand made out doilies or cray paper. The more complex looking cards are pop-up variety.

"You could still read what was written on the back of most of the cards," says Barrie. "And on one of them it said, 'From the bad boy!' And that was the only thing that was written."

Barrie, born and raised in Wheeling, can still recall those years gone by. And as the memories of the "good old days" filled her head, a smile appears on her face as she begins to explain.

"I just hope that I am able to contact those of us who are still left from that class," she says, "because I am sure that they would all be just as happy to see this as I was."

Heuberger, president of the company that manages the complex, said money for containing the shoreline would have to come from existing funds set aside for other projects in the development.

He said that depending on the size of the project, the cost could result in a special assessment for homeowners who now pay an \$83 a month association fee. Those monies fund capital improvement projects throughout the complex.

THE VILLAGE IS now set to decide which of 19 contractors will be awarded the storm sewer work. While waiting to receive direction from the homeowners, the village received bids ranging from \$198,000 to \$329,000 for the work, which Gray said should be awarded in March and completed by June.

Village Attorney James Rhodes is still negotiating on the location of the final easement that a local property owner must give to the village for the project. That easement is expected to be finalized soon, Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

Gray said much of the problem was created years ago when the complex and surrounding developments were designed. At that time, developers were only required to construct flood basins that could hold storms that are expected every 10 years.

CURRENT DESIGN standards require on-site retention to hold flood waters from storms that are expected to occur every 100 years.

Not too late

Courtesy 2-16-89
It may appear to be an afterthought in light of the fact Wheeling is nearly fully developed, but ongoing attempts at saving what little open space remains in the village are encouraging for a number of reasons.

The program initiated by village officials shows that sites some might consider to be isolated pockets of unusable land may in fact be able to serve the recreational needs of a growing population.

At what cost this transformation could take place remains to be seen, but through joint cooperation with the park district and by applying for grants, it is realistic to expect that at least some of the 11 sites under consideration could be obtained at minimal cost to local taxpayers.

What it will take for the acquisitions to go through is something that at times appeared lacking in recent years — a cooperative relationship between park district and village officials.

Based on the developments to date, however, both governmental bodies seem to be on the same wavelength with regard to the speed and priority this important project deserves.



An open invitation

Officials eye options on saving park space

Countryside 2-16-89

Vacant land in Wheeling may be in scarce supply, but local officials are examining what can be done to assure that the village's few remaining open areas are preserved. This week the Countryside examines the efforts being coordinated by the village and the Wheeling Park District and what sites are under review.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

For years, Wheeling residents have complained that there isn't enough park space in the village. Residents have urged that the vacant parcels near them be turned into ballfields, picnic areas or passive parks.

Now, it appears a cooperative effort between the park district and the village could lead to the acquisition of some new park sites. The village has generated a list that identifies 11 sites in the village for potential park expansion.

Members of a park district advisory committee have already been briefed on the village land study and the park board is expected to study that list.

Whether any of the sites are purchased, however, depends on if the park district or the village can find funding for land acquisition.

The recent efforts respond to concerns raised since 1982, when many residents living along McHenry Road, south of Lake-Cook Road, complained that there was little open space available for them and their children.

THEY REPEATEDLY TOLD the village that the more than 4,000 residents in the area was the largest population in the village not serviced by a park. They said the nearest park, Childerley Park, did not offer enough active recreation area and was too far away for children to travel.

"The children of my complex, Colonial Townhomes, have nowhere to play except the parking lot," resident Anne Olson wrote in 1982 to then-plan commission chairman Tony Altieri. Altieri is now a village trustee.

Olson, like many others, asked the village to designate nearby parcels as park space. That designation would give the park district the option of buying the parcels in case a developer wanted to build upon them.

Don Kirchenberg, then president of the Cedar Run homeowners association, asked the village in several letters throughout 1982 to add the park

designations. His letters, on behalf of the association, urge the village to "do everything it can to designate, purchase and develop active recreation sites along McHenry Road."

ALTHOUGH ALL THE sites Olson and Kirchenberg identified were not designated as parks, two of them were. After more than 15 hearings and meetings on the comprehensive plan, trustees approved a version recommended by the plan commission.

In 1985, the village board updated the plan, which designates land use in the village, and included two areas near Cedar Run, Lexington Commons, Kingsport Commons, Colonial Townhomes and Chelsea Cove as park sites, one at 745 N. McHenry Road (site 2 on map), and another along the Wisconsin Central Railway line, just north of Kingsport Commons (site 3 on the map).

But village planners have identified another nine sites in the village that could also be acquired for park use.

Park District Manager Karop Bavougian, in echoing the comments of several members of the district advisory committee, said the district must look at open space because of its scarcity. With the village filling in and its borders locked, there will be little the park district can do in the future if

the land is developed now, Bavougian said.

TO THOSE WHO complain the park district isn't maintaining its current facilities and shouldn't acquire more land, Bavougian the park district may have to "land bank" vacant space for future development.

"I do know it's (open space) a dwindling resource," Bavougian said, "and when it's gone, there is no more."

The most current study began after new Village Planner Bob Sullivan noticed the apparent lack of park space in the village. While a federal park standard calls for one acre of park space for every 100 residents, Wheeling's 29,000 people rely on just 240 acres in the park district, of which 125 are on the Chevy Chase Golf Course and Clubhouse.

With the village projected to peak at 38,000 in population, the village and park district should look at additional park space, Sullivan said, for both current and future residents.

In studying the Wheeling sites, the park district and the village will have to decide which parks are the most attractive, most affordable and most functional.

Below is a list of the sites and a map indicating their location in the village.

A look at sites under review for acquisition

Countryside 2-16-89

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

1 Buffalo Creek south of Aptakistic Road is one of the three linear, creekside parks suggested by the village, this parcel runs along the Buffalo Grove Creek, south of Aptakistic Road. It is considered attractive because of its natural habitat, wetlands and scenery. The village proposal also includes a bike path through this parcel. Like the other creekside parks, the narrow strip of land surrounding it cannot be built upon, making it and the others relatively inexpensive to purchase.

2 Site two on McHenry Road, next to Lexington, is one of the most attractive sites mentioned, Sullivan said, not because of its beauty, but because of its proximity to many residents not now served by a park. Residents of Lexington Commons must cross McHenry Road and go down to Childerley Park, more than three-quarters of a mile away, Sullivan said. Assistant Village Planner Chris Washburn said the village has received many letters from residents in the area who have requested this site be set aside and operated as a park.

3 This site is north of McHenry Road, west of Wisconsin Central Railway tracks. Just north of Kingsport Commons, the vacant parcel identified here is the largest of all those proposed. Among its benefits, the village has said is the site's scenic value, its accessibili-

(Continued on page 23)



This map details 11 sites under consideration for acquisition. For a description on each site, see the corresponding number in the story.

Sites —

(Continued from page 16)

ty to many residents currently not served by a park, the fact that it could be tied into the proposed bike path network, and that it is a declared wetland. It would serve as a buffer between the existing high-tension wires, industrial park and the neighboring residential area. But Sullivan said a developer is now eyeing the property for continued development.

4

This site is located at Johnson Lake, south of Lake-Cook Road. With the acquisition of the land surrounding this man-made lake, the park district may be able to offer limited boating, while potentially creating a nature area on the site. A bike path is suggested to be tied into the park and the diversionary channel the village is planning. The channel will take overflow water from the Wheeling Drainage Ditch at Northgate Parkway, just north of Dundee Road, to the Des Plaines River near Lake-Cook Road.

5

This site includes a retention lake behind the Lynn Plaza shopping center at Dundee Road and McHenry Road. This retention area and surrounding land, already used by trespassers as a fishing hole, could be developed into the same use for all park district residents. Sullivan suggested it could also be attached with the network of bike paths. The site was also considered attractive because it is very visible and includes natural areas that could be set aside as a passive recreation.

6

A meadow area along the Wheeling Drainage Ditch behind the Foxboro apartments, this site is another one of the linear parks. Straddling the Wheeling Drainage Ditch, this park site could connect with an existing lot to the north, Sullivan said. It is labeled a natural area with a meadow geography.

7

This large, vacant parcel is now a play site to the east of Whitman School and is maintained but not owned by Community Consolidated District 21. It is now primarily used by students. It also is in a very dense residential area and is designated as a park area in the village's comprehensive plan.

8

This site is east of Milwaukee Avenue, south of a trailer home park. One of Sullivan's own ideas includes looking at the land along the Des Plaines River, south of Manchester and looking to develop a portion of it into a more attractive entrance into the village. Now occupied by an abandoned gas station, a used car dealer and a body shop, the land is not "the correct use of a riverfront," Sullivan said. If acquired, Sullivan said the property could be tied into the existing Cook County Forest Preserve across the river.

9

This site is located near the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads. When this intersection is moved to make room for a larger clear zone at the north end of Palwaukee Airport's longest runway, village planners say this site could tie in with the proposed bike path network. Given the site's high profile, Sullivan said it would contribute to the

(Continued on next page)

Sites —

(Continued from previous page)
image of the park district.

10

This site sits along McDonald Creek in the far southern portion of the village. The only site to not carry a park designation on the village comprehensive plan, this site is the third suggested creekside linear park.

11

This site is located in the Mallard Lake Apartment complex, off Old Buffalo Grove Road. The suggested site is near a dense residential area that needs a park site, Sullivan said. Its access to potential users and its visibility make it an attractive site, he said.

Hearing delayed for Wheeling police officer

Herald-Monday 2/20/84
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A hearing for a Wheeling police officer accused of illegal gambling and battery have been continued to next month.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger also has accused police officer Richard R. Imber, 36, of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

A commission hearing set for last week was continued to 7 p.m. March 2 in the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. Imber's attorney, Noel Wroblewski, said he was unable to meet with Imber to discuss the case before the hearing.

Haeger is recommending to the commission that Imber, who re-

mains on paid leave, be dismissed from the police department. His annual salary is \$34,812.

The gambling charges, which include bets on poker, dice and backgammon games, stem from three separate incidents, Haeger said. Although the incidents allegedly occurred at Vivian Lee's, the restaurant/lounge at 604 N. Milwaukee

Ave. in Wheeling is not under investigation or implicated in the incidents, Haeger said.

The most recent incident allegedly took place Jan. 6, when Imber was arrested by an undercover Cook County Sheriff's Police officer for resisting arrest and gambling on a backgammon game.

Village set to buy bins for recycling pickup

Herald-Tuesday 2/19/84
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Village Board is expected tonight to approve buying about 4,000 plastic bins from a Gurnee company that would help start up the village's curbside recycling program.

At least six companies submitted bids to the village to supply the 4,000 plastic containers that resemble "laundry baskets," Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

However, Anderson is recommending the board award the bid to Rehrig Pacific Co., in Gurnee, which was not the lowest bidder. The Gurnee company included a choice of color for the bins, a low-

er cost for re-ordering additional bins and a delivery date that would meet the village's May 1 program start-up date, Anderson said.

With Rehrig, the village would pay \$19,400 for 4,000 14-gallon containers that are expected to be delivered in April. The village's bid specifications required the bins be at least 11 gallons.

All homeowners in Wheeling who already have curbside garbage pickup can participate in the program started by the village to help reduce the amount of trash hauled to landfills.

Although garbage is hauled twice a week, the recycling bins will be picked up on only one of the regular hauling days. Bright-col-

ored visible bins, like yellow or orange, likely will be used to remind residents to participate in the program, which will cost residents an additional \$1 a month.

"People are getting more conscience about the need to recycle," Anderson said. "I think people who normally would not recycling would because its so convenient. A lot of people are going to like the convenience."

Bins will be delivered to the residents before May 1 by the village's trash-hauler, Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal, which is owned by Waste Management Inc.

Anderson said residents should put paper items on the bottom of the bins, with aluminum items next and glass on top.

Orange recycling bins to appear in Wheeling

2-22-89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Bright orange bins will be delivered to every household in Wheeling as the village prepares for the start of a curbside recycling program this spring.

The village board Tuesday approved buying 4,000 of the plastic 14.5-gallon containers from Rehrig Pacific Co., in Gurnee. The containers will hold discarded paper, aluminum and glass.

Although the Gurnee company was not the lowest of the seven companies bidding for the bin contract, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said Rehrig's offer would meet the village's required delivery date, and it allowed for a

choice of color.

The board chose orange over about six other color samples as the color for the bins that will be delivered to houses at the end of April. The program begins May 1.

"Green blends in too much with the landscaping," Anderson said, holding up several shades of green formica samples.

"Maroon is too dark," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said, stressing the need for visible containers to generate participation in the program.

And Village Trustee William A. Rogers was concerned that yellow bins — although very visible — would get "too scuffy" and "show the dirt."

The village is picking up the

\$19,400 tab for the containers in hopes of being reimbursed through a state grant for half of the cost, Anderson said. However, residents will be charged an additional \$1 a month on their garbage bills for the recycling program.

The program is Wheeling's effort to help reduce the amount of trash hauled to landfills.

Although garbage now is picked up twice a week, the recycling bins will be collected by Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal on only one of the regular hauling days.

An information flyer likely will be included with the delivered bins to help residents through the start-up of the recycling program, Anderson said.

Trustee asks developers to replace trees

Monday, Thursday, Feb. 23, 1989
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling trustee is suggesting that developers who chop down trees to make room for new developments be required to replace them.

"The more and more developments we get, the less trees I see in the village," Trustee William A. Rogers said. "I'm beginning to become concerned that we're losing our status as a tree-lined community."

Rogers wants village staff members to look into drafting a law requiring developers to replant the same amount of trees they destroy. The trees could be planted in the new development or

on other village property, Rogers said.

Village planners currently negotiate with developers to landscape property being developed. Developers also are required to appear before the village plan and appearance commissions for approval of developments.

The tree replacement policy is needed, Rogers said, "so there is at least a compensatory factor that the tree population in the village would not be diminished with each development."

However, Village Planner Robert Sullivan said the village doesn't have much open space with trees for development. Most of the town's tree clusters grow along creeks.

Sullivan points to a few spots along the Des Plaines River and possibly near the Cook County Forest Preserve as tree-lined sites. But, Sullivan said, he cannot cite any wooded areas with tall, old oak trees in Wheeling.

Rogers said his suggestion was prompted by the recent development of shopping centers at McHenry and Elmhurst roads and Wolf and Dundee roads. Only a few trees were replanted to replace the 50 to 100 trees that were chopped down, Rogers added.

"I think his idea of the general look of woods is certainly better than the sterile look," Sullivan said of Rogers' suggestion. "The whole idea of planting more trees is certainly a good one."

Tanning salon owners to open health center

Monday, Thursday, Feb. 23, 1989
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Neighborhood residents soon will be able to get a tan, do aerobics, ride a stationary bike, have a manicure and buy sporty clothes all under one roof.

Within the next two months, two tanning salon owners plan to open a new health center in the Tahoe Shopping Center on Hintz Road near Old Buffalo Grove Road in Wheeling.

The health spa, called Body Electric Fitness and Tanning Cen-

ter, also will feature light weight training equipment and other cardio-vascular equipment. But the health center will lack an industry staple — shower facilities.

"We researched the industry," said co-owner Rick T. Aiello, of Buffalo Grove. "We found that the percentage of facilities available that house our services did not have them."

Users of the center — mostly nearby residents — will not only frequent the center to work out, but to get manicures and buy athletic clothes in the active wear boutique

section, Aiello said.

"The majority of the people using it are in and out wearing sweat clothes," Aiello said.

He added that showering facilities would take up too much room in the 3,850 square-foot vacant building and would cost at least \$50,000 to install.

Village trustees approved the plans with the addition of more parking in the rear of the building. The owners will be required to construct a sidewalk leading to the back of the building and install lighting there. Employees, who would num-

ber two or three at a time, would park in the rear.

Fifteen parking spaces will be provided in the front of the building, which likely will not interfere with other businesses in the shopping center, including a dentist office and a restaurant, because peak times vary, Village Planner Robert Sullivan said.

Aiello and partner Don Hirsch of Des Plaines, who own four other tanning salons in the Chicago area, are planning to hold a grand opening for the new center within the next 90 days.

Trustees OK purchase of fireproof cabinets

Monday, Thursday, February 24, 1989
The Wheeling village clerk's office soon will be furnished with new file cabinets to protect village documents.

Village trustees have agreed to spend \$4,800 for five file cabinets and a cabinet to store meeting minutes.

Most of the village's records, such

as original copies of laws, resolutions and board minutes, currently are stored in "traditional" cabinets, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said. However, those cabinets are not waterproof or fireproof.

The new cabinets would not only protect the documents, but also "improve the appearance of the clerk's

office," he added.

"The cabinets are well needed," Trustee Judy Abruscato said. "I just wonder why we haven't looked into it before."

The idea probably came up, Anderson said, as the result of the village accumulating more documents

over the years and changes in the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, which require municipalities to keep a thorough accounting of records.

The old file cabinets will be moved to the personnel office because "most of their records could be stored in there no problem," Anderson said.

Wheeling planners OK town houses

Monday, Thursday, Feb. 24, 1989
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Construction on a new town-house subdivision in Wheeling could begin within the next two months as the village's plan commission Thursday night approved plans for the project.

Morris Wroble, a Skokie developer, wants to build ten buildings, with three and four town houses in each, on a vacant section of land south of Strong Avenue between 10th and 12th streets.

Named the Strong Gate Town-house Subdivision, the complex would be surrounded by houses, an apartment complex and an industrial park.

Although the 37-unit, 3.8-acre

subdivision will not be enclosed with a fence, the board agreed that would not be a problem for the surrounding area.

Village Engineer James Edmond said the developer also is required to discuss his plans with Northwest Suburban District 214, Wheeling Elementary District 21 and the Wheeling Park District to determine the impact the new subdivision would have on the community.

However, the village does not mandate that developers donate money or land to the schools and parks.

"This is the first time this has come up," said plan commission Chairman Paul Eisterhold. He added that in the past, the require-

ment probably was handled between the developer and the districts, without village prompting.

Joseph Wroble, representing his father, said he has informed the districts and has received "vague letters" from both of the school districts and the park district.

"We're trying to get that resolved as fast as we can," Wroble said. "It's been a long process. Hopefully it won't be too much longer."

The village board likely will vote on the plan commission's recommendation at its March 6 meeting. With that approval, models of the town houses could be built by early summer. The town houses will be priced "moderately, but not cheap," Wroble said.

Wheeling Countryside

Village mourns passing of James Gallagher

The Wheeling Park District lost one of its greatest friends and hardest workers Feb. 22 with the death of James Gallagher. The 38-year-old father and Boy Scout leader left behind a legacy of love and care for his family and community that defined his life for friends and colleagues.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff writer

It was about 9:30 p.m. Oct. 29, and the cold air surrounding Childeley Park was damp. The last attendees of the Wheeling Park District's annual Spook Trail were winding their way through the maze of scary scenes and creepy monsters.

Most of the helpers were a little weary, wet and shivering. Many of them were from Boy Scout Troop 262 and most of them were tired. But as everyone was waiting for the long evening to end, a flashlight started making its way across the park and toward one of the spook stations.

Minutes later, James Gallagher, bundled up in his blue quilted coat, was at the scene; he was checking on the park district event, the Boy Scouts and on his son, Steve, who was one of the mock hooligans trying desperately to startle the Halloween revelers.

It was a perfect James Gallagher moment: a time when he could channel his care for his kids into concern for others: the Boy Scouts, the park district and the late-night celebrants.

FAMILY, FRIENDS AND acquaintances all draw the same



Members of Boy Scout Troop 262 stand at attention as the funeral procession for the late Wheeling Park District board president James Gallagher is led out of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Saturday. (Photo by Hank DeGeorge)

picture of Gallagher: that of him showing up to an event, his hands deep in his pockets, his hair a little mussed. And no matter where he was, his children and his wife could be found nearby.

His involvement spanned many boundaries. He was a coach, a Boy Scout leader, a Girl Scout volunteer, an active participant at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, a Republican precinct captain.

"He did so much but whatever he did it was because it was things the kids were involved with," his wife Sue said Monday. "That's how he got into it first."

(Continued on page 15)

Although he wasn't much of an athlete - he bowled in the church league - Gallagher repeatedly stole time away from his other commitments to coach some of the many teams his children played on. He had coached baseball, basketball, floor hockey and even soccer. But although his knowledge of the sport was limited, he decided to coach for his son.

"HE DID soccer once or twice. He didn't know much about soccer, but he figured at that age - it was Jamie's (their eldest son) first or second grade team . . . if he taught the kids how to kick the ball around the field he was doing OK," his wife said.

But while his children were the impetus for most of his involvement, once in an organization or on a board, Gallagher used his energy to work to improve things. With little fanfare, and an outwardly calm manner, Gallagher would argue, cajole, and debate. He would not, however, let differences of opinion get in the way of action.

Ed Main, another Wheeling resident active in a number of village and township activities, had worked with Gallagher for nearly a decade, both with the park district and the village. He said the community will miss Gallagher's "ability to argue . . . and then go for coffee afterward."

"He was a genuine public servant," Main said. "Just a guy we're going to miss."

MAIN LAUDED GALLAGHER for always coming up with new ideas and backing them up with the information needed to justify them. But, as an unassuming politician and community member, Gallagher "never put himself in front of an issue," Main said.

(Continued on page 22)

Gallagher —

Countryside 2-23-89
(Continued from page 5)

Coming up with ideas, it seems, was what Gallagher was constantly doing. On a recent vacation in Florida, Sue and Jim ran across Boy Scout parent Nancy Gruthusen and her family. Gruthusen's son, along with Jamie and Gallagher's other son Steven, were all in Troop 262.

Outside of a couple hellos, Jim immediately started talking about the Boy Scouts and merit badges, Gruthusen said. Although home and the troop were over 1,000 miles away, Gallagher was thinking about merit badges. It was vintage James Gallagher.

"He's always thinking about something to help kids advance," Gruthusen said.

GALLAGHER'S WIFE remembers the Florida incident well. "Things would pop in his mind and I'd sit there and go 'woa, I'm not thinking about that right now.' But he would," she said.

Sometimes while at work in the Loop, Gallagher would hook up with other people active in scouting and they'd "power lunch." They'd talk about scouts, not work.

"He managed to fit everything in somehow, I don't know how he did it. He kept track of everything, not necessarily in the most organized way of filing, but on the other hand, he always knew where it was and what he was doing for the time being," his wife said.

For being so active with the Boy Scouts, the troop gave him the annual Scouters Award last year, given to the individual who has gone "above and beyond the call of duty." With his wife, Gallagher counseled scouts on earning merit badges. Both worked with the troop's 34 members on how they could

Gallagher —

(Continued from page 15)
improve their rank and receive the required merit badges.

SOMETIMES, GALLAGHER would invite some of the scouts to his house to help them with their badges. For a merit badge on railroading, Gallagher would use his basement railroad display to complement the scouts' education.

About two months ago, at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Prospect Heights, Gallagher orchestrated a mock blast-off for the scouts seeking their space exploration merit badge.

"He went way out of his way to make it fun and educational," Scoutmaster Dan Perkins said. At every phase of the countdown, Gallagher had the script and his players ready.

"The effort he put forth was above the call of duty," Perkins said. "He tried to put a lot of fun into things, and things that weren't fun, he tried to make fun."

GALLAGHER THREW THE same kind of energy into the park district. First active as a coach, he later ran for the board. He was in the middle of a four-year term when he died.

As board president for the past year, and as a board member for the past four, Gallagher, like his involvement elsewhere, only looked to improve the park district, colleagues said.

"I don't think there was a bad bone in his body," park board candidate and long-time friend Greg Klatecki said. "He always listened, he always tried to

make some changes to improve things."

"He wasn't motivated by any hidden

agendas, he just tried to do as much good for as many people," board member Tony Abruscato said.

AND EVEN WITH the park board and their twice-monthly meetings, meeting attendants would always get a good dose of what made Jim Gallagher tick. Whether it be talking about the

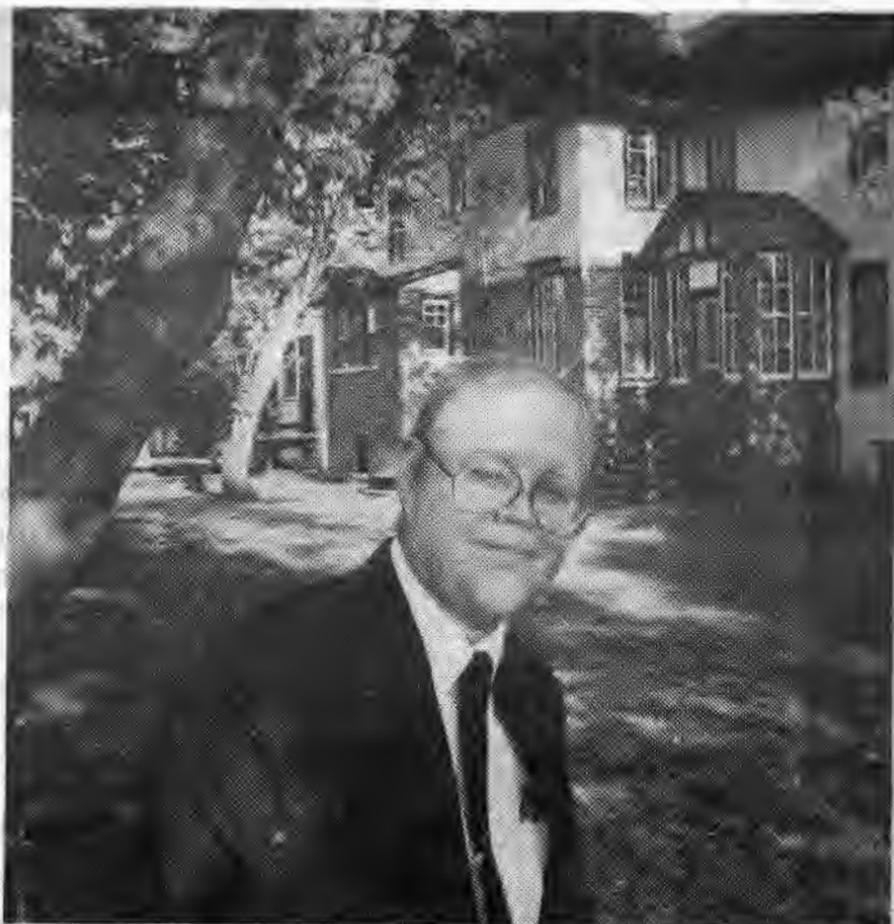
**"He wasn't motivated by any hidden agendas, he just tried to do as much good for as many people."
— Tony Abruscato
Park Board Member**

scouts, the upcoming Up With Wheeling cleanup day, or the many teams his children played on, the names of his children and wife would come up.

"If you attended one park meeting, you would leave knowing the names of his children," Abruscato said. Sometimes, the kids would be there, working on their citizenship badges for scouts or just waiting until their dad was finished with his meeting.

"He put his family first, and his kids," Klatecki said.

Sheila Schultz first met Gallagher when he started working for the independent party started in the 1970s



This photo of James Gallagher was taken last summer outside the St. Joan's House at Childerly Park. At the time, Gallagher had suggested transforming the house for use as a nature center. (File photo)

that would eventually put Schultz on the board as trustee and later village president. As a veteran campaign worker, Schultz saw Gallagher's drive to work for improving the village.

BEGINNING WITH THOSE years and later working with Gallagher

through the park district, Schultz saw the family commitment that Gallagher made a priority.

"They were just such a part of each other's lives," Schultz said. "He wanted them to experience what he was experiencing."

Drainage ditch proposal sparks local debate

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

A suggested new location for the Wheeling Drainage Ditch has sparked debate over whether the move promotes unnecessary expansion of Palwaukee Municipal Airport or is the only solution to a long-standing problem.

At the center of the debate is the Twin Drive In, located northeast of the airport at Hintz Road and Milwaukee Avenue. The airport commission last week reversed itself and told the state the culvert for the ditch should be located along the southern border of the drive in.

But dissenting board members claim the move forces the commission to study acquiring the \$3.5 million drive in while other - and potentially less costly - alternatives are not being considered.

Opponents are calling the potential drive in purchase unnecessary and in violation of the original agreement that led to the joint Wheeling-Prospect Heights purchase of the airport in 1986.

WHEELING TRUSTEE AND airport commission member Bill Rogers said the proposal would force the commission to later consider buying the drive in, which he said is not on an airport land acquisition master plan previously approved by the two municipalities that jointly own the airport.

Rogers said that if the drive in is purchased with federal funds, the property's future use, besides being the conduit for the drainage ditch, could include airport use - something he and

two other commissioners oppose. Among the possible uses would be adding more hangars at the airport.

"If it's developed as airport (uses) then it's airport expansion, which both community's said they wouldn't do," Rogers said.

Airport officials say the ditch must be relocated because of its proximity to airport runways and taxiways.

WITH THE PROJECTED widening of Milwaukee Avenue nearing the design stage, the state has asked the airport commission, consisting of Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials, to identify where it wants a culvert to take water from the ditch to the Des Plaines River.

After already indicating the culvert should go 200 feet north of where it now crosses Milwaukee Avenue, the commission last week changed its position when it suggested the culvert cross the road near the drive in.

In December, the commission had recommended moving the culvert 200 feet north, which is about one-half mile north of Palatine Road. Again in January, the board affirmed that decision.

But Feb. 15, at the request of airport Manager Fred Stewart, the board considered, and approved, the new suggested cross-over through the drive in. Wheeling commissioner Bob Strauss cast the only Wheeling vote to join the four Prospect Heights commissioners in passing the recommended culvert location.

STEWART SAID THE Des Plaines River, the recipient of all drainage

ditch water, is closer to Milwaukee Avenue across from the drive in.

"It's best to put it under Milwaukee Avenue where the river touches Milwaukee," Stewart said. "Then you don't have to disturb forest preserve property."

Rogers said the drive in owners have told the airport commission the property would cost at least \$3.5 million. Stewart said the airport would have to buy the whole 35-acre site rather than just an easement for the ditch.

"All we said was let's put it (the culvert) there and start making some plans because it makes the most sense," Prospect Heights commissioner Jim Nickel said.

ROGERS SAID THE intergovernmental agreement adopted in 1986 stipulates the municipalities won't expand the airport. He said if the culvert location is moved to result in airport expansion it would violate that earlier agreement.

Nickel, however, said locating the culvert through the drive in is the only alternative. The airport could buy the property, construct the ditch and then re-sell some of the land for commercial development.

He also said that future development of that property could include additional hangars - something that Rogers and fellow Wheeling trustees and airport commissioners Tony Altieri and Elizabeth Hartman are against.

"It just looks like they want to take that whole area and turn and make it part of the airport," Altieri said of those who supported the culvert location. "I

feel we really need more information to make an informed decision."

THAT INFORMATION INCLUDES study of the area left vacant if the drainage ditch is moved further north. If it is moved, the airport would have to install storm sewers to handle the natural runoff of water where the ditch had been, Rogers said.

That cost, combined with the cost of the drive in and the construction of the drainage ditch, might be avoided by moving the ditch to where engineers have already suggested, Rogers said. But without further study, he said the commission should not have made last week's decision.

"Primarily, we feel we are jumping the gun again," Rogers said. Rather than pigeon hole the commission into only looking at the drive in site, Hartman said the commission should have opted to spend more money on engineering and get culvert designs for both locations.

The two municipalities are still haggling over future sales tax breakdowns on airport property not yet annexed, and Rogers said those discussions should also influence the decisions the commission is now making.

ROGERS SAID THE commission should hold off on long-range decisions affecting those areas in question until the leaders of the two municipalities can reach an agreement on those questions.

Board moves to suspend officer without pay, continues hearing

Countyside 2-23-89
A Wheeling police officer facing charges that could lead to his firing was suspended without pay last week pending a March 2 hearing on gambling, battery and resisting arrest charges.

Under an arrangement worked out between Officer Richard Imber's attorney and the attorney for Police Chief Michael F. Haeger, Imber was suspended without pay beginning Feb. 16 through at least the March 2 hearing.

Since charges were first brought against Imber Jan. 7, Haeger put Imber on administrative leave. He continued to draw pay from his \$34,812-a-year post until last Thursday.

Charges against Imber were formally presented to the village board of fire and police commissioners Jan. 17, when a preliminary Feb. 16 hearing date was set. Commissioners last Thursday, as a condition of Imber's suspension, continued the hearing until March 2. At the Jan. 17 hearing, the commissioners did not act on a request to suspend Imber without pay.

IN HIS ORIGINAL charges, Haeger claimed that Imber, while off duty, had on three occasions dating to May 5, 1988, been found gambling at Vivian Lee's Restaurant, located at 604 N. Milwaukee Ave. Imber was allegedly

found playing poker, dice and backgammon for money, the charges state.

During the most recent incident on Jan. 6, Haeger charged that Imber had struck an undercover Cook County Sheriff's deputy and had resisted arrest following an altercation outside the restaurant.

According to police department rules, officers are expected not to violate any village, state or federal laws. Haeger charged that Imber violated the department code when he allegedly gambled, resisted arrest and struck the officer.

Imber could be fired as a result of the charges, Haeger said. The fire and police board, after hearing Haeger's arguments, will decide on any punishment.

HAEGER SAID EARLIER Imber would not be tried in criminal court on the charges. Instead, only the administrative hearing will be conducted, he said.

After completing the investigation that led to the charges against Imber, the police department conducted an investigation of Vivian Lee's. Subsequent department study cleared the restaurant of any wrongdoing, Haeger said.

Local recycling program moves to the streets

Countyside 2-23-89
By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

The post office and village trustees combined this week to bring recycling a lot closer to Wheeling curbs.

This week's mail brought this quarter's waste disposal bills, and with it the \$1 increase scheduled to begin in May. As payments start flowing, Wheeling residents will begin to fund the expected spring launch of a village-wide recycling program.

And in buying 4,000 orange plastic containers Tuesday for the curb-side program, the village moved closer to its goal of recycling newspaper, glass and aluminum.

Trustees last fall agreed to contract with Wheeling-Buffalo Grove Disposal, owned by waste conglomerate Waste Management, Inc., to begin the program that they hope will find residents saving their recyclables for the village program.

THAT PLAN CALLED for Wheeling-Buffalo Grove Disposal to pick up and process all the recyclable newspaper, glass and aluminum left in the 14.5 gallon bins trustees agreed to buy Monday. Because recycling still isn't profitable, the extra \$1 monthly disposal charge is expected to offset collection costs.

While the recycling program will cost residents more now, village officials say landfill space will be conserved and will save dollars down the road, when landfill space will be scarce and landfill tipping fees substantially higher.

Trustees Tuesday agreed to contract with Rehrig Pacific Company in Gurnee to buy the 4,000 containers needed for all single-family homes expected to participate in the program.

Because apartment, townhouse and condominium developments have central waste bins and contract individually with scavenger services, they are not expected to participate in the recycling program immediately.

Health club gets approval

A new health club was given preliminary approval Tuesday when Wheeling trustees agreed to grant a special use for the Body Electric Fitness and Tanning Center.

Scheduled to be located in the Tahoe Shopping Center at Old Buffalo Grove and Hintz roads, the health club will offer tanning booths, a boutique, a manicurist and aerobics classes.

In order to solve a potential parking problem with the club, the shopping center and the club owners agreed to add a sidewalk to the back of the building and install lights there, to resurface and restripe the existing parking lot in the front of the buildings and to add parking for employees behind the building.

New office plan to heal Wheeling 'eyesore'

2-25-89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A proposed office center on Milwaukee Avenue is expected to revive an area labeled by Wheeling village officials as an "eye sore."

Developers Joseph Anzaldi and John Gutilla want to build a small office building on the northwest corner of Mors and Milwaukee avenues. The lot currently houses an abandoned gas station.

"It's obviously an eye sore," Village Planner Robert Sullivan said. Because the lot is small, "it re-

quires careful treatment," Sullivan added.

The Wheeling plan commission has approved plans for the center which include fencing the building off from nearby residents.

Sullivan said the village also is trying to upgrade that area for restaurants and offices.

Lighting in the front of the building would be provided by non-reflective lights that shine down into the parking lot so that residents living adjacent on two sides of the building would not be bothered, said Vince A. Scavo, who represents the develop-

ers. The center would have a "contemporary look" and 31 parking spaces, he added.

In the rear of the building, lights also would be kept to a minimum because a nearby "house couldn't be more than 50 feet away," Scavo said.

"You're going to be in their bedroom" if more or brighter lights were installed, he said.

Scavo said the complex, called Wheeling Professional Office Center, would house service businesses, such as insurance and real estate agencies. Regular day business hours would be kept by the tenants, he ad-

ed.

"We don't want to get somebody in there that's going to have all-night hours, or something like that," Scavo said.

Mitchell Braun, a resident near the site, requested that a fence on the west side of the property be left intact "for looks and privacy."

"We would like to see some kind of fence just so we don't have an office building in our back yard," Braun said.

The plan commission agreed, but developers must replace the fence if it deteriorates.

Airport official mixes flight, figures

2-26-89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

No one can accuse Michael F. Zonsius of shirking a challenge.

No sooner had Zonsius started his new job as assistant manager of Palwaukee Municipal Airport than he started preparing the airport's 1990 budget. Yet he seemed undaunted by the initiation.

"Super, I can't complain," Zonsius said of his first day on the job this week. "It's been a great day."

Zonsius, a 28-year-old Lisle resi-

dent, recently was hired to handle the accounting and financial aspects of the airport, which is jointly owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights. He will serve as the assistant airport manager of finance and administration.

Zonsius has a bachelor of science in aviation technology from Purdue University and a master's degree in finance from DePaul University. He currently is taking classes to become a certified public accountant.

"I have a great interest in aviation," Zonsius said, "and I have a

strong interest in finance and accounting."

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said Zonsius fit the bill for the job that pays \$33,000 a year.

"He's an outstanding young man with great qualifications," Stewart said. "He has a great interest in aviation and the technical skills for the financial end of it."

Zonsius, who previously was the comptroller at the DuPage National Bank in West Chicago, also is a licensed commercial pilot and a certified flight instructor. He is designat-



Michael F. Zonsius

ed as an aviation ambassador for the State of Illinois Division of Aeronautics.



Palwaukee Municipal Airport is valuable as a "reliever" airport for O'Hare and Midway.

Herald - Monday 2-27-89

Daily Herald Photo/Dave Tomp

Airports relieve jet gridlock

By PETE NENNI
Daily Herald Transportation Writer

In Chicago's crowded and confusing air transportation system, O'Hare International Airport and Midway Airport get the glitzy commercial flights filled with globe-trotting passengers. A handful of smaller area airports take what's left.

But handling traffic that O'Hare and Midway can't take — or don't want — has meant a steady diet of aviation business for area reliever airports like Palwaukee Municipal, Waukegan Regional and DuPage.

In an area that has seen more than two dozen public-use airports close in the last 40 years, these three facilities have hangar space and parking areas filled with small general aviation planes and corporate-owned jets.

With forecasts calling for continued growth, several expansion plans are underway to build

Regional airports in Chicago's suburbs



Waukegan Regional Airport Annual takeoffs and landings: 121,600 Based aircraft: 258 Size: 600 acres Owner: Waukegan Port District
Pal-Waukee Municipal Airport Annual takeoffs and landings: 251,277 Based aircraft: 365 Size: 273 acres Owners: Wheeling, Prospect Heights
DuPage Airport Annual takeoffs and landings: 221,000 Based aircraft: 435 Size: 500 acres Owner: DuPage Co. Airport Authority

Note: All figures are for 1988.

Daily Herald Graphic

longer runways, new aircraft hangars and other amenities to boost future capacity at reliever airports that aviation officials say are "vital" to the region.

Of the nine airports designated as Chicago area "relievers" — airports taking general aviation

and corporate jets to free up capacity at O'Hare and Midway for commercial flights — Palwaukee, Waukegan and DuPage airports are among the busiest.

See AIRPORTS on Page 8

Continued from Page 1

Together, the trio handled nearly 600,000 takeoffs and landings in 1988. O'Hare had 803,453 operations last year, but only 2.6 percent were general aviation flights, while 21 percent of Midway's 301,313 takeoffs and landings involved small planes.

"This metropolitan area or any other metropolitan area with as many flights as this one just couldn't live without them (reliever airports)," said Louis Yates, manager of the Federal Aviation Administration's Chicago airports district office. "You'd have eternal gridlock without relievers."

The biggest boost in airport business these days is coming from corporations that own and operate aircraft to save time and improve efficiency. Abbott Laboratories, G. D. Searle and Kraft Foods are among the companies that supplement commercial travel with their own aircraft.

That growing business link, says Robert Coverdale, director of the Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics, means area airports have an important economic impact by providing employment and attracting business devel-

opment.

For example, a 1983 economic impact study of airports compiled by the state estimated that Palwaukee's total impact was \$95.6 million per year. The figure was estimated at \$30.1 million at Waukegan and \$69.2 million at DuPage.

"Aviation provides an economic stimulus for the region," Coverdale said.

It's not surprising, then, that millions of dollars have been pumped into the three airports in recent years — and more is earmarked for the future — to help pay for improvements to increase airport capacity. The projects include:

- \$5 million in improvements over the next four years at Waukegan, including the construction of new ramps, taxiways, automobile parking, office space and hangars. Last fall, the FAA opened a \$1.96 million control tower.

- \$32.9 million in FAA grants since fiscal year 1984, which have helped Wheeling and Prospect Heights buy Palwaukee, and paid for other improvements. A new taxiway system is being discussed, as well as plans to relocate the intersection of Hintz and Wolf roads to create a "clear zone" at the end of a runway.

- An ambitious \$95 million expansion.

sion plan at DuPage calling for two new runways, taxiways and the purchase of aviation equipment and 1,600 acres of land. The plan also includes the development of office, retail and industrial space, hotels and a golf course.

That kind of growth in the region is in sharp contrast to a trend that has seen 26 small airports close in the Chicago area since 1945.

The victims were privately-owned facilities that were open for public use, but succumbed to the pressures of lucrative development. The move to find the "highest and best use" of land turned the Elgin Airport into a shopping center and has targeted the 126-acre Howell-Crestwood Airport for a shopping mall, office complex and condominiums this spring.

"There's no way you can justify an airport as the highest and best use of a property. The community does much better with a shopping mall," said Tom Willman, chief aviation planner with the Chicago Area Transportation Study.

Willman, who is heading a CATS study of reliever airports for IDOT, said publicly-owned facilities like Palwaukee, Waukegan and DuPage airports do not have the profit concerns of a private operator. They also have government funding to

help pay for needed improvements.

"We've taken the position that they fill a need and should be maintained," Willman said of the region's reliever airports. "We definitely want to keep them alive and well."

Not everyone shares his support for airport growth.

Residents and community leaders near Palwaukee and DuPage airports have protested noise, safety and air pollution problems — the same concerns raised by homeowners in the suburbs around O'Hare.

"Safety always is a potential problem, although Palwaukee is a relatively safe airport," Prospect Heights Alderman Warren Sunde said. "But as you increase volumes at Palwaukee or O'Hare, there are more planes in the air and you have a potential giant bomb that could take out a half-block of homes."

The proposed DuPage Airport expansion has drawn sharp criticism from neighbors to the west in Geneva, Batavia and St. Charles, where opponents fear the growth only spells future problems.

The airport expansion is expected to increase annual operations at DuPage from the current 221,000 level to 381,000 takeoffs and landings by 2006.

"We hear all the horror stories of

the problems around O'Hare," said Jeff Schielke, the Batavia village president. "The fear here is that by allowing that to occur, we have a real hostile threat toward the quality of life in the Kane County region."

Schielke questioned why DuPage has to expand when there is another nearby reliever airport — Aurora — handling the same kind of flights.

Last week, airport opponents lost a court battle that challenged the constitutionality of state legislation that gave DuPage County sole control over the airport. Another lawsuit challenging the findings of the expansion plan's Environmental Impact Statement is being considered, Schielke said.

But airport officials denied the expansion will be a nuisance. They stressed that an existing runway that now sends flights toward Geneva, St. Charles and Batavia will be replaced by new runways that will direct 92 percent of the flights over a "clear zone" that will extend south to the Fermi Lab property.

James Keleher, the DuPage Airport's director of community relations, said the Environmental Impact Statement showed the expansion would not generate any adverse impact on the surrounding area.

While some airports and their res-

idential neighbors are often at odds, airports and businesses are developing close ties.

DuPage has attracted a strong following from large corporations along the booming East-West Tollway corridor. Although the area also is served by Aurora Airport, Keleher said DuPage is a shorter drive for many company executives. He added that business fliers now account for 75 to 90 percent of DuPage's operation.

Likewise, Waukegan is a big hit with companies in Lake County and Palwaukee.

Officials point to the business and industrial development that has sprung up around their airport as proof of its impact.

A 1987 report by Wichita, Kan.-based Aviation Data Services estimated that 67 percent or 336 of the Fortune 500 Corporations operate business aircraft.

"It's an incredible time-saver," said Henry M. Ogradzinski, director of communications for the General Aviation Manufacturers Association.

Commercial airlines travel to about 400 airports, Ogradzinski said, but there are 6,000 public-use airports in the U.S. Often, a smaller airport is closer to a company's business stop than a major airport.

Part-time employees may get pay hike

Herald - Tues. 3/27/89

By TRUSH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Part-time Wheeling employees may receive a 25 percent pay increase this summer in an effort by the village to attract more summer help.

Robert D. Gray, director of operations and maintenance, is requesting the village board approve raising the current starting pay rate of \$4 an hour to \$5 an hour for the summer employees.

The request, which would cost the village \$4,100 more than last year, comes as part of the annual budget proposal for the operations and maintenance department.

The village board is expected to vote on the proposed \$19.7 million

budget — up 8.4 percent from last year's — at the March 20 board meeting.

With the \$1 increase, beginning workers would be paid \$5 an hour with the rate increasing to \$5.25 an hour for second-year employees and \$5.50 for the third-year workers.

"I don't know if that's sufficient," Gray said. "We were able a couple of years ago to get some good people at \$4 an hour. Hopefully they're still out there at \$5 an hour."

The village hires part-time summer employees to fill in for other village employees during vacations and to help in the extra maintenance work required during the warm months.

Jobs include picking up litter on village property and debris from waterways, working on landscaping, laying sod and mowing lawns.

Gray said the pay raise is needed to bring the 10-year-old rate in the line with current pay for summer employees. Furthermore, he said, in the past the village has had trouble finding workers to fill the jobs.

"(Administrative Assistant) Dave Kowal has had a difficult time getting people to fill the positions," Gray said. "You just don't attract good enough — or that many — people at \$4 an hour."

Now the village will try to hire younger workers who are on summer vacation from high school, he added.

Police force to get more manpower in '89

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

A bigger and better equipped Wheeling police department should be patrolling the village's streets this year.

In a budget given initial approval by village trustees Saturday, the department was given the go ahead to promote an additional sergeant and hire two more patrol officers.

Also included in the budget, which jumped 15 percent over the previous budget, were four new in-car computers that will allow officers on the street to check the records of cars and suspects without having to call into the department.

Although Police Chief Michael F. Haeger reduced his request from buying four to two computers, trustees Saturday made their only amendment to the budget and added the extra computers.

"IT'S VERY important for the police and fire (departments) to have what's within our means," Trustee Judy Abruscato said. "You've got to protect your community."

Overall, the police department is expected to spend \$3.4 million in fiscal year 1989-90, up 15 percent from the 1988-89 budget figure of \$2.9 million and a 36 percent jump from \$2.5 million spent in 1987-88.

Police budget increases are part of a total, \$19.7 million budget trustees are expected to finalize at

their April 3 meeting. Trustees met with staff during Saturday and Monday budget workshop meetings.

The police budget request would have increased even more had several other personnel and equipment requests not been approved. Haeger had requested that two commander posts be added as department supervisors. Those positions would have fallen in between the two deputy chiefs and the eight sergeants. The salary for each position likely would have been about \$45,000.

BUT VILLAGE MANAGER Craig Anderson said those requests, along with two additional patrol officers and a crime prevention officer and a drug education officer, were cut from the proposed budget because of fiscal constraints.

"I couldn't justify adding the additional personnel all at once," Anderson said. "I think we're meeting our needs out on the street right now."

The extra commanders would have allowed the department to undertake special projects and to help the deputy chiefs with their duties, Anderson said.

"I don't want to overwork them," Anderson said, "but on the other hand I'm not so sure we need to add advisory personnel at this point."

EVEN WITH THE approved increases, salaries did account for the largest budget hikes, where the extra sergeant and officers will be joined by an extra radio operator and another part-time records clerk. Over-

all, the department will employ 83 people in 1989-90, five more than the 1988-89 total.

Hiring the additional patrol officers and promoting the sergeants completes a two-year personnel increase in the department. One sergeant and three officers were added in the 1988-89 budget, said Dave Kowal, assistant to the village manager.

There are now 38 patrol officers with the department and six sergeants. Anderson said the department plans to promote two current officers to sergeant following the next round of sergeant candidate testing. According to budget documents, the starting salary for the new patrol officers will be \$27,117. New sergeants will start at approximately \$39,000.

The in-car computers trustees approved will be purchased in cooperation with several other communities as the department tries to improve its on-road patrol system, Haeger said.

CALLED THE AREA-wide law enforcement radio terminal system (ALERTS), the system's main hardware will be bought using monies from participating units. Wheeling, like other departments, would buy their own car terminals.

Using the computers frees up radio time and allows officers quicker access to information in the field, budget documents state.

The board also gave preliminary approval for adding portable radios, car radios and a cellular phone for one of the administrative cars.

Village plays trump card in gambling flap

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Nickle-a-chip poker and quarter-a-person bridge at the Wheeling Pavilion Senior Center has folded.

A month after village officials banned gambling that according to some participants has gone on for months, card players are reverting to a new system complete with village-sponsored prizes for some of the winners.

"It (the prizes) takes away the idea that they may be gambling, which they weren't," senior coordinator Barb Hansen said.

In January, Community Development Director Mike Klitzke banned gambling at the senior center after he discovered that some poker players were gambling. "No gambling" notices are now posted at two entrances to the senior center.

(Continued from page 8)

"It's no fun at all," Storost said. "What (the group) is thinking about is going over to someone's house in the summer."

According to two poker players, before the cash pots were offered by the center, each player would "buy" \$5 worth of 5¢ chips. The highest bet was 10 cents on each hand's last card. After the games, the players would cash in their chips out on the street, away from the senior center.

Saying the poker games are no different than the bingo games the senior center sponsors, Storost said: "That isn't any different than playing for a nickel. I think there should be a little leniency."

NOW, THE POKER games are played with chips that aren't cashed in. And seniors playing contract bridge now win up to \$1.25 in cash prizes for winning the weekly matches.

"You come here to win," Hansen said, "it's a winner's place."

Because some seniors complained that the gambling ban lessened the fun, the prizes were added to the bridge games, Hansen said. The money comes out of the center's program budget.

"It's a compromise," Hansen said of the prizes. "I don't care what they do, as long as no money is exchanged."

BUT NOT EVERYONE is happy with the new rules. Some seniors, including poker player Chuck Storost, said the new rules take some of the fun out of game. Without a potential financial loss or gain, the game has centered more on conversation than gambling.

(Continued on page 74)

BUT KLITZKE SAID earlier that no gambling of any sort would be condoned at the senior center. In a meeting several weeks ago with the poker group, Klitzke told the seniors the village would not tolerate gambling in village facilities.

"It's not allowed, it's not permitted, it's not going to be tolerated," Klitzke said.

Trustee Judy Abruscato last week had asked whether the gambling had been an ongoing problem. Village Manager Craig Anderson, in a memo to trustees, said the matter had been handled and the practice discontinued.

Because of issues related to village personnel, the contents of the memo were not released.

Fold the gambling

Beating the house at its own game has never been easy, whether you're playing black jack in Las Vegas or nickel-a-chip poker at the Wheeling Senior Center.

A group of local seniors, however, some of whom presumably aren't likely to have nicknames like "Deep Pockets," have tried to circumvent this well worn phrase by playing small stakes poker and other games of chance at the senior center.

Now some of these same players are apparently dismayed that the village has taken on the role of the new sheriff in town by ordering all gamblers — small time or otherwise — to fold all card games in which cash is exchanged.

The village's action was understandable, although depressing if you enjoy playing cards and find it tough to get excited about pulling an inside straight with only match sticks in the pot.

What's not so easy to understand is the senior center's new policy of offering its own cash pots of \$1.25 to bridge game winners. The token pots, which the center contends come out of money from fund-raisers held throughout the year, are apparently an inducement to keep players from finding a new watering hole.

This move to bring a new meaning to small stakes gambling may keep players at the tables, but it is only changing the hands the money flows through. The fact that card games are still being played for a cash payoff to the winners is a practice the village shouldn't condone.

New budget calls for sprucing up Wheeling

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

New sidewalks, new carpet, new trees, a new ditch and possibly some new sewers top the list of village spending this year.

In a preliminary 1989-90 budget of \$19.7 million, village trustees have given an informal nod to building new and replacing old sidewalks, replacing the carpet in the village hall, buying land for a flood-averting diversionary channel and possibly spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on sewer improvements dictated by the federal government.

The \$19.7 million budget represents an 8.4 percent increase over the figure budgeted for 1988-89. Before trustees approve the final budget at a April 3 scheduled meeting, the increase could go higher once salaries for 72 non-union employees are set.

MOST OF THE budgeted spending increase is covered by a tax increase that raised tax revenues 17.5 percent. Taxpayers will pay for part of that increase with their 1988 tax bill paid this year.

More than \$170,000 has been budgeted for new sidewalks. Coming from a 1987 capital projects fund, the money will be used to build sidewalks in seven areas. The areas include:

- Twelfth Street, Northgate Parkway to the existing walk on the north.
- East Jeffery Avenue, on the south

side, Park Avenue east to the existing walk.

- **LILAC LANE**, east side, Highland Avenue to Sunrise Drive.
- Dundee Road, south side, Laurel Trail to the village's western limits.
- Highland Avenue, north side, Lilac Lane to Wheeling Avenue.
- The Foxboro Apartments on Wolf Road, north to existing walk on west side.

• **BUFFALO GROVE** Road, north of Tahoe Village, 260 feet to connect with proposed Buffalo Grove sidewalk.

In addition to the new sidewalks, the village is also going to begin replacing deteriorating, sinking and uplifting sidewalks throughout the village. Under a scheduled three-year program, the village will spend \$125,000 this year working on sidewalks in subdivisions Meadowbrook East and West, Old Town and Hollands.

The village will also buy and install 23 new street lights using money from the 1987 fund. They will be added along Wheeling Road, Glenn Avenue, Shepard Avenue and Carpenter Avenue.

Also budgeted was money for land acquisition so the village can continue to pursue a diversionary channel that is expected to lessen village flooding. The channel is expected to take overflow water from the Wheeling Drainage Ditch to the Des Plaines River.

Budget —

(Continued from page 13)

INTENDED TO START where the ditch near Northgate Parkway, north of Dundee Road, the channel will run 8,000 feet north and east to the Des Plaines River, just south of Lake-Cook Road. A bike path is also scheduled to run parallel to the bike path.

While construction and design costs will be borne by the state and federal governments, the village must first buy the land for the diversionary channel. Trustees approved \$240,000 for land acquisition of channel easements.

One of the biggest expenditures came in the water and sewer budget where the village is scheduled to spend more than \$1.424 million on checking the village sanitary sewer system and on making improvements.

Because of guidelines set by the Metropolitan Sanitary District (MSD), now the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC) the village must make sure no rain water runoff is infiltrating the village's sanitary sewer system.

AS PART OF the federal Clean Water Act, the MSD required its constituent members to limit the amount of excess water it sent to the MSD for treatment. A previous survey found the village still had not met the criteria and another has been scheduled for this fall.

The village has already spent \$4.5 million on public sewer replacement and repair. Another \$500,000 could be spent on village manholes and sewers if the study doesn't turn up the illegal sump pump taps that Gray suspects is keeping the village above the required outflows.

If the sump pumps are the culprits and efforts are made to ensure they are disconnected from the sewer system, Gray said the \$500,000 might not be spent.

Flood control sewers have also been scheduled for construction near the Lakeside Villas townhome development off Hintz Road. The village has set aside \$225,000 for the construction of the sewer that is expected to alleviate flooding in the Lakeside Villas subdivision that was hit hard during heavy rains in August, 1987.

ANOTHER HIGHLIGHTED budget item is new carpet for the village hall and the operations and maintenance building. Because the current carpet was put down over the original, rolling chairs and heavy traffic have torn up the carpet, said Bob Gray, director of operations and maintenance.

Gray said the carpet must be replaced because it cannot be cleaned, and has a tendency to roll up, causing

Officer pleads not guilty to gambling charge

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Police Officer Richard R. Imber — accused of illegal gambling by Police Chief Michael F. Haeger — pleaded not guilty Thursday to the charges.

Village fire and police commissioners listened late Thursday as Imber described his drunken state during the three nights he is accused of gambling. The charges, which include bets on poker, liar's poker and backgammon, stemmed from three separate incidents that occurred between last May and Jan. 6.

"I didn't see or think it was that wrong at the time," Imber said, admitting to participating in the

two games. "I was intoxicated. I had nothing better to do than drink and play liar's poker."

Haeger recommended to the commission that Imber, 35, be dismissed from the police department. He has been on leave without pay since Feb. 16.

The commission rejected a motion by Imber's attorney, Noel B. Wroblewski, to dismiss the charges because of Imber's alcohol-related problems. Imber, of Deerfield, recently had been released from an alcohol treatment center, Wroblewski said.

The most recent alleged incident took place Jan. 6 when Imber was arrested by an undercover Cook County Sheriff's Police officer after Imber was involved in an argu-

ment at Vivian Lee's, a Wheeling restaurant-lounge.

Imber said he was at the restaurant that night, playing backgammon with a friend after he had drunk up to 24 beers during the six hours he was there. The pair played the game and kept score by tracking how much money each owed but had not intended to make any payments, Imber said. After the two began squabbling, the undercover officer, who was on duty at the restaurant, arrested Imber. Haeger is also charging Imber with battery, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Haeger charged Imber gambled on liar's poker on May 5 and also was involved with a poker game on Oct. 17 at Vivian Lee's.

Budget —

(Continued from page 13)

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ANOTHER HIGHLIGHTED budget item is new carpet for the village hall and the operations and maintenance building. Because the current carpet was put down over the original, rolling chairs and heavy traffic have torn up the carpet, said Bob Gray, director of operations and maintenance.

Gray said the carpet must be replaced because it cannot be cleaned and has a tendency to roll up, causing safety problems. The village has agreed to spend \$26,260 on carpeting this year, with plans tentatively set to carpet the police and fire departments next year.

Also included in the capital outlay and capital improvement funds of the building and vehicle maintenance budget are provisions to replace some village furnaces and two heating and air conditioning units.

The village also expects to spend \$10,000 for electrical work in front of village hall so holiday lights can be installed. Part of the \$10,000 will also go toward purchasing the lights.

TREES ALSO PIQUED the interest of the village, as \$25,500 was set aside for tree and stump removal, tree trimming and tree spraying. Another \$10,000 was set aside for replacing dead trees and those removed during right-of-way construction.

Police budget calls for 14.5 percent hike

Overtime and new officers pay cause increase

Herald - Sat. MAR. 4, 1989

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Overtime pay and salaries for new employees in the Wheeling police department accounts for most of the 14.5 percent increase in the department's \$3.4 million proposed spending plan for next year.

The police department, which employs 67 full-time workers — the most in the village — has expanded to accommodate growth in the area, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

"We're experiencing more calls for service as the village grows, and we're experiencing more traffic coming through the village," Anderson said. "Everytime they construct a new building, it brings more traffic to the village."

Overtime pay, which is up 25 percent, or \$36,150 from last year, covers salary costs for officers who work beyond regularly scheduled work shifts. Several village events, such as the Memorial Day Parade, Family Fest/Fourth of July Parade and Fireworks, Wheeling High School's homecoming parade and

New Year's Eve, require additional police officers for security and controlling crowds and drinking-related incidents.

The after-shift pay would increase next year, because it is based on officers' experience and salary. In addition, Anderson is recommending the police department hire another sergeant to enhance shift supervision and a radio operator to handle the increased volume of police calls.

Salary costs, which include pay for new employees and raises for experienced employees, may increase by 11 percent, or \$231,760 from last

year.

Anderson rejected Police Chief Michael F. Haeger's request for two additional shift commanders and four police officers.

"It's just kind of a matter of making some choices," Anderson said. "I'm reluctant to add personnel unless I'm really, thoroughly convinced they're needed. I don't want to be top-heavy with people."

Village trustees are expected to vote on the entire \$19.7 million village budget at a April 3 board meeting.

Wheeling woman disappears

Sat. 3/4/89 - Herald

By JIM MONTALBANO
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling police are searching for a 45-year-old woman who vanished Thursday afternoon sometime after leaving her home for a banking errand.

"We do not consider her disappearance voluntary," Wheeling Chief Michael Haeger said Friday night. "We are very concerned about her well-being."

Joanne Bryowsky had lunch with her husband, daughter and granddaughter in the family home on Briarwood Drive in Wheeling Thursday afternoon. She left at 12:45 p.m. to stop at the Bank of Mount Prospect in the Randhurst shopping center and return to work in Niles.

But police say no one at the bank recalled seeing her and there is no record of a transaction. She never returned to work.

Bryowsky was planning to withdraw enough money to buy a television for another daughter, a student



Joanne Bryowsky

at Illinois State University, and to pay for a trip to Normal this weekend for her and her husband to surprise the daughter on her birthday.

Police said Bryowsky was wearing a dark blue blouse, grey wool skirt, a long grey coat and grey knee-high boots. Her car, a maroon 1986 Chevrolet Cavalier two-door

coupe with license plate DR 4229, also vanished. Bryowsky is described as 5 feet, 2 inches tall, 180 pounds, with blonde hair and blue eyes.

Michael Bryowsky and her three daughters say Joanne always would check in to notify the close-knit family of her whereabouts.

"If she goes next door, she calls and tells us she's next door. If she goes to the mall, she stops off and calls," he said. "It's like a big hole swallowed her up. She just disappeared."

"She would call me four times a day just to check on her granddaughter," added daughter Cheryl Motyka. "I knew right away something was wrong."

Haeger said there is no evidence of marital or family strife or problems at work.

"We have run out of any further information that we can follow up on. That is why we are making this appeal." Anyone with information is being asked to call the Wheeling police at 459-2632.

Police officer found guilty of gambling

Sat., Mar. 4, 1989

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A 10-year veteran of the Wheeling Police Department could be fired now that he has been found guilty of gambling and battery by the village's fire and police commission.

Richard R. Imber, 35, admitted to two gambling charges brought by Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger. Imber said his "frame of mind wasn't in the right place" during the incidents because he was intoxicated.

"I knew it wasn't the right thing to do," Imber said, "but I wasn't aware it was the wrong thing. I had too much to drink, and I didn't feel there was any problem with it. I thought I could play a couple of hands and leave."

The charges, which include bets on poker, liar's poker and backgammon, stem from three separate incidents occurring between last May and Jan. 6 at Vivian Lee's, a Wheeling restaurant/lounge at 604 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Haeger has charged Imber with violating police codes rather than with any criminal acts. Haeger is recommending the Deerfield resident, who had been in an alcohol treatment center from Jan. 12 to Feb. 9, be dismissed from the police department.

Commissioners listened to more than seven hours of testimony Thursday night and early Friday morning before reaching a verdict. Imber was found guilty of gambling and battery, but the three-member commission acquitted him of a third charge of gambling, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct.

A hearing to determine Imber's punishment is set for 8:30 p.m. March 16 in the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. Until then, Imber, a former Cook County Sheriff's Police correctional officer, will remain on leave without pay from the police department. His annual salary is \$34,812.

During the most recent incident on Jan. 6, Imber testified he was at Vivian Lee's playing backgammon with a friend, Richard Chee, the general

See OFFICER on Page 3

OFFICER: Found guilty of illegal gambling, battery

MAR. 4, 1989

Continued from Page 1

manager of the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant in Wheeling.

In the six hours he was at the restaurant, Imber said he drank up to 24 drinks when he and Chee began arguing over who was winning the game. Although the pair made bets as a means of keeping score, they never intended to pay the stakes that reached as high as \$40,000, Imber and Chee testified.

After a squabble broke out, Imber was arrested by two undercover Cook County Sheriff's Police investigators, who were on duty at the lounge. Wheeling police had in-

formed the county vice unit of the possibility of gambling taking place at the lounge, the investigators testified.

Prior to Jan. 6, Imber admitted to gambling in a poker game Oct. 17 at the lounge after Elmhurst police questioned Imber as to why a \$150 check of his was found in possession of a person they had arrested. Imber testified he was drunk and lost the money in a poker game Oct. 17.

On May 5, Imber said he was intoxicated at Vivian Lee's and played liar's poker, a game which involves betting on serial numbers on dollar bills.

Village orders trash bins for group

Herald-Sunday, Mar 5, 1989

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The first Wheeling homeowner's association will join the village's new recycling program.

As a result, the village now must order an additional 500 orange bins for the residents in the Harmony Village subdivision, north of Hintz Road off Wolf Road.

Village trustees recently approved buying \$4,000 of the plastic 14.5 gallon containers from Rehrig Pacific Co. in Gurnee. The bins, which

resemble laundry baskets, will hold discarded paper, aluminum and glass.

The village is picking up the \$19,400 tab for the first batch of containers and will likely pay the \$2,425 for the additional bins. Trustees are expected to vote on the request Monday night.

A state grant for which the village has applied for may cover half of the cost of the containers, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

The bins, which were chosen by trustees for their bright color, are

expected to be delivered to residences at the end of next month.

All homeowners in Wheeling who already have curbside garbage pick-up can participate in the program, which will start May 1. Homeowners associations may join the program if residents in complexes have curbside trash pick-up.

Although Harmony Village Homeowners Association was the first group to agree to help the village's efforts to reduce the amount of trash hauled to landfills, village officials still are encouraging other groups to

join.

Village officials also are considering setting up a drop-off center near the village hall for apartment dwellers to bring their recyclable items.

Although garbage now is hauled twice a week, the recycling bins will be picked up by Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal on only one of the regular hauling days.

Residents will be charged an additional \$1 a month on their garbage bills for the recycling program.

Wheeling police continue search for missing woman

By DAVE OLSEN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

3-5-89

Wheeling police continued to search for clues Saturday in the disappearance of a 45-year-old woman who never returned from running an errand Thursday.

Joanne M. Bryowsky had lunch with her husband, daughter and granddaughter then left the family home on Briarwood Drive in Wheeling for the Bank of Mount Prospect at the Randhurst Shopping Center.

No bank transactions were made and Bryowsky never returned to her job in Niles, police said.

Bryowsky had planned to withdraw money for a trip with her husband to visit another daughter, a student at Illinois State University in Normal.

Gary O'Rourke, Wheeling deputy police chief, said Bryowsky's family was preparing to circulate flyers Saturday in hopes someone may have seen the woman after 12:45 p.m. Thursday.

O'Rourke said police did "all the normal things" to trace the woman's steps. Police interviewed neighbors, family members and co-workers in hopes of gaining a clue.

In addition, O'Rourke said a notice was sent out to all police agencies about the missing woman and the car she was driving, a maroon 1986 Chevrolet Cavalier two-door coupe



Joanne M. Bryowsky

with license plate DR 4229.

Michael Bryowsky and his three daughters say Joanne always would notify the family of her whereabouts.

"We do not consider her disappearance voluntary," said Police Chief Michael Haeger. "We are very concerned about her well-being."

"Right now we're at a loss until someone comes forward with some new leads," O'Rourke said.

Bryowsky was wearing a dark blue blouse, gray wool skirt, a long gray coat and gray knee-high boots.

Anyone with information is asked to call Wheeling police at 459-2632.

Wheeling woman found safe in New Orleans

Herald, Monday, 3/6/89

By LARRY SMITH
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A 45-year-old Wheeling woman whose disappearance Thursday set off a police search was found unharmed Sunday in New Orleans.

Joanne M. Bryowsky contacted her family early Sunday morning, apparently unaware of the search and the publicity surrounding her disappearance, said Deputy Chief Lawrence Herzog, Park Ridge Police.

"Earlier reports of her abduction

are unfounded," Herzog said. "She left Thursday of her own volition and parked her car in a parking lot in Park Ridge. The disappearance involved personal emotional problems."

The Bryowsky family, who declined to comment Sunday night, are arranging for her trip back to Wheeling, Herzog said.

"The Bryowsky family is obviously happy that she's alive and well," Herzog said.

After she left her car in the parking lot of Dominick's Finer Foods at

Cumberland Avenue and Higgins Road, she took a Greyhound bus to Louisville, Ky. and then took another bus to New Orleans. Mrs. Bryowsky was interviewed by members of the FBI, the New Orleans Police Department and Amtrak security.

After Mrs. Bryowsky called, her family called the Wheeling Police who contacted Park Ridge police.

"The Wheeling Police called us at 9 a.m. and asked us to look for the car in a parking lot," Herzog said.

Mrs. Bryowsky had lunch Thurs-

day, with her husband, Michael, daughter and granddaughter before she disappeared. Her family believed she left the family home on Briarwood Drive in Wheeling for the Bank of Mount Prospect at the Randhurst Shopping Center.

No bank transactions were made and Mrs. Bryowsky did not return to work.

The family said she had planned to withdraw money for a trip with her husband to visit another daughter, a student at Illinois State University in Normal.

Herald

Officials garner recycling support

Wed., March 8, 1989

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Although only one Wheeling homeowners association already has agreed to join the village's recycling program, village officials are encouraging the rest of the 12 eligible subdivisions to jump on the bandwagon.

Village trustees last month awarded a bid to a Gurnee company to deliver 4,000 plastic containers to use for the recycling program, set to begin May 1. The bins will hold discarded paper, aluminum and glass.

Now the trustees have approved ordering an additional 500 orange bins for residents in the Harmony Village subdivision to use in the re-

cycling program. The project is the village's effort to reduce the amount of trash hauled to landfills.

Administrative Assistant David Kowal said he has contacted all 12 of the homeowners associations which have curbside garbage pick-up.

"At this point a lot of them have expressed interest in the program," Kowal said.

Only those homeowners that have curbside pick-up, such as residents in houses, condominiums and town houses, may join the project. Apartment dwellers typically dump trash in large dumpsters, which hold trash for several units in a complex.

Some of the homeowners association representatives said they want

to wait to join the program when the associations' fiscal year begins because each subdivision gets one bill for the whole complex, Kowal said.

The village is picking up the \$21,825 tab for the orange, 14.5-gallon bins in hopes of being reimbursed through a state grant for half of the cost. Residents will be charged an additional \$1 a month on their garbage bills for the recycling program.

Although garbage now is picked up twice a week, the recycling bins will be collected by Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal on only one of the regular hauling days.

The subdivisions may join the program at any time, Kowal said, but it could take a couple of weeks to order additional bins.

Herald, Wed. 3/8/89

Trustees hike own salary, cut clerk's pay

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Salaries for Wheeling trustees will increase 25 percent next month while the village clerk's annual pay will decrease by 38 percent.

Village trustees also set the village president's salary at \$4,000 a year, up from \$3,000 a year.

Although the pay increases will affect only those village board members elected on or after April 4, this year's race is uncontested and all candidates except the village clerk are incumbents.

Annual salaries for the three trustees up for re-election — William Rogers, Elizabeth Hartman and Joseph Ratajczak — will in-

crease from \$1,200 a year to \$1,500 a year. Ratajczak voted against the move.

"No one's up here to get rich," Ratajczak said. "I don't see where it makes a lot of difference. What's the difference if it's \$5 or \$10? It's a minuscule amount. It can't mean a lot to an individual."

Trustees Rogers, Hartman, Anthony Altieri, Jr., Judy Abruscato and James Whittington approved the measure to adjust salaries, which have been the same since 1976.

"There's no way to judge it fairly," Rogers said of board members' pay. "Some trustees put a lot of hours in and some don't."

Pay for the part-time village clerk's position will decrease from

\$4,800 a year to \$3,000 a year. The elected clerk position is a "holdover" from when the clerk had more duties, said Village President Sheila H. Schultz, who is running unopposed in April.

Village Clerk Janet M. D'Argo did not object, saying many of the clerk's administrative tasks have been absorbed by village staff members. The clerk now is responsible for taking minutes at board meetings, keeping records and witnessing signatures, D'Argo added.

Last November, voters rejected changing the clerk's job to a full-time appointed position — a move that would have saved the village money because the job could have been taken by existing staff members, village officials said.

Officials don't foresee road repair detours

Herald, Fri. 3-10-89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Spring road repairs in Wheeling are not likely to pose any major changes in normal traffic patterns, village officials say.

In addition to a lack of road detours, construction beginning in spring on the major county-owned roadways should be finished by the end of summer, village Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said.

Work on village-owned streets will start in July and be finished by the end of summer, said Scott Shirley, assistant director of operations and maintenance.

The 1989 village street improvement program allows for Wheeling

to spend up to \$400,000 from state motor fuel taxes to repair streets.

Targeted for repairs are Foster Avenue, the industrial street, which will be reconstructed with new curbs and pavement and Old Willow Road, from Wolf Road to Foster Avenue, and 7th Street from Glendale Avenue north to the dead end. Both roads will be patched.

Major county projects, paid for by the county, include widening Hintz and Wheeling roads to accommodate increased traffic on the thoroughfares. Both roads will be widened to four lanes with left-turn lanes.

Hintz Road will be widened from Wheeling Road to Wolf Road. The west half of the Wheeling

Road project, which runs from Hintz to Palatine roads, was completed last summer. The village plans to take over maintenance of the road from the county once repairs are finished there.

None of the work should cause traffic detours, Shirley said. However, the county roads may be temporarily channeled to single lanes during construction, Klitzke said. Although last summer's drought helped keep repairs on schedule, most of the county work for this year is a continuation of repairs started last summer.

"There shouldn't be nearly the impact there was last summer because most of the work is done," Klitzke said. "It made for a good construction season."

Liquor license approved

Picnickers visiting the Circle M day camp in Wheeling should be able to legally knock down a few beers this summer.

Village trustees Monday called for the creation of a special license for the camp to allow a caterer to serve beer at company picnics held on weekends during the summer.

Circle M's owner approached the village about the permit after learning one was required to sell alcohol, even though individual patrons don't buy the suds. The caterer told trustees, acting as the Wheeling liquor commission, that companies buy the food and drink from Standard Entertainment Services, which then distributes the refreshments.

The day camp, which has operated under current ownership since 1956, is located on five acres off Hintz Road, west of Wolf Road. The beer will be served only to adult weekend picnickers, officials said.

Trustees approve restaurant

Wheeling is getting a new restaurant.

Trustees Monday approved a liquor license for the Golden Chef Restaurant, scheduled to open in mid March. The new owners are taking over the building now occupied by Prima Pasta restaurant at 600 S. Milwaukee Ave.

At a hearing of the Wheeling liquor commission, which is made up of the village trustees, the commissioners approved the license pending a background check on the owners.

Wheeling cop is found guilty of gambling

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

3-9-89
Courtesy
Richard Imber was, by his own account, drunk the night of Oct. 17 last year. He said his vision of right and wrong was blurred by the 16 to 24 whiskey and sodas he had over the course of the evening.

After the Buffalo Bills crushed the New York Jets in the Monday night football game broadcast on the lounge television at Vivian Lee's restaurant, Imber began walking around the Milwaukee Avenue bar. It was a place where when he ordered of "the usual", it meant a glass of Canadian Club and 7-Up.

When the offer came from three strangers to play poker in a booth, the fact that Imber was a Wheeling police officer, albeit an off duty one, didn't dissuade him from playing for about 45 minutes, and losing more than \$160.

"I knew it wasn't the right thing to do, but I didn't think it was the wrong thing to do, either," Imber said last Thursday during testimony at an administrative hearing that could result in his firing. "I had been drinking

(Continued from page 5)

pair, who were standing near the bar, and showed him his Cook County Sheriff's Police star and identification. He said Imber then took a swing at him, leading to all three ending up on the floor in a struggle. Wleczorek said he then handcuffed Imber, even though the Wheeling officer was struggling with him.

BUT IMBER SAID, in testimony drawn out by his attorney Noel Wroblewski, that Wleczorek never showed his identification badge. Wroblewski said Imber couldn't be guilty of resisting arrest since he did not know Wleczorek was a county sheriff.

"I never saw a Cook County star (sheriff's ID) before tonight," Imber said. Under cross examination by Steve Culliton, Haeger's attorney, Imber said he thought the officers were lying. "I never saw his badge until this evening. I'm saying they're lying, yes sir."

If anyone started the struggle, Imber said it was Wleczorek, who he said came up to him and Chee in a threatening manner. Imber said he thought Wleczorek was going to strike either him or Chee. "When somebody that tall comes up and stands inches away from you, you get that kind of feeling," Imber said.

Wroblewski called the deputies a pair of "covert cowboys" and said their actions were inappropriate. He said their testimony was wrong and that they corroborated their story to cover up a bad arrest.

"**WHAT WE** have here is two covert cowboys playing Clint Eastwood in a

for quite an extended period of time."

FOR HIS ADMITTED participation in the Oct. 17 poker game, Imber was found guilty of violating police department rules that forbid officers from breaking federal, state and village laws - in this case, gambling - and that he had broken department rules that call for officers to enforce the law.

After hearing more than seven hours of testimony during which attorneys clashed often over the facts of the case, members of the Wheeling Board of Fire and Police Commissioners also found Imber guilty of playing liar's poker at Vivian Lee's on May 5, 1988 and with battery during a Jan. 6, 1989 incident at the same location. The game is similar to poker, but is played using the serial numbers on U.S. currency.

But the board found that Imber, of Deerfield, was not guilty Jan. 6 of playing backgammon for money, of disorderly conduct or that he had resisted his arrest by two undercover Cook County Sheriff Department officers.

In a marathon administrative hearing that began last Thursday night and stretched until early Friday morning,

tavern," Wroblewski said during his closing remarks, "and he's going to go over there and clean up this town."

But Culliton said Imber's recollection was obscured by the amount of alcohol he had consumed. While the deputies said they had had two drinks during the 40 minutes they were in the bar, Imber admitted to drinking between three and five drinks an hour since he had arrived at 4 p.m. The incident with the sheriff's deputies occurred about 11 p.m.

During closing remarks, Culliton told the board that although Imber told the deputies they couldn't "(mess) with him, (because) this is my town," the board should find Imber guilty because he had gambled in public and had failed to stop it.

"And it strikes me that the approach that officer Imber has taken is almost glib in respect to these activities, like it's no big deal . . .," Culliton said. "The big deal is he's committing a crime. We have an officer of this department who is sworn to uphold the laws that is doing exactly the opposite in the face of the very citizenry of the village by which he is employed."

"**IT'S NOT** his town, it is your town. And the people who live here's town. That's whose town it is," Culliton said.

With Commissioner Maurice Weilauf dissenting, the board found that Imber was not guilty of resisting arrest, or of playing backgammon for money on Jan. 6. The board did find him guilty of pushing Chee, but found him not guilty of disorderly conduct.

The board also found Imber guilty of playing liar's poker on May 5, 1988 and of playing poker last October. Imber

commissioners heard testimony on the six charges against Imber. Police Chief Michael F. Haeger has charged that Imber violated department rules on three occasions dating to May 5, 1988.

AFTER THE HEARING, Imber quietly shook the hands of the more than 15 police department officers and friends who stayed until the hearing ended just after 2:20 a.m.

The fire and police board will determine Imber's punishment at a March 16 hearing.

According to Haeger, the administrative hearing will be the final step in the case and that Imber will not face any criminal charges. In a petition to the fire and police board filed in January, Haeger said Imber's charges could lead to his firing.

Imber will remain suspended without pay until at least the March 16 hearing. He was originally placed on administrative leave, with pay, from Jan. 7 until the fire and police board decided Feb. 16 to continue the hearing to last Thursday. At that time, the board moved to suspend Imber without pay.

admitted to both, but denied the charges as they were written by Haeger. Wroblewski said his client's judgment was impaired by his alcohol consumption.

At the start of the hearing, Wroblewski called for dismissal of the charges, claiming that Haeger and the department were discriminating against Imber, who he said was an alcoholic. Wroblewski said all of

THE POLICE CHIEF first levied the charges at a Jan. 17 hearing, in which the six charges were outlined in a petition to the board. Imber was initially suspended Jan. 7, the day after Imber allegedly took a swing at an undercover Cook County Sheriff's deputy. The exchange took place at Vivian Lee's after the deputy and his partner tried to arrest Imber after watching him and a friend get into an argument that led to pushing.

During the trial-like hearing, it was the Jan. 6 incident that drew the most debate. The deputies, as witnesses for Haeger, said that they saw Imber engage in a shouting match over a backgammon game, and then push his opponent over a table.

Imber was allegedly trying to find out how much he owed Richard Chee, a friend with whom Imber was playing the game, deputies said. After watching and listening from the bar, Deputy Wayne Wleczorek said he and his partner decided to intervene to make sure Chee was not injured.

Wleczorek said he walked up to the
(Continued on page 26)

Imber's action related to his alcohol problem, and that charging him for those actions constituted discrimination against someone with a handicap.

ACCORDING TO WROBLEWSKI, Imber admitted himself to the Parkside Lodge Jan. 12 and stayed in the inpatient center until his release Feb. 9. Wroblewski said Imber is now attending Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

Trustees okay raises for themselves, Schultz

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

3-9-89
Courtesy
Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz will get a raise from \$3,000 to \$4,000 a year April 5, while the new village clerk will find her salary, previously \$4,800 a year, cut to \$3,000.

Trustees Monday agreed to a salary "adjustment" for elected officials, calling for a 33 percent raise for the village president and a pay boost for trustees while cutting the clerk's salary. The salaries had not been changed since 1976, Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

Until Monday, trustees earned \$1,200 a year. Those trustees elected April 4 - all of the incumbents are running unopposed - will get a raise to \$1,500 a year. Trustees in the middle of their terms won't receive the raise unless they win reelection in 1991.

Trustee Elizabeth Hartman, who is running for reelection in April, said the board had considered the raise often, but had never enacted it. At the board's Feb. 25 budget session, the issue was rekindled, with the above amounts suggested, Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

"**WE'VE TALKED** about this for so many years and we've never done anything about it," Hartman said. She lauded Schultz for her efforts as village president. "I certainly felt \$3,000 (for

the president) was inadequate."

Gauging by comments from previous clerks and current Clerk Janet D'Argo, Trustee Bill Rogers said the board felt the time invested by the part-time clerk did not warrant the \$4,800 salary.

But even though the board's action means four of the current members will receive the raise, Rogers defended the timing of the move.

"This was an opportune time to bring about the adjustment," he said.

D'ARGO IS NOT seeking reelection. Trustees Rogers, Hartman, Joe Ratajczak and Schultz selected Lois Gaffke to join them on the Wheeling Independent party's April 4 ticket as clerk. Gaffke now serves on the village zoning appeals board.

Ratajczak was the only trustee to oppose the pay hike. He said the hike was too drastic to be enacted all at once. Calling the board members volunteers, Ratajczak said trustees should be happy with the current salary.

He said that any remuneration should be considered a thank you for village service. The argument that the raise was long in coming didn't dissuade Ratajczak from his thinking.

"I don't think that makes any difference," he said. "If you don't like that, you take care of it every year and when you do it, take care of it with an increase (that) is palatable."

Herald 3/14/89

Chief to flip pancakes to raise funds

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's top cop — armed with a pancake flipper in one hand and a potholder in the other — will take his place by the griddle next weekend at the first fund-raiser for this year's Fourth of July celebration.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger will be serving up the hotcakes at the Eighth Annual Pancake Breakfast, the first of several fund-raisers planned over the next few months. The proceeds from the fund-raisers

go to pay for the main attraction of the Independence Day event — the parade.

The breakfast, sponsored by the Wheeling Lion's Club, will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 18 at the Chevy Chase Clubhouse, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave.

During the breakfast, orders will be taken for helium-filled balloons for Mother's Day — another new effort to raise money.

Three pink and white heart-shaped silver balloons, imprinted with the words, "I Love You," can be pur-

chased for \$10. The bouquet may be picked up Mother's Day at the Am-Vets Hall in Wheeling.

Other fund-raisers will be announced as they come up, but organizer Judy Abruscato said the Fourth of July Committee is working to make this year's celebration the best one the village has ever had. The committee meets at 8 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Am-Vets hall and volunteers are needed, Abruscato said.

Organizers say they are on their way to reaching their goal with the

recent confirmation of the Illinois State Police Fife and Drum Band to march in the parade.

"This is a miracle," Abruscato said. "We can never usually get bands because they're so busy. We'll have five bands and we usually have three or four."

Organizers are encouraging more participants to enter floats in the parade rather than decorated cars. Parade participants will carry red, white and blue balloons in keeping with this year's theme of "Stars and Stripes Forever."



A draining day

Lillian Courtney, top, helps donor, Mike Hoffman, of Wheeling, with his blood donation. On bottom, Mary Hafertepe, of LifeSource, checks the blood flow of donor Dan Adams, Wheeling's village health officer and coordinator of a recent blood drive sponsored by the Wheeling Jaycees.

Daily Herald Photo/Rich Chapman



Officials: Theater site ideal for ditch

Herald-Thurs. 3-16-89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The drainage ditch that runs through Palwaukee Municipal Airport should be rerouted through an old drive-in theater on Milwaukee Avenue, some airport officials say.

Wheeling Drainage Ditch must be moved because it runs too close to the airport's main runway and places too many restrictions on developing property around it.

In addition, if the ditch were left where it is now, several bridges would need to be built over the stream because the ditch also hinders traffic at the airport.

The creek now runs south from Hintz Road and east of Wolf Road through the airport.

It crosses Milwaukee Avenue into the Cook County Forest Preserve and empties into the Des Plaines River.

By moving the ditch south of the former Twin Drive-In Theater, members of the airport commission's engineering committee say they could save the \$1.2 million it would cost to build the bridges.

The stream would run through the least amount of forest preserve property with that move.

The engineering committee has been studying several alternatives to relocating the ditch.

The two committee members, Anthony Altieri Jr. of Wheeling and Jim Nickels of Prospect Heights, are expected to make the

recommendation to the airport commission next week.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which own the airport, must agree on the ditch's new location.

Wheeling officials had opposed moving it to the theater because the property, which could be incorporated into Wheeling, would then be part of the airport property.

However, Altieri said he hopes the commission would agree to buy the entire theater site, use what land is needed for the ditch and then sell the remaining land for stores.

Relocating the ditch through the theater "seems like the most functional, feasible and cost-effective" alternative, Altieri said.

Horizon doubles funding request

Herald-Trib. 3/17/89

By DAN COIT
Daily Herald Correspondent

Horizon Children's Center is requesting twice as much money as it received last year from the Wheeling village board because the number of Wheeling families using the center has doubled since then.

Horizon president Chuck Schramm is asking for \$25,000 for the center, which provides day care for children.

"We're asking for roughly double what we had last year," Schramm said. "About half the children in subsidized care are from the Wheeling area."

In 1988, 232 Wheeling residents used Horizon, while this year's participants average about 74 residents per month, Schramm said.

"The problem has been the subsidies we get from the Department of Children and Family Services are less than we would get from full-paying parents," he said.

Non-subsidized families pay between \$135 and \$145 per child per week for the day care. Subsidized families, a group Schramm called "the working poor," pay another amount based on family income.

"The difference is either they can stay at home and go on welfare or else go to work and bring in a paycheck, and the child develops a work

ethic," Schramm said. "There are a lot more people in that position today."

Meanwhile, several other local agencies also are requesting increases in funding from the village.

Shelter, Inc. is suggesting a \$200 increase from the \$4,400 funded last year. The Salvation Army is seeking a \$1,000 increase, which would bring the request to \$6,000, and Resource Center for the Elderly is requesting \$1,300, or a \$300 increase from last year.

The largest request, from Omni Youth Services, is \$61,000, up \$2,750 from last year. A Safe Place, which did not request funding last year, is asking for \$3,000 this year.

Representatives from the agencies say the larger requests are the result of increases in the number of Wheeling residents using the centers.

J. Harry Wells, executive director of Omni Youth Services, said a changing family structure and increased education have added to his agency's workload.

"The number of single-parent families is on the rise," Wells said. "The pressures of drug and alcohol are increasing. We have more young people referring their friends, which means there is an increased awareness."

Wheeling village trustees will consider the requests next month.

Officer's punishment hearing is delayed

Herald 3/17/89 - Fri.

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A hearing to determine the punishment for a Wheeling police officer found guilty of gambling and battery by the village's fire and police commission has been continued to next month.

Richard R. Imber, 35, was found guilty March 3 of battery and two gambling charges brought by Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger. Imber admitted to charges and said he was intoxicated at the time of the incidents.

The charges, which include bets on poker, liar's poker and backgammon, stem from three separate incidents occurring between last May and Jan. 6 at Vivian

Lee's, a Wheeling restaurant/lounge at 604 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Haeger is recommending Imber, who has been in an alcohol treatment center from Jan. 12 to Feb. 9, be dismissed from the police department. Haeger charged Imber, a 10-year veteran of the department, with violating police codes rather than any criminal acts.

The three-member commission acquitted the Deerfield resident of a third charge of gambling, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct.

A commission hearing set for last night was continued to 6:30 p.m. April 3 because a family medical emergency arose for Haeger's attorney, Steven Culliton.

Until then, Imber will remain on leave without pay from the police

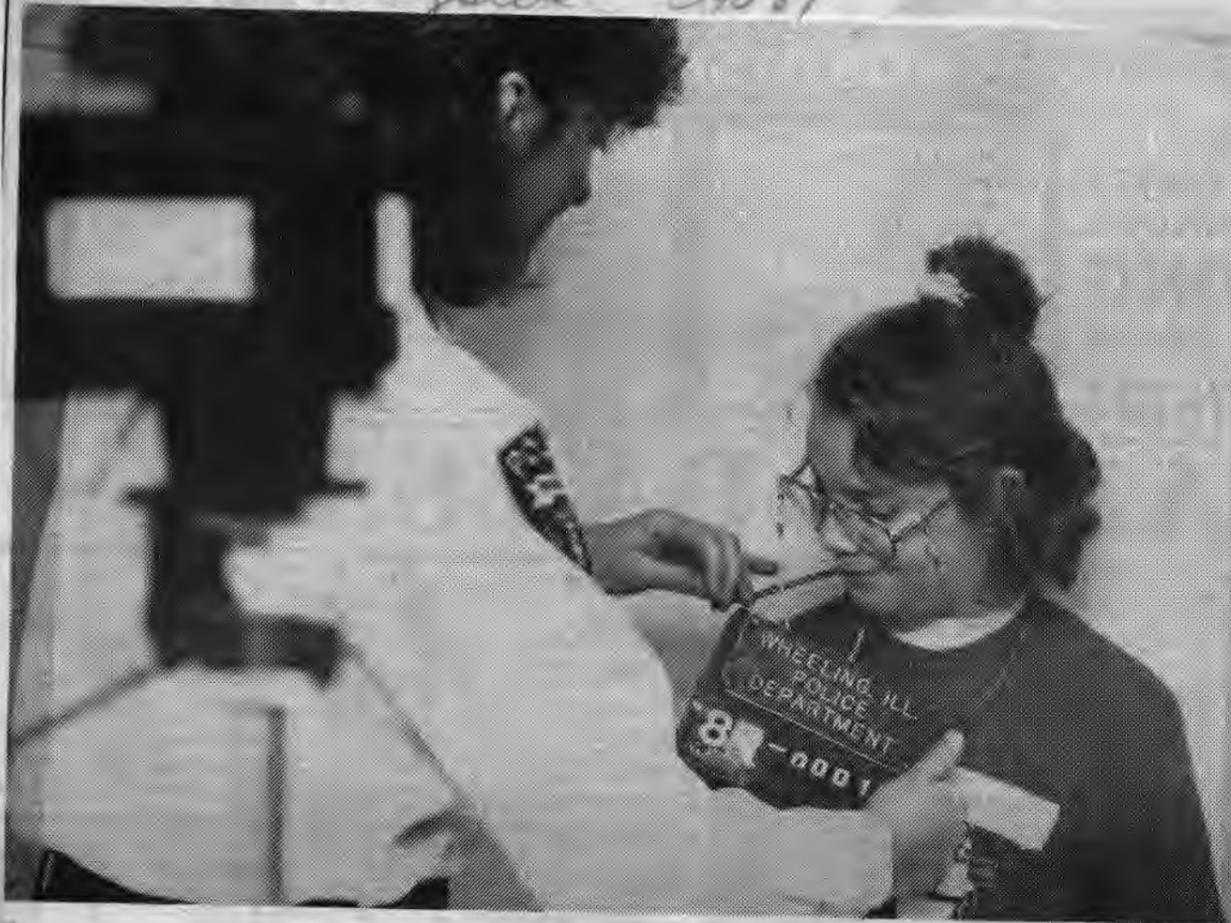
department, a status he has been on since Feb. 16. His annual salary is \$34,812.

During the most recent incident on Jan. 6, Imber testified he was at Vivian Lee's playing backgammon with a friend, and the two kept score by making bets. But they never intended to pay the stakes that reached as high as \$40,000, Imber testified.

In the six hours he was at the lounge, Imber said he drank up to 24 drinks when a fight broke out. He was arrested by two undercover Cook County Sheriff's investigators, who were at Vivian Lee's.

On the prior incidents, Imber admitted to gambling in a poker game Oct. 17 and a game of liar's poker on May 5 at the lounge.

Courtesy 3/16/89



Learning the law

A French foreign exchange student visiting the Wheeling Village Hall last Thursday prepares to get her mug shot taken while checking out the police department. (Staff photo by Kathy Tray)

Changes in store at Palwaukee?

International flights could start new custom

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Courtesy 3-16-89

The international jet set could be landing in Wheeling directly from the world's fashion, social and industrial centers.

Plans are being considered to add a U.S. Customs agent at Palwaukee Municipal Airport as pilots hope to save time and money on incoming international flights that now have to be deferred to Milwaukee, O'Hare or Midway before they fly into Wheeling.

"Having customs at the airport could be a really big boon for the airport and the community," said Barry Axelrod, president of the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Pilots' Association. "People use airplanes to save time and when you have to go somewhere else to clear customs, it takes time."

After crossing a national border, all incoming flights into the U.S. must first be checked by a customs official. Pilots say the additional landing and takeoff associated with clearing customs is costly and takes up valuable time.

MANY CORPORATE FLIGHTS returning from Canada and Europe must now stop at either Chicago area airports or at border airports such as those in Detroit, Buffalo or Maine before coming to Palwaukee.

With Midway and O'Hare limiting the number of general aviation flights landing there, officials say access to customs agents has been diminished.

(Continued on page 19)



The landing strip at Palwaukee Airport could soon be home to international flights if a U.S. Customs agent is stationed at the air field. (Staff photo by Bill Oakes)

(Continued from page 9)
causing more time delays for international flights.

"A long story made short, it would certainly enhance the life of people around here that go international," corporate pilot Terry Turgeon said. He has been flying a Cessna Citation twin engine corporate jet out of Palwaukee for 15 years.

Turgeon said the delays at other airports can range from 15 minutes to hours as planes and pilots must dodge bad weather when finding a customs-equipped airport. With his company flying between 20 and 40 international flights during the summer months alone, Turgeon said locating a U.S. Customs agent at Palwaukee would improve airport services.

SOON, PILOTS WILL have another airport at which to clear customs. Starting this week, Waukegan Regional Airport, northwest of Waukegan, will get its own customs agent.

Waukegan's customs agent, like any future ones assigned to Palwaukee, is being paid for by corporations flying out of the growing airport. Don Freeborn, executive director of the Waukegan Port Authority, said the 19 users of the customs service will pay for the cost in quarterly payments.

For the first year at the airport, the agent will cost \$73,000. Subsequent years will cost \$52,180, Freeborn said.

Palwaukee Airport officials are currently investigating whether it would be feasible to add the service. Airport Manager Fred Stewart said his office has received information from the customs department.

flights swoop down on Wheeling, Bill Rogers said his board, the airport commission, must first get more information.

"I guess I would have to look at the logic of it and see if it's an item we'd like to do," Rogers said. He said, for now, he is neutral on the idea. "I think it's necessary for us to have a full-detailed discussion on it."

Rogers said the commission should know how much traffic such an agent would potentially add to the airport and how much it would cost. The commission consists of commissioners from both Prospect Heights and Wheeling. The two municipalities bought the airport in December, 1986.

THE AMERICAN HEART
ASSOCIATION
MEMORIAL PROGRAM



WE'RE FIGHTING FOR
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American Heart
Association



This space provided as a public service.

BUT BEFORE INTERNATIONAL

On the horizon



Storing Lake Michigan in the Wheeling skies

Wheeling's skyline isn't what one would call majestic, but there is a good reason why water towers are the backdrop to a village short on multi-story buildings and long on the liquid that keeps residents clean and quenched.

Conynside 3-16-89

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

When most people stare at the sky and pray for water, they usually don't look to large steel drums for relief.

But in Wheeling, with its eight separate elevated tanks and reservoirs, water most often comes in towers, not cloud bursts.

At eight points throughout the village, and with a ninth a possibility, they dominate the skyline and battle the high-tension wires and the cellular phone antennas for the horizon.

Together they form part of a water system that saves the village money while ensuring that given almost any accident or utility failure, toilets will flush, faucets will run and village residents will never go thirsty.

STANDING AT NEARLY 130 feet above the ground, they use the physics of gravity, rather than the energy of electricity, to keep the "universal solvent" steadily coursing through village water pipes.

When the village decided to join the Northwest Water Commission along with Arlington Heights, Palatine and Buffalo Grove, Wheeling officials had to decide how to store and then repump water coming from Evanston.

After an engineering firm first recommended a ground-based reservoir system that would include pumping stations to circulate water throughout the village, a second plan

was adopted that placed Wheeling's water up above, rather than down below.

You could say Sir Isaac Newton won out over Thomas Edison.

BOB GRAY, DIRECTOR of the village operations and maintenance department, explained why. Using the pressure generated by the Des Plaines pump station which stores and then pushes along water drawn from Lake Michigan in Evanston, the village is able to propel the water into the two receiving reservoirs.

At any one time, more than 2.5 million gallons of water stand in each of the two receiving reservoirs. That's the equivalent of 250,000 goldfish swimming pools. On the average, the village uses between 4 and 8 million gallons a day.

Unlike the other communities, which are too far down the line to have adequate pressure for aerial storage, Wheeling was able to transfer the incoming water into the tanks.

Likening the system to a garden hose filled with water that has one end raised, Gray said gravity propels the water from the two reservoirs to the other six aerial towers, standpipes and hydropillars. And from those towers, the water is pumped throughout the village, using gravity, not electricity.

THE SAVINGS IS considerable. Bob Fialkowski, director of finance, said the village saves about \$200,000 each



Water Supt. August Lockfeer shows how the water from the village's 2.5 million gallon north receiving reservoir flows from the tank to the pipes that lead to village businesses and homes. Directly above the underground pipes rest four 3,600 gallon per minute pumps that can be activated when necessary. (Staff photo by Bill Oakes)

year using gravity to operate the system. Although the village has back-up pumps to help out in emergencies, the system uses little electricity, he said.

The village spent \$7 million to build

the two receiving reservoirs, two elevated tanks, one pump station and nearly 10 miles of water mains. The



slips on the Tini Kilns, a Phillip-pine game.

Contract talks begin to thaw

Firefighter negotiations progress

Courtesy 3-16-87
Once-heated contract talks between the Village of Wheeling and its firefighters have given way to calmer negotiations in recent weeks as the two parties move closer to a settlement on pay raises.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Wheeling firefighters and the village are making progress as they continue to negotiate the first contract since the firefighters union was recognized by the state.

And although the Illinois Supreme Court is expected to decide this summer whether lieutenants can join the union, the two sides are still working on an agreement that would give the 31 firefighters their first pay raise since April, 1988.

Bart Burns, the president of the village firefighters union, said current negotiations are taking time, but that both the union and the village are taking the steps necessary to sign their first official contract since the union was recognized by the Illinois State Labor Relations Board in 1987.

"At this point, we think we're making an honest effort and we feel the village is making an honest effort to reach an agreement," Burns said.

VILLAGE ATTORNEY JAMES Rhodes agreed with Burns' assessment and said the two sides are making progress. "We've got a lot of issues we've got to cover," Rhodes said.

Firefighters, firefighter/paramedics and lieutenants signed an interim

"I think the (talks) have moved along better since the third parties have left the negotiations."

**— Bart Burns
President
Firefighters Union**

IN DECEMBER, BURNS said the firefighters' bargaining team of himself, vice president Bob Leipzig and secretary Mike Burns told a negotiator from the International Association of Firefighters that his services were no longer needed. And since late January, the village's hired labor attorney, Jim Beard, has not been present at the nearly weekly negotiating sessions, Burns said.

"I think we're getting better progress now," Burns said. "You have the actual interested parties working out the agreement rather than outsiders."

Although no trained negotiator sits in on the meetings, Burns said the union confers continually with its lawyer on proposals and tactics.

"I think the negotiations have moved along better since the third parties have left the negotiations," Burns said, "and whether or not they come back is to be seen."

FIRE CAPT. RALPH Perricone and Rhodes are negotiating for the village.

The union and the village have been at the negotiating table since last September, after the village board decided to appeal an Illinois Appellate Court ruling to the Illinois Supreme Court. That ruling upheld a decision by the state labor relations board which said the six lieutenants in the

(Continued on page 17)

Airport board to consider moving ditch

THE WEEK AHEAD

Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners are expected to decide this week whether a drainage ditch that runs through the airport theater should be rerouted to an old drive-in theater along Milwaukee Avenue. The drainage ditch, which is too close to the airport's main runway, must be moved because it also causes too many restrictions for developing property around it. If the ditch were left where it is now, several bridges would need to be built over the stream because it also hinders traffic in the airport.

By moving the ditch to the theater, airport officials say they could save the \$1.2 million it would cost to build the bridges over the stream.

Wheeling officials had objected to moving the ditch to the theater property because the land could be incorporated into Wheeling for commercial use.

But Commissioner Anthony Altieri Jr., who represents Wheeling, hopes the commission would agree to buy the entire theater parcel, which may cost about \$3.5 million, and then sell for commercial use what is not used.

The top meeting

Who: Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission
Where: Wheeling village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road
When: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday

(Continued from page 5)

department could be considered part of the union.

As a condition of the partial settlement agreement, both sides agreed to continue to negotiate pending the outcome of the supreme court case. If the court upholds the union's position, both sides will resume full bargaining within 30 days of the decision.

After the ISLRB certified the union in January, 1987, the village refused to bargain with the firefighters because the department's six lieutenants were included in the union. The ISLRB subsequently found the village's refusal to bargain was a violation of

state law and ordered it back to the bargaining table.

THE VILLAGE THEN appealed that decision last year to the Illinois Appellate Court. After that court upheld the ISLRB decision, the village appealed to the Illinois Supreme Court. It has agreed to hear the case and is expected to hold a hearing and make its decision sometime this summer, Rhodes said.

The village has argued that the lieutenants are managers. If they are considered part of the union, the village's ability to manage the department would be eroded, the village has claimed.

Village hikes developers' fees for sidewalks

Wed. March 22, 1987
By DANIELLE ACETO
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Developers in Wheeling will be paying a little more next year for new sidewalks in the village.

In an attempt to meet rising costs, village officials have approved a 50-cent increase in the amount developers are required to donate to the village's sidewalk construction fund. It is the first increase since the fund was established four years ago.

Rather than paying \$2.50 per square foot, contractors now will be asked to pay \$3 per square foot based on the size of their development's frontage.

"If they're building along 70 feet of Dundee Road, we'll charge for

70 feet of sidewalk," Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

Officials say the donation applies only to those contractors who elect not to install their own sidewalks.

"We're just trying to make sure we're covered," Anderson said. "In a lot of instances where a new development is going in, at some point there will be a new sidewalk. This helps to make sure the taxpayers don't have to pay for it."

There currently is about \$130,000 available for new sidewalk projects. Village officials had no estimates as to how much money the 50-cent increase would generate.

Still, judging from residents' response, any new dollars that would

be used for village sidewalks would be welcome.

"It is a disgrace to see the patchwork of broken sidewalks along my street," resident Ian Taylor said. "It's a mess. It makes the village look like a hick town from 60 years ago."

Officials say plans now are in the works to beef up the village's sidewalk repair program. Among the proposals for next year's budget is a more than \$100,000 increase in funds allocated solely for sidewalk improvements.

"The board has decided to be a little more aggressive in this area," Anderson said. "We're hoping to look at particular areas, year by year, and do all the work that needs to be done at one time."

WIP candidates running at their own pace

Countrywide

3-23-89

The election spotlight is burning brighter in other Wheeling races, but that's not stopping candidates in the uncontested village board race from going out and beating the pavement.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

There are no charges, counter charges or rebuttals, and the only issue in this "race" is how many people will vote for the five unopposed candidates for the Wheeling village board April 4.

It's election time in Wheeling, but unfortunately for those souls who were awaiting a drawn-out, three-month campaign, the only suspense was held Jan. 23 when incumbent trustees Elizabeth Hartman, William Rogers and Joe Ratajczak, Village President Sheila Schultz and clerk candidate Lois Gaffke found out that, at least during this election, they were going solo.

"It's something new for us," Rogers said. "This is my fifth election and in each (previous) one it's been hotly contested. In two of them we had more than two parties running. It's (this year's race) nice. I don't know what the word is, but it's different."

Regardless, however, of the fact that only five names will appear on the April 4 ballot, there still is a campaign going on in the village. The five candidates of the Wheeling Independent Party are still knocking on doors and pounding the pavement, even though the frequency with which they do it will not endanger village sidewalks.

"I LIKE campaigns; it's (this one) different," Schultz said. "But I can't say I'm wishing someone is out there (to run against me)."

Having an uncontested ballot does appear strange in Wheeling, where since WIP formed in 1971 there has been a battle for the chairs to the council room table. But after years of bickering, and after some heated controversies, this election has become a yawner.

But why there are no opponents and no attacks this year is a question Rogers, Schultz and the party can only



Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz and Trustee William Rogers pay a call on a village voter Saturday. Even though the village board races are uncontested, Schultz and Rogers are still pounding the pavement. (Staff photo by Daniel White)

debate over coffee or dinner. They can tell themselves they are doing a good job, and that at least in appearances, they haven't ruffled enough feathers to warrant opposition.

"One of the things is . . . people feel satisfied with their government," Rogers said. "I think that's the only conclusion you can reach."

THINKING ALOUD, ROGERS asked if there was anything that would spur discontent. "What are the issues?" he asked.

When residents read the lone WIP pamphlet, they will find that the issues, or WIP's goals, include redeveloping Milwaukee Avenue, completing the proposed diversionary channel and controlling village storm water,

supporting the establishment of an enhanced 911 emergency phone service and bringing commuter rail service to the village.

And those issues, or goals, are being put out on the street. For the last three weekends prior to the vote, the candidates and their supporters have been and will be making a pass through the village as they distribute that pamphlet.

It wasn't always this way.

IN THE PAST, when opponents would line up on a variety of issues and lob broadsides at WIP from different angles during past elections, WIP would sit back, write out its positions, and wait until it was time to launch a counterattack.

It meant being ready to push out literature on any given topic in a "blitz." This year, while the party has positions, it has not had to employ any immediate shell bursts of paper. Instead, WIP intends to distribute only one pamphlet, a fold-out sheet that is heavy on positive announcements, future positions and smiling pictures.

In the past, more than 100 people would be official campaign workers, who would pass out literature, stuff envelopes or make phone calls. This year, however, with other more hotly contested issues in the village, there are only about 30 workers, Schultz said.

"For me personally, it hasn't been as exciting, but I wouldn't say it's boring," Schultz said. "There's enough
(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 5)

happening to keep your interest up." She does concede a little, though. "As campaigns go, it's less exciting than any other."

BACK THEN, ROGERS said each day brought a challenge. After lauding their own records, WIP candidates would have to look for the rebounding criticism from their opponents. "The adrenaline flows a lot more. Each day new issues come up; you were always fending off attacks," Rogers said.

"All of that is kind of missing this time around," the two-term trustee said.

There are rewards to campaigning and having opposition, Schultz said. "The only reason I would welcome competition is to get the issues, whatever they are, aired. So there is no complacency."

But while there hasn't been the need to spend a lot of time on the campaign trail, Schultz said she won't mind the reduced work load. Instead, she said she intends to plow her excess energy into the next term and the issues which did not ignite any opposition.

"**THE ENERGY** that we're not spending or I'm not spending fighting an opponent is energy I can spend somewhere else," Schultz said. It will allow her, and her running mates, to "devote more time to the issues we are dealing with right now."

But for now, without any issues to debate, the candidates are putting in the time, passing out the pamphlet and hoping the survey included will give the incumbents and Gaffke a reading of the village's political pulse.

As Rogers walked down Meadowbrook Lane Saturday morning as a preamble to a weekend of "campaigning", he commented on what he called the best part of any election: getting out into the community.

"This is the most exciting part of the campaign," Rogers said Saturday. "I'm meeting people, I'm talking to people." And, as he stops for a second, "it's a great opportunity to lose five to

Countryside
**Commuter lot
 plan interests
 park district**

A request to cover eight acres of the Wheeling Park District with asphalt has the park board seeing green — with dollar signs.

When the village this month formally asked the park district to go along with a plan for a 1,000-car parking lot on the far northwestern end of Heritage Park for a commuter train station, the park board expressed an interest — so long as the district is reimbursed.

Some park board members suggested getting a daily take from any parking meters put up in the lot. Others said the request may get the park district more valuable land elsewhere.

"This is something I definitely think we should look into," park board member Don Lark said. He said the targeted area, just north of the retention pond at Heritage Park, isn't being used now. "If we can make some money off of it, I say we look into it and see what we can do."

Village planners have tapped a site at the end of Boehmer Road, south of Dundee Road, for the proposed commuter train station. If state and local planners approve the project, commuter train service to Chicago would come through Wheeling down the Wisconsin Central Railway tracks.

But in order to be a part of that plan, the village had to decide where it wants the site, and much of that hinged on parking.

Selection procedure set

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Wheeling park board without facing the rigors of an election campaign can send in their applications and resumes now.

Park board members last week formally established the process by which they will fill the remaining two years of board member James Gallagher's term. Gallagher, 38, died Feb. 15.

Board president Ed Klocke said applicants will be interviewed by the new park board once it is established following the election. Four new park board members will be elected then. The two seats on the board vacated by incumbents Tony Abruscato and Julia Robberson will be filled and two new seats will be filled as the park board expands to seven members.

Abruscato said the process will begin within 90 days of the election. Final plans for when and where applications will be available will be announced after the April 4 election.

Officer's hearing delayed

The final hearing for Wheeling police officer Richard Imber, who faces possible dismissal from the force on gambling and battery charges, has been delayed.

A March 16 hearing before the board of fire and police commissioners was continued to 6:30 p.m. on April 3. The board, which found Imber guilty of breaking department rules prohibiting breaking village, state and federal laws, is expected to determine Imber's

(Continued on next page)

Briefs —

(Continued from previous page)
 3-23-89
 punishment on that date.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger, in the initial petition to the board detailing the charges, said they could lead to Imber's firing.

The board ruled March 2 that evidence brought before it concluded Imber was guilty of two counts of gambling and one charge of battery. He was cleared of another gambling charge and charges of resisting a police officer and disorderly conduct.

Haeger initially brought the charges before the board in January after Imber was involved in an altercation with two undercover Cook County Sheriff deputies at Vivian Lee's restaurant on Milwaukee Avenue. The deputies arrested Imber for striking a friend in the bar after allegedly playing backgammon for money.

Although the board of fire and police commissioners found Imber not guilty of resisting arrest, disorderly conduct and gambling, they did find him guilty of committing a battery.

Board members also found Imber guilty of playing poker at the same restaurant Oct. 17, 1988, and with playing liar's poker — a game in which opponents use the serial numbers off of U.S. currency to gamble — on May 5, 1988, also at Vivian Lee's.

Imber has been suspended without pay since Feb. 16, when the board continued the hearing until March 2. Imber has been on the force for more than nine years.

Resident wants sidewalks

Taking a pleasant evening stroll down west Strong Street isn't so easy to do, the Wheeling village board was told Monday night.

Bonnie Rieb asked the board if it could alter its plans to build new sidewalks in the village to include sidewalks down west Strong Street. She said she has asked the village to add the sidewalks, from Wolf Road west to Northgate Parkway, for years.

"I saw the plans in the paper for sidewalks this year and it's still not included," Rieb said. She said it is unsafe to walk down Strong Street now that motorists are cutting through to Northgate Parkway to avoid traffic on Dundee and Wolf roads.

"There really is a need for sidewalks there," Rieb said.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said he would contact Bob Gray, director of operations and maintenance, to determine where Strong Street falls in terms of priority. Some sidewalks do exist on the street, but they are scattered down the street when some developers put them in and others did not.

The village intends to add new sidewalk at seven spots throughout the village, as well as rehabilitating deteriorating ones. A total of \$170,000 has been set aside for this year's portion of the project.

Trustee Bill Rogers asked Anderson to file a report with the board on the findings of his conversation with Gray and other village staff.

Dr. Ian Taylor, a veterinarian who ran a clinic out of a home on Milwaukee Avenue until his retirement earlier this year, said he would like to see sidewalks added to Milwaukee Avenue.

Herald - Fri. March 24, 1989
Palwaukee investigates starting fuel service

competitive balance to serve our users in a better way," commission Chairman Carey L. Cluckert neo said.
 Several commissioners see flaws in the proposal.
 "I can see us getting into all kinds of wrangles and putting out a lot of money that will go to waste," Commissioner William Rogers said.
 Priester defended his prices. He said he has spent about \$300,000 to modernize his facility and provide more hangars and landscaping.
 "If you compare us to Midway and Gary (airports) we're all in about the same (price) range," Priester said. "We're charging to maintain the facilities and we're planning to build even more."

ney to review the proposal.
 The motion passed on a 7-1 vote, although several commissioners questioned the logistics of the self-owned fuel service proposal, which would cost about \$225,000 to Wheeling and Prospect Heights jointly own and operate the airport, which was purchased from Charles E. Priester in 1986. Priester's company continues as the major provider of fuel services at the airport.
 Commissioners fear the airport is losing business because pilots are purchasing fuel at lower prices at airports in Waukegan, DuPage County and Kenosha.
 "I think what we're looking for is to provide a little bit more of a

By DAN COTT
 Daily Herald Correspondent

A Palwaukee Airport attorney will investigate legal problems that could occur should airport owners decide to start their own fuel service business.
 If Palwaukee Airport owners begin selling fuel to pilots, they would be in direct competition with the airport's sole fuel provider, Priester Aviation Service. At least one airport commissioner believed there would be a conflict of interest.
 "As the lessor of this airport, I don't think I would want to be in competition with my lessee," said Commissioner Henry Levin, who voted against directing the attorney

Nickel poker proves too wild for Wheeling

Tribune 3-24-89

All decent people are breathing a little easier in Wheeling now that the iniquitous senior-citizen gambling den is down by law.

Village officials have put a halt to the nickel-ante poker and quarter-entry bridge games at the Pavilion Senior Center that were eating at the moral fiber of their community, saving numerous grandmothers and grandfathers from the inevitable, hideous degradation that accompanies illicit wagering.

Yet the Thursday afternoon poker group has been slow to show its gratitude.

"It's a shame, my God," said Earl Kozacek, 69, a retired bus dispatcher, who said he rarely gets out of the house except for the weekly card game. "We can't even enjoy ourselves anymore."

"Now we can't play for nickels, it's terrible," added Chuck Storost, 65, a retired

Hometowns

Eric Zorn

management consultant. "It's very, very boring. When you play for chips only, you might as well open up on every single hand. What's the difference?"

Kozacek was proving that Thursday, seeing your one and bumping you two just about every time around the table, then raking in the big plastic. Red, white and blue chips clattered as he drew them in across the felt.

Storost, meanwhile, was reduced to borrowing chips from John Biesman, who flipped them over without a second thought.

"You just can't bluff somebody when you play this way," Biesman said.

The sun streamed in the windows and Mr. Coffee dribbled into a fresh carafe. All six players consulted their cards. Kozacek droned as he dealt a round face up: "Queen, no help; jack, no help; pair of 10s; 4 and a possible straight. . . ."

The Thursday poker group started last summer, Storost said, and made no secret of the nickel-a-chip stakes. Out of respect for fixed incomes around the table, \$5 was the most anyone was allowed to lose in an afternoon, and the per-hand limit was \$2.

The real action, so to speak, was in the chatting and in the consuming of the customary junk foods—Chee-tos, Nestle's Crunch bars and Sara Lee blueberry muffins were on the counter this week.

"Social poker is as American as apple

See Poker, pg. 6



Tribune photo by Charles Osgood

Players say the action's not the same on Thursdays at the Pavilion Senior Center in Wheeling following a village crackdown on nickel-ante poker and quarter-entry bridge games.

Poker

Continued from page 1

pie," Storost said, though there was no apple pie, only cheesecake.

Michael Klitzke, Wheeling's director of community development, stumbled into this gray-haired gambling operation by accident not long ago while visiting the village-run Pavilion on other business.

"I happened to see something I thought looked suspicious," Klitzke said. "I told them they couldn't do it—a nickel, \$5 or \$100, gambling is not permitted in a municipal complex."

No indeed. Sanctioned gambling in Wheeling is limited to bingo at the church, games of chance at village carnivals and the Illinois State Lottery at the convenience marts. Start letting retirees dabble in vice and the next thing you know . . . welcome to Las Vegas, Illinois.

So of course the Monday afternoon bridge group felt the sting of the lash as well.

Shortly after the spanking new Pavilion opened in 1985, the bridge enthusiasts began their weekly

games. To keep things interesting, every player put in two bits, and the organizers awarded several prizes at the end of each day. Sometimes 16 players showed up, and the high scorer could take home as much as \$2.

"You've got to have a little incentive," said Angeline Harnett, co-leader of the group. "And a quarter for an afternoon is nothing. I don't see anything wrong. It's just recreation."

But Wheeling officials didn't see things that way, and took the juice out of the bidding.

"It is so hypocritical that anybody would stoop to penalize these senior citizens," said Gloria Tillac, the other leader of the bridge group. "These poor people, a lot of them don't have much in their lives, and now they're not allowed the enjoyment of winning a little prize. Why not go after the real gamblers, the speeders, the drunk drivers?"

Harnett said, "If you're not going to get anything for your high score, then why keep score at all? It takes the fun out of the game."

When efforts at compromise failed, some of the bridge players decided to keep score inside but ex-

change cash outside—conducting their shady transactions in the parking lot like so many superannuated Mafiosi.

Harnett quashed that idea. "Oh for goodness sake!" she said.

Attendance and morale at Monday bridge games has fallen in recent weeks, Harnett said. Members of the group are considering some form of protest and are still hoping for a favorable ruling from Village Atty. James Rhodes, who said Thursday he is still reviewing the gambling issue and "looking at what's going on."

He may have to look fast if he wants to see the poker group. Its members are seriously considering moving their felt-topped table—it belongs to Earl Kozacek—their plastic chips and their junk food to a private venue.

"Even if it's just pennies, you've got to win some or lose some," said Kozacek. "It's not any fun at all with just chips. You can't even enjoy yourself, and how many years do we have left?"

And with each passing day, the odds look slimmer and slimmer that Pete Rose will choose to retire in Wheeling.

Seniors' nickel poker illegal, village rules

WHEELING (AP) — Card players at the local senior center say the fun has gone out of poker night since the village ruled the nickel-and-dime games are illegal.

"The amount of money someone plays for doesn't make any difference," said James Rhodes, village attorney for this northwest Chicago suburb.

"Playing poker for any amount of money is a crime," he said.

But some retired people in this community of 29,470 don't get out much except for the weekly card game.

"Even if it's just pennies, you've got to win some or lose some," said Earl Kozacek, 69, a former bus dispatcher.

"It's not any fun at all with just chips. You can't even enjoy yourself, and how many years do we have left?"

The Thursday poker game started last summer at the Pavilion Senior Center, said Chuck Storst, 65, a retired management consultant.

The most anyone was allowed to lose in an afternoon was \$5, and the per-hand limit was \$2, he said.

But village officials say the games are illegal — along with those of a quarter-entry bridge group.

They can still play, but only for chips, not money.

"It's very, very boring. When you play for chips only, you might as well open up every single hand," Storst said. "What's the difference?"

Members of the two groups are hoping for a favorable ruling from Rhodes, who said he is reviewing the issue.

But a reversal isn't likely.

"What we're concerned about is that no action that might be considered a crime occur on village property," Rhodes said.

"I have no control over these people once they leave the center."

They may do just that. The senior-center poker crowd is considering a move to a private home.

"Social poker is as American as apple pie," Storst said.

Supreme court to say who's a boss

By William Grady
Legal affairs writer

Fire lieutenants in suburban Wheeling sometimes help other firefighters lay down a hose.

Does that make a lieutenant less of a supervisor for collective bargaining purposes than an official who pushes paper all day?

In Freeport, Ill., police lieutenants and sergeants spend part of their shifts on the street. Does that make one of them less of a supervisor than an official who sits behind a desk for eight hours?

The Illinois State Labor Relations Board decided yes. The board said the duties of police and fire lieutenants in Freeport and Wheeling are less than supervisory under state law and they ought not to be excluded from public employee unions. In separate rulings, Illinois Appellate Court panels have split on the issue.

The question goes before the state Supreme Court this week; the answer is expected to have a significant impact on collective bargaining in towns and cities throughout Illinois.

"What will be decided is whether small- to medium-size municipalities have the right to rely on their supervisory employees as the General Assembly intended," said Gary S. Kaplan, a lawyer with the Chicago firm of Seyfarth, Shaw, Fairweather & Geraldson, which is representing Wheeling and Freeport before the state high court.

"If the court doesn't find these employees to be supervisors, then every municipality in the state is not going to have on-site supervision," Kaplan said.

But Valerie Peiler, an assistant attorney general, said the board's decision is "a reversal of the board's previous decision."

See Supervise, pg. 5

Supervise

Continued from page 1

attorney general representing the state labor relations board, said there is a difference between the common perception of what a supervisor is and the legal definition under state law. For municipalities other than Chicago, Peiler said, the law sets a stringent test that focuses not so much on rank but on duties and common interest.

"In Freeport, the sergeants and lieutenants were more aligned with the rank-and-file than [with] the chief," Peiler said.

The issue is before the state court high court for the first time. Oral arguments are scheduled for Tuesday. A decision is not expected before the end of the year.

The state labor relations board ruled in both cities that the lieutenants and sergeants were not supervisors under state law.

A state appellate court panel from Cook County upheld the ruling in the Wheeling case. An appellate panel from Elgin reversed the board's finding in the Freeport case.

Wheeling is a northwest suburb with a population around 26,000; Freeport is a city of 26,500 in northwestern Illinois. Their police and fire departments are similar to those in many other municipalities throughout the state.

The Wheeling Fire Department had 41 employees—a chief, a captain, a fire inspector, 6 lieutenants, 31 firefighters and a secretary. The chief and the captain—the second-in-command—spent most of their time on administrative duties, leaving supervision of the shifts and fire stations to the lieutenants.

The Freeport Police Department had 42 sworn officers—a chief, an assistant chief, 4 lieutenants, 5 sergeants, 7 corporals and 24 officers. Three of the lieutenants supervised the daily patrol shifts; one supervised a six-member detective bureau.

The uniformed lieutenants and the sergeants, who filled in for lieutenants several times a month, also spent part of each shift on patrol, responding to the same sort of calls as lower-ranking officers, according to the attorney general's office.

Neither Freeport nor Wheeling—nor many other cities of similar size—can afford the lux-

ury of a large administrative layer between the chief and the rank-and-file, according to Steve Sargent, executive director of the Illinois Municipal League.

Shift commanders are expected not only to direct those under their command but also to pitch in at times, whether it be fighting a fire or responding to an emergency call.

But being part of a team—and eating and sleeping with firefighters—doesn't make a fire lieutenant less of a supervisor, Kaplan said.

Shift commanders also provide valuable information when a village or city sits down to plot bargaining strategy before negotiating a new contract with union employees.

"Both sides are entitled to have loyal agents to act on their behalf," Kaplan said. "Collective bargaining doesn't need to be adversarial, but there is a dividing line between management and labor."

Kaplan, James Baird and John Weise, all of Seyfarth, Shaw, Fairweather & Geraldson, are representing Freeport and Wheeling before the state Supreme Court.

They contend in written ar-

guments that the Freeport police lieutenants and sergeants and the Wheeling fire lieutenants have legitimate supervisory roles—training subordinates, enforcing department rules and directing other employees. They also argue that the legislature intended that such supervisors be excluded from collective bargaining units.

But Peiler and Ann Plunkett-Sheldon, also an assistant attorney general, contend in their written arguments filed with the state Supreme Court that Wheeling fire lieutenants and Freeport police lieutenants and sergeants do not meet the strict definition of supervisors under the law because:

- Their duties are not substantially different from those of their subordinates.
 - They don't have the authority to hire, fire, promote or reward employees and have only limited authority to suspend or transfer employees.
 - In carrying out their duties, they generally follow procedures set by the department rather than exercising independent judgment.
 - Many of their duties—such as checking paperwork—are clerical rather than supervisory, they say.
- "Although the lieutenants, as

Wheeling eyes study to improve traffic flow

Herald-Tribune, March 28, 1989

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village officials are considering conducting a study of about 15 intersections to determine whether additional traffic signals would improve the flow of traffic in the village.

Coupled with increased growth in the area and commercial development in Wheeling, traffic in the village is increasing, village officials say. The study of some of the congested intersections could help village officials plan how to smooth the traffic flow.

Wheeling officials met Monday with residents at Whippletree Village clubhouse to discuss the study, which would include inter-

sections near village housing complexes.

Although four of the intersections included in the study are on McHenry Road between Weiland and Elmhurst roads, Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said it is unlikely all of them would require traffic signals.

Instead, he added, the study would help determine which intersections meet state requirements for installation of traffic devices. The state considers traffic counts, delays and accident histories to determine where traffic signals are needed.

Residents in Lexington Commons subdivision urged the village to install traffic lights at Lexington Drive because, they said, cars

must wait 10 minutes to exit the complex onto McHenry Road.

"Whenever you put in traffic signals, you slow traffic down," Trustee William A. Rogers said. "You don't want to stop every 500 feet for a traffic signal. But when you're trying to get out of a development you want a signal."

Village trustees are expected to approve hiring a consultant within the next few weeks to conduct the study for no more than \$50,000.

The cost of improving the traffic flow at the intersections likely would be shared by Wheeling, the Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County, developers or other villages. Without the additional aid, the improvement costs could total \$811,000 for Wheeling.

Palwaukee expecting aid for paving work

Herald-Tribune - Tues Mar 28, 1989
By DAN COIT
Daily Herald Correspondent

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials expect to qualify for state funding to help pay for an improved parking area on the airport's east side along Milwaukee Avenue.

The resurfacing work is planned for an area near Hanger 1. The parking lot and roads would be repaired to accommodate the pilots who use the area to tie down their airplanes. The airport also is in the process of paving a nearby apron that previously had been grass.

The Illinois Department of Transportation is expected to pay 80 percent of the resurfacing work, said Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commissioner James V. Nickel.

"The cost of the project has been

estimated at \$400,000, but we can apply to IDOT for a grant," he said.

Palwaukee officials intend to pay for the entire project and use the \$320,000 grant to repay a portion of the \$1.2 million it owes IDOT, said Airport Manager Fred Stewart said. The expense is included in the airport's 1989-1990 budget.

"We've talked to IDOT and if we pay for the parking lot, the amount we owe would be reduced by that amount," Stewart said.

Nickel and Stewart say the project is long overdue.

"It's unfortunate it has to be done out of our funds but we either do it now or do it later," Nickel said.

The airport commission will study the exact cost of the paving work and present its findings at the commission's April meeting.

SUBURBAN REPORT

Priester may lose airport maintenance pact

3-30-89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Priester Aviation Service may be squeezed out of its maintenance agreement with Palwaukee Municipal Airport if airport commissioners find a cheaper way of removing snow and cutting grass.

A three-year contract with Priester expires at the end of this year. In the meantime, airport officials are looking for alternatives to paying Priester about \$250,000 a year to maintain airport grounds.

Airport managers are suggesting the airport purchase equipment and hire its own employees to do the work, which includes removing snow, cutting grass and weeds, de-icing and inspecting run-

ways and taxiways and maintaining the Federal Aviation Administration tower.

A snowblower, two snow plows, lawn-cutting equipment, tractors and trucks would cost the airport in the "ballpark" of \$1 million, said Michael F. Zonsius, assistant airport manager for finance and administration.

In addition to his maintenance operation, Priester also faces the threat of losing his hold on airport fuel sales. Airport commissioners are seeking to break up Priester's monopoly by luring another gas operator to locate at the airport.

By taking over the maintenance, airport officials say, the long-run costs could be less or equal to what

they are paying now. Airport officials also would have more control over the grounds, Zonsius said.

However, Commissioner Carey L. Chickerno wants airport officials to look into other ways to maintain the airport besides buying equipment and hiring workers. He is suggesting that the airport's owners, Prospect Heights and Wheeling, use municipal equipment and have employees do the maintenance work.

"If I'm spending someone else's money, I think we should buy prudently and shop around a little," Chickerno said. "We should be looking for more creative ways to solve problems besides throwing money at them."

Herald Fri. 3-31-89
Village offers spraying for diseased trees

The Village of Wheeling is participating in a spraying program this year to control cottony maple scale.

The program consists of an application of dormant oil prior to May 1. To increase the program's effectiveness, all infected trees should be treated.

The Davey Tree Expert Co. of

Kent, Ohio will spray trees on private property in Wheeling for \$20 a tree.

Residents who are interested should call Frank Tozser at 537-4340 to make arrangements. For information call the village operations and maintenance department at 459-2624.

WHEELING Herald
3-31-89
Scaring geese

Blank cannon shots will be fired daily at Palwaukee Municipal Airport until fall in an effort to scare off the hundreds of geese that threaten aircraft at the field. The feathered fliers come dangerously close to and sometimes even collide with airplanes. Last year, two Canada geese, which are larger than average geese, were killed when they flew in front of a plane that was about to take off. The airport will use cannons to chase the geese away from the airfield. The cannons use propane to blast loud noises. Four cannons will go off every two to three minutes.

Friday, March 31, 1989

Herald

SUBURBAN REPORT

Airport rolls out big guns to scare geese

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Blank cannon shots will be fired daily at Palwaukee Municipal Airport until fall in an effort to scare off the hundreds of geese that threaten aircraft at the field.

The feathered fliers come dangerously close to and sometimes even collide with airplanes. Last year, two Canada geese, which are larger than average geese, were killed when they flew in front of a plane that was about to take off.

The airport will use cannons to chase the geese away from the airfield. The cannons use propane to blast loud noises, like gun shots.

Four cannons, stationed around the airport, have been automati-

cally timed to go off every two to three minutes from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. The blasting hours will be extended as the days get longer throughout the summer. The scare tactic may cease in November.

The cannons also must be moved and the rhythm of the shots rotated to throw the birds off.

"You got to keep them discom-bobulated," said Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart. "You can't let them get complacent."

Although there have been no fatalities so far this year with the geese, a couple of airplane take-offs were aborted because of the number of geese hovering over the field, Stewart said.

Stewart also supplements the

cannon shots with hand-held shooting and whistling devices, which he had been using before the cannons were set up.

"I should have had the cannons out before now," Stewart said. "I've been spending a lot of time running back and forth on the airport scaring off geese and gulls."

The shots can be heard from residents living only around the perimeters of the airport, Stewart said. Few residents have complained about the noise, he added.

"It's not an irritant to me," said Stewart, who operates the airport from Hangar I on the airport grounds. "During the day there's so much other noise going around, it's not even noticeable."

Board signals go-ahead on intersection study

COUNTRYSIDE
By Bob Kehoe
Managing Editor

3-30-89
If you've been banging your fist on the dashboard during rush hour wondering aloud when someone is going to something to ease Wheeling's traffic congestion, your prayers may be answered.

The village is ready to spend up to \$50,000 to hire a consultant to study some of Wheeling's most heavily-traveled intersections. The effort is aimed at setting up a priority list for adding signals and making pavement improvements that will aid traffic flow in the village.

At a special committee of the whole meeting Monday night held in Whippertree Village, trustees instructed staff to proceed with plans for the study with the assurance that they will direct future funds to making some of the needed improvements that are identified.

Emphasizing that the eventual

improvements that are recommended by the consultant won't be made all at once, Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said the village will work with neighboring municipalities where applicable to help fund some of the work.

AMONG THE AREAS that will receive the most attention in the study are McHenry Road intersections near a number of large subdivisions such as Cedar Run, Lexington Commons and Whippertree Village, and Elmhurst Road where it crosses Equestrian Drive and Dennis Road.

In all, Klitzke discussed 10 key intersections in the village that will be reviewed in the study and some of the potential costs to Wheeling associated with each. Klitzke and Village President Sheila Schultz said the village would apply for funds where applicable from the county, state and federal governments to help pay for the work.

The village will also use developer fees that have been set aside for some specific projects.

Without attaching any priority to the projects, Klitzke identified the intersections as follows:

- Buffalo Grove Road at Cobbler Lane;
- Huntington Lane at Dundee Road;
- Wolf Road at Messner Drive;
- Lexington Drive at McHenry Road;
- Denoyer Trail at Creekside Plaza and McHenry Road;
- Whippertree Drive/Addolorata Villa at McHenry Road;
- Wolf Road at East Drive;
- Equestrian Drive at Elmhurst Road;
- Equestrian Drive at Wheeling Road; and
- Elmhurst Road at Dennis Road.

Other intersections that will likely be studied include Elmhurst Road at Wheeling High School and Dundee Road at village hall. Klitzke said the latter site would be studied mostly to get a long-term read on whether a

signal would ever be needed there.

BASED ON THE fact that several of the intersections on McHenry Road are close in proximity, Klitzke said it is unlikely the village would undertake all of the projects even if the study identified them as priority needs. The aim, he said, is to find the one or two intersections that have long been discussed to widen the busy thoroughfare. As a more inexpensive option to work around any ongoing construction that might occur, Klitzke said the village could consider installing temporary signals.

The projected maximum price tags to the village for all of the 10 sites, including signals and pavement work,

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 5)

varies in each case from a low of about \$30,000 to a high of about \$120,000. Klitzke said all cost estimates are tentative and would depend on what type of funding the village was able to obtain from other sources. The total price tag for all would be \$811,000.

Whippertree residents who attended the meeting were most interested in the review of the intersection near their development and said there is a need for a signal there. To complete that project, however, the residents were told the village would have to acquire

between 200 and 400 feet of right of way to accommodate a signal.

The village would also consider investigating what modifications would be needed to install a signal at Whippertree Village and to allow traffic coming out of Addolorata Villa, which is north of the subdivision, to also have access to the intersection.

Two residents from the Lexington Commons subdivision also attended the meeting to express their concerns about problems they say residents in their area have in getting onto McHenry Road during heavy traffic periods.

Supreme Court hears local firefighters' case

By Bob Kehoe
Managing Editor

Countryside 3-30-89
The long-standing dispute between the Village of Wheeling and its firefighters on whether lieutenants may join the firefighters' collective bargaining unit was heard Tuesday by the Illinois Supreme Court.

In a case that could have far-reaching implications statewide for firefighters, police and other municipal employees, the state's high court will help decide whether lieutenants qualify as management supervisory personnel or whether they can be included in the department's bargaining unit.

The matter was heard in conjunction with a similar case involving the city of Freeport, Ill., and a dispute over whether police sergeants in that community can be part of the police officers' collective bargaining unit.

Wheeling officials hope a ruling in the case will come sometime early this summer.

SIX WHEELING FIRE Department lieutenants will be affected by the decision. The ruling will provide the final step in what has been a costly battle for both parties, each of which estimates legal expenses in excess of \$35,000.

Village Attorney James Rhodes said the village's arguments before the justices echoed many of the same points raised in proceedings before the Illinois Appellate Court and the Illinois Labor Relations Board — both of which sided with the firefighters.

First and foremost among those points is that the village contends the lieutenants are supervisory personnel. Village officials argue that the lieutenants spend most of their time in a supervisory capacity and are compensated for this role and thus should be viewed as managers.

Another concern of the village's is that with fewer and fewer management personnel in the fire department, elected officials' ability to manage the firefighters could quickly be eroded. If the lieutenants are included in the bargaining unit, some village officials fear that the situation could lead to the possibility of lieutenants serving in a subservient role to the association leadership.

VILLAGE MANAGER CRAIG Anderson said the village's concern is that the managerial role of the lieutenants could be jeopardized if the ruling allows them to become part of a union or association.

"It would put unneeded added pressure on the supervisors," Anderson said. Of particular concern, Anderson said, is the possible situation where a lieutenant would one day have to discipline a fellow union member.

To Wheeling Firefighters Association President Bart Burns, however, the case comes down to a simple matter of bargaining rights for six individuals and their right to be represented in negotiations by the people they work side by side with.

"We're talking about six individuals' bargaining rights, and you can't put a price on that," Burns said of the association's resolve to continue the court case.

"WE LIVE together one-third of our lives. There is definitely a close relationship there," Burns said.

relationship there," Burns said.

That relationship, the firefighters contend, is one where the lieutenants work side by side with their subordinates. In the past, Burns has likened the situation to a sergeant in the Army who helps train recruits.

The only difference in this case, Burns and the association contends, is that the lieutenants have less rights than their subordinates.

Wheeling officials aren't the only ones focused on these issues, however. Municipalities, firefighters and police groups throughout the state are anxiously awaiting the ruling.

THE ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL League's board of directors, in fact, has instructed its attorney to file a friend of the court brief supporting the Village of Wheeling's position in the matter.

"Basically, what we're talking about is Illinois is a state (made up of) small to moderate size municipalities. If lieutenants and others can be included in the bargaining unit, we're in difficulty," said Steve Sargent, executive director of the Illinois Municipal League.

More than just having an interest in the Supreme Court's decision, however, Sargent said the municipal league and others would like to see legislators take a look at the amendments approved to the Illinois Labor Relations Act that allowed this case to surface in the first place.

"We'd love to amend the law to support our position and I'm sure the firefighters would love to amend it for their position, too," Sargent said.

ROGER HUEBNER, STAFF attorney for the Illinois Municipal League, said that while he hasn't extensively studied the case, he understands the crux of the issue and the wide-ranging implications the court's ruling will have.

The main point of the case, he said, has to do with amendments to the labor relations act that defined supervisory personnel as they pertain to both police and fire departments.

"There is a great deal of interest in the legal ramifications in terms of the definition of supervisors," Huebner said.

Under the act's definition for police supervisor, Huebner said the key wording is whether the worker spends a "preponderance" of his or her time in a supervisory capacity.

THE DEFINITION FOR firefighters, however, is not so clear, he said.

"The whole crux of this issue is the preponderance of time (issue)...that's the gray area," Huebner said.

Another key factor, Huebner said, is how the courts will view the nature of police and firefighting work in relation to each other. He said there is a unique distinction between the two in that police are out on the street every day and are active in much of the same duties from day to day.

Firefighters, he said, are more responsive in their role, particularly since they react to specific calls and spend the rest of their time working on internal department activities.

Village gives \$85,000 to social agencies

Herald-Tribune 3/19/89
By TAMI LICHENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees agreed Monday to contribute more than \$85,000 to local social service agencies, but they want the agencies to find other means for funding next year.

All but one of the six agencies requesting funding this year will receive money from the village, but two were granted an amount less than what they requested. The board agreed to fund Shelter Inc., Salvation Army, The Resource Center for Elderly, Omni Youth Services and Horizons Children's Center.

A Safe Place, which provides emergency care for battered women and children, was denied its \$3,000 request. Trustees said the agency did not receive funding last year and does not serve many Wheeling residents.

Joseph W. Ratajczak, however, rejected funding for that agency and the Center for Elderly.

"Everyone's afraid to say no when new requests come in," Ratajczak said. "We are not a social service nor should we fund them."

Omni Youth Services received the highest contribution of \$61,000, up 4.7 percent from last year. Horizon's \$25,000 request was reduced to \$13,100 to keep it under a 5 percent increase from the \$12,500 it received last year.

Shelter will receive \$4,600, a 4.6 percent increase, and the Center for Elderly will receive \$1,300.

The agencies' funding is included in this year's \$20 million village budget, which trustees approved Monday.

Trustees to vote on proposed village budget

Herald, Sunday, March 3, 1989

Wheeling village trustees are expected to vote Monday on next year's proposed \$19.9 million budget, which shows a 9.6 percent increase over last year's \$18.2 million spending plan.

One of the major increases lies in the police department budget, which shows a 14 percent increase in spending from last year.

In addition to hiring two police officers, the proposed \$3.42 million proposed police department budget includes the cost of hiring a sergeant.

and a radio operator. Costs for new equipment, including two cellular car telephones and two mobile computer terminals, also are listed in the police budget.

The computers, which cost more than \$4,000 each, would allow police officers to check motorists' driving or criminal records instantly from their squad cars rather than calling the police department for the information.

Next year's budget also includes a

5 percent pay increase for village employees not included in salary negotiations. The more than 30 workers include department heads, community development employees and clerks in village offices.

The proposed water and sewer department budget of \$5.1 million accounts for a large chunk of the spending increase in next year's budget. That budget includes projects such as improving sanitary sewers, replacing water pipelines and designing a reservoir to store

drinking water at the south end of the village.

The top meeting

Who: Wheeling village board
Where: Wheeling village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road
When: 8 p.m. Monday

Wellness van visits hinted for Wheeling

Herald-Mon., 4-3-89

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents unable to afford medical care soon may get relief from the Cook County Health Department.

Members of the Wheeling Board of Health plan to meet Tuesday with county health department representatives to work out the details of bringing a Wellness on Wheels van to the village.

The portable medical clinic would be set up at designated locations so that financially strapped residents can receive medical attention. Mount Prospect is one nearby community that participates in the Wellness on Wheels

program.

The mobile health center is needed to accommodate the increasing number of people who do not have health insurance. Many residents are forfeiting the insurance because of rising costs.

"There's a lot more people walking around without insurance than we think," said Mary Ellen Joseph, a village health board member. "This will be exciting. It's so much more necessary these days."

In Wheeling, the 35-foot van likely would be based at least once a month near the village hall, Joseph said.

For no charge to those who qualify, the clinic offers complete physicals, lab tests, booster shots,

vision and hearing screening, blood pressure tests, dental care and nutrition and weight programs. Pre-natal care and family planning programs also are available.

In addition, residents may be referred to a specialist's care for \$13.

Although the clinic is open to adults, students who qualify and are entering high school or college may receive physicals through Wellness on Wheels.

Board members want to hold a screening session during the second week in May to determine eligibility for residents to participate in the program, Joseph said.

Eligibility is based on annual income.

No contests in village, township races

Herald-Wed. 4/5/89

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Voters didn't have decisions to make Tuesday in the Wheeling village board and Wheeling Township races, where both slates of candidates were uncontested. And almost all of the candidates were incumbents.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz headed the Wheeling Independent Party slate, which included three current trustees and a new village clerk.

Trustee candidates included William Rogers, Joseph Ratajczak and Elizabeth Hartman. Lois Gaffke, a

member of the village plan commission, ran for village clerk. Janet M. D'Argo, the current clerk, did not seek re-election.

Schultz coasted to her first victory as a village trustee in 1977. A librarian at the Indian Trails Public Library, Schultz ran for village president in 1985 and won against Edward H. Main, who is now her campaign manager.

Although campaign issues were scarce in the village board election, candidates said they were concerned about open space in Wheeling. They want to continue keeping a close eye on development, public services and

utilities.

The Wheeling Township slate was headed by Supervisor Ruth B. Grundberg, who sought a second term. The rest of the slate included incumbents — Highway Commissioner John Ayres, Clerk Paula Ulrich and Assessor Dolores Stephan.

Newcomer Jerry Sadler ran for trustee on the slate, as did incumbents Edward H. Main, Wayne Wagner and Thomas Mead. Georgie Wiltse was on the ballot for the unpaid position of tax collector.

Grunberg, a real estate agent in Arlington Heights, waged an unsuccessful bid for supervisor in 1981 against incumbent Phil Rogers, who

was backed by the Wheeling Township Republican Organization. She was a township trustee before that time.

The candidates in Tuesday's election were unopposed when the Republican organization held a caucus in January and endorsed Grundberg's slate.

Wheeling Township, which includes about 130,000 residents, covers Wheeling, Prospect Heights, most of Arlington Heights, some of Mount Prospect and Buffalo Grove and small portions of Des Plaines, Northbrook, Palatine and Rolling Meadows.

Bird scare effort is cannon fodder for officials at Palwaukee Airport

Kaboom! And flap-flap-flap go the birdies.

The annual bird scare near the Palwaukee Municipal Airport has begun.

Initiated last year to shoo away loitering birds that have a tendency to damage speeding planes while making pilots nervous, four propane cannons have again started firing daily in an effort to make flying — at least the flying of airplanes — safe again.

The cannons, which make only noise, not war, were installed last year after one plane was severely damaged and after pilots had complained that they were aborting take-offs for fear of playing chicken with flying geese and

ducks.

"THEY DO an excellent job, at least they did last year," said airport manager Fred Stewart. "They make it so unsettling to the birds that they just don't come around."

In one case, two Canada geese struck a Falcon 20 twin-engine passenger jet on take-off. Although the pilot was able to stop the aircraft before getting airborne, the plane, upon inspection, had sustained more than \$1 million in damage.

"You've got to be extremely careful," said Barry Axelrod, president of the Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association. "The birds are not intimidated by airplane engines. They like airports and open space, just like airplanes do."

Colleagues speak well for suspended officer

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer 4-7-89

Co-workers of Wheeling Police Officer Richard R. Imber, who was found guilty last month of gambling and battery by the village's fire and police commission, say Imber has a reputation as a good police officer.

Imber, 35, was found guilty March 3 of battery and two gambling charges brought by Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger.

Six Wheeling police officers and two sergeants testified late Thursday in a hearing to determine Imber's punishment.

Haeger was recommending Imber be dismissed from the department. Imber, whose annual

salary is \$34,812, has been on leave without pay since Feb. 16.

"His reputation is good as far as being a professional police officer and providing a service to the village," Wheeling Police Sgt. Eric C. Larson said of Imber. "In his performance of his duties he's always been known as a peaceful officer."

The charges, which include bets on poker, liars' poker and backgammon, stem from three separate incidents occurring between last May and Jan. 6 at Vivian Lee's, a Wheeling restaurant/lounge at 604 N. Milwaukee Ave. Imber said he was intoxicated at the time of the incidents.

"I believe Officer Imber has an excellent reputation with police officers," Officer Edward Ther-

iault said. "I don't consider Rick a gambler. I've gambled."

All but one of the officers who testified as character witnesses admitted to having played liars' poker or poker.

Haeger testified that Imber had been reprimanded at the police department 15 times since 1980 for failing to appear for court dates, improper use of force, participating in a pool game that included gambling and persisting in wearing mirrored sunglasses.

Imber, a 10-year police department veteran, has been suspended from work five times in nearly nine years, Haeger said.

Haeger charged Imber with violating police codes rather than any criminal acts.

Social service funding increases spark debate

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

4-6-89
COUNTRYSIDE
Wheeling village trustees doled out their contributions to charitable agencies Monday, but not before again debating the merits and future levels of the funding.

Before making what trustees have said is their toughest fiscal decision, Trustee Bill Rogers suggested putting the issue of funding social service agencies before voters.

"I'm not sure if the citizens of Wheeling want to increase or continue to contribute their contributions to these agencies," Rogers said. While Rogers said it makes trustees "feel good" to make the contributions, he added that the village must come up with a policy on funding the ever-increasing requests.

"I don't know if we, as a smaller community, can take on more and more responsibility and more agencies," Rogers said. He said the village may want to put a referendum before voters asking them if they want village dollars to go toward the various agencies it helps fund.

IN APPROVING FUNDING for five of the six agencies, trustees reduced the size of the increases two of the agencies requested, saying that the village could not continue to escalate its contributions to more and more organizations.

Keeping in line with the pay increases given to most village employees, trustees approved an overall 5 percent increase, from \$81,150 to \$85,250, for the social agencies. The village spent \$60,400 in fiscal year 1987-88.

"I just want to keep the budget down as much as possible," Trustee Elizabeth Hartman said. "As worthy as these agencies are . . . the taxpayers don't want to be burdened with big increases in this area."

Hartman, who said she intends to donate to two of the five agencies personally, said the burden has been unfairly shifted from the federal and state governments to the township and village level.

ALL AGENCIES RECEIVED about a 5 percent increase except the Resource Center for the Elderly, which got a 30 percent boost from \$1,000 to \$1,300.

But trustees slashed a proposed 100 percent increase for the Horizons Children's Center and a requested 20 percent increase for the Salvation Army. Trustees granted Horizons a 5 percent increase, to \$13,100. The Salvation Army, which received \$5,000 last year, will get an additional \$250 this year.

Omni Youth Services received a 4.7 percent, to \$61,000 from \$58,250. Shelter, Inc. received a 4.5 percent boost, from \$4,400 to \$4,600.

With the decision, Trustee James Whittington agreed with Rogers and said the village must study the situation. "We need to make that decision and we need to be in this arena to make that decision rather than abdicate to another agency," Whittington said.

THE ONLY MAJOR disagreement on the funding was over the 30 percent increase for the Resource Center for the Elderly. With the vote tied at three, Village President Sheila Schultz had to break an uncustomary tie. She voted to give the center the \$300 increase it had requested over its 1988 contribution.

Pay increases help to boost budget by 10%

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

After nailing down the last details, including giving most non-union village employees a 5 percent raise, village trustees Monday inked a new, \$20 million budget for 1989-90.

Included in the budget, which represents a 10 percent hike over 1988-89 spending, are plans to add three police officers, repair and build new sidewalks, buy new carpeting for village hall, buy land for a flood-controlling diversionary channel and spend money on improvements to the village sewer system.

With little fanfare following a presentation by finance director Bob Flalkowski, trustees unanimously approved the budget.

Besides the pay increases for village personnel, trustees Monday also decided to spend \$85,250 on local social service agencies. That figure represented a 5 percent jump over similar spending last year.

THE BUDGET IS a balanced one which requires the village to dip into cash reserves for nearly \$3 million, or about 15 percent of the spending total, Flalkowski said.

Personnel costs took up nearly a
(Continued on next page)

But while the resource center was the lone agency to receive a double-digit increase, the leaders of other organizations that recorded more modest gains were busy planning how to make the best use of their limited resources.

With the reduction in the size of her agency's increase, Horizons executive director and founder Suzan Sclove said her not-for-profit agency may have to limit the number of subsidized day care slots it now keeps open, many of which are occupied by village children.

Sclove said the Wheeling-based agency now has 63 slots for subsidized day care, most for parents who enter the work force after spending time on welfare. Although the \$600 increase in village funding will help, Sclove said she isn't sure the center will be able to pay for 63 scholarships.

"WHAT WILL happen if Wheeling Township and Wheeling village don't increase their (contributions), is the percentage of people now getting subsidized will not remain at 40 percent," Sclove said.

Since 1985, Sclove said of the 155 subsidized children who went through the program, none of their parents returned to welfare. Without the day care, many of those parents would be forced to remain at home and seek public assistance.

"We feel we are doing something positive for the community," Sclove said. "We're not talking about Horizon suffering, we're talking about children suffering."

Budget —

(Continued from previous page)

third of the budget, and debt service - payment on bonds for capital improvements - accounted for another 16 percent of the budget. Property taxes will generate the most revenue for the village, accounting for 32 percent, or \$6.36 million of the \$20 million needed to cover the budget.

Trustees asked few questions of Flalkowski before approving the budget. Some had earlier questioned, but later approved, spending \$1,600 to buy a video camera and recorder for the senior citizens at the Pavillion Senior Center.

Expected to be bought with funds raised by seniors during annual fundraisers, the camcorder drew the attention of several trustees. Trustee Bill Rogers, who later voted in favor of the purchase, said the purchase should be justified.

"I'M NOT fully convinced that the use of a video camera for some of those events are essential or necessary," Rogers said.

Trustee Judy Abruscato also questioned the purchase of the video equipment. "I also had a problem with that video equipment. I still have a problem with it," Abruscato said. She said the seniors should hold a fundraiser with the goal being the purchase of the camera.

According to memorandum put out by senior coordinator Barb Hansen, the camera would be used to record exercise classes, chorus

rehearsals and performances, senior commission forums, fundraisers and other special events.

High costs associated with renting video equipment led to the purchase request. Village Manager Craig Anderson said that no tax dollars would be used to buy the camera and said the seniors themselves had requested the equipment. The money for the purchase was approved by all the trustees.

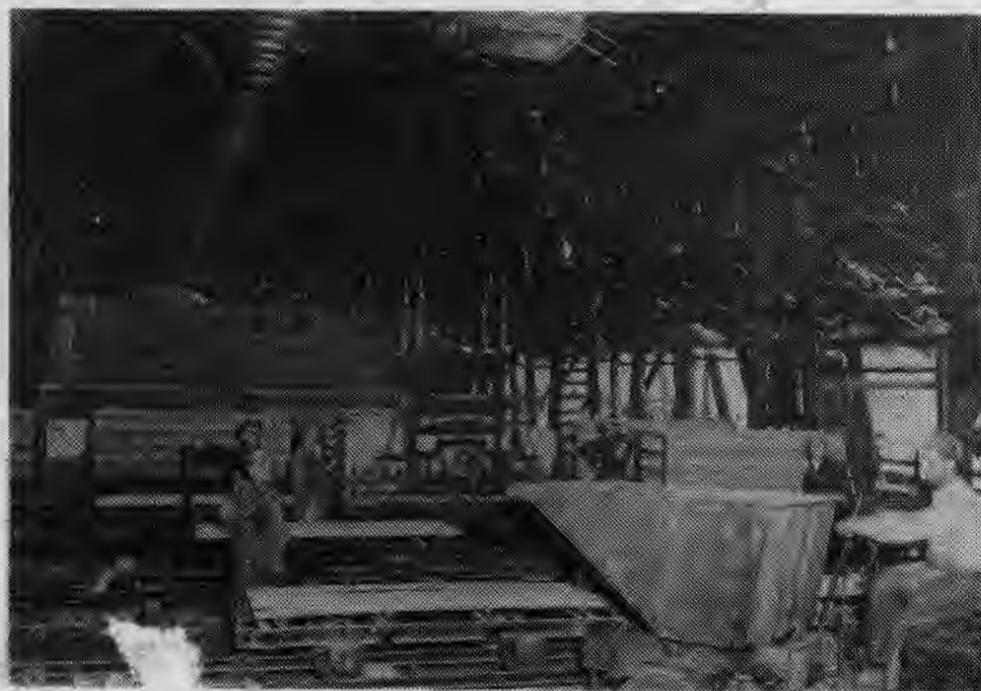
IN OTHER SPENDING news, nearly all village employees received a 5 percent raise, including all department heads. With the increases, the highest paid staffer after Anderson (\$58,850) is Bob Gray, director of the operations and maintenance department. He will make \$57,330 this year.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger will earn \$57,173, Village Attorney James Rhodes will be paid \$57,068, Bob Flalkowski, the finance director and assistant village manager, will earn \$56,963, Fire Chief Bernhard Koeppen will make \$55,650, and community development Director Mike Klitzke will earn \$54,075.

Haeger's department also got a personnel boost with the addition of two patrol officers and the addition of another sergeant. Trustees also approved the purchase of four in-car computers for police. The computers will allow police to run down identification checks on cars and individuals without calling village dispatch.



Mayer's filling station located on Milwaukee Avenue.



Although not to *wheeling* proper, this brickyard, down Lake-Cook Road near Deerfield, provided work for many of the village's residents. (Right) Workers building the huge wooden forms for the concrete bridge that crosses the Des Plaines River at Dundee Road take a moment to pose for a picture.



Photographic memory

C. Overmyer and 4-6-89

A look at Wheeling's German roots

A photographic exhibit at the Wheeling Historical Society traces the roots of some of the village's earliest German settlers and their contributions to the area's development.

Road names around Wheeling are one of the first clues; Schoenbeck, Raupp, Weidner. Farm names are the second: Haben, Horcher, Koeppen.

Ever since the middle of the 19th Century, the German influence on Wheeling and the northern Illinois area has been substantial. They built many of the roads, farmed much of the food, ran many of the restaurants and provided much of the labor that brought prosperity and settlement to the area.

Deutsche Namen are still prominent. They appear on lists of former village officials and dominate the plots that make up the Wheeling Cemetery on Dundee Road.

But it was the people, not the names, that provided the area with the heritage that is being celebrated in an exhibit at the Wheeling Historical Society. Starting Sunday, April 9, the exhibit has nine photographs from Wheeling among its more than 25 photographs that cross a number of panels. The exhibit will run through May.



Driven by Bill Koeppen, this is one of the early gasoline-powered tractors. The engine was mounted over the drive wheels and separate attachments were hitched on for different tasks like plowing or harrowing.

BESIDES GETTING AN overview of the German heritage that runs throughout the area, the exhibit will also feature several artifacts from the era. An anvil from a blacksmith's shop, farm tools used both in the barn and the home, a veterinarian's instruments and merchandise from a turn-of-the-century general store will be on display.

Visitors will be able to see the difference between a farmer's sickle and scythe and find out what 19th

Century teen-agers could pick up at the local store. Hint: it wasn't a video game or peanut butter cups.

The exhibit will be open on Sundays through the end of May at in the Wheeling Historical Society's museum in Chamber Park, located on Wolf Road, just north of Dundee Road. Visitors can view the exhibit from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays, excluding April 30, or by appointment. Call museum curator Betty Barrie at 537-0327 for an appointment.



This is August Pieper's blacksmith shop in 1908. He would later turn the shop from one servicing carriages to one making sure automobiles got fixed and fueled. Pieper's daughter, Elsie, still lives in the village.

Wheeling budget reflects hikes in workers' salaries

7-8-89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Salary increases for village employees account for much of the increase in Wheeling's \$20 million budget next year.

Village trustees recently approved the 1989-90 spending plan, which shows a 10 percent increase over last year's \$18.2 million budget.

Village employees not included in salary negotiations will receive a 5 percent pay increase next year. The more than 30 employees include department heads, community development employees and clerks in the village hall.

Also included in the budget increase is pay for two new police officers, a sergeant and a radio operator. The \$3.42 million police department budget also includes the cost of purchasing two cellular car telephones and two mobile computer terminals.

The terminals, which cost \$4,000 each, would allow police officers to check motorists' driving and crimi-

nal records from their squad cars rather than calling the police department for the information.

Trustees agreed to give \$85,250 to area social service programs. Although the allotment is up 18.4 percent from last year's \$81,150 contribution, it is \$15,650 less than the six agencies had requested.

The \$5.15 million water and sewer budget shows a 12 percent increase over last year's spending plan of \$4.6 million.

Included in the spending increase is funding for projects, such as improving sanitary sewers, replacing water pipelines and designing a reservoir to store drinking water at the south end of the village.

Other water and storm sewer improvements in the village's comprehensive stormwater management project include installing a new sewer to reduce flooding at Lakeside Villas subdivision and replacing the Heritage Park Bridge, which now restricts storm water and causes flooding upstream.

Village officials expect to collect

A capsule view of the budget

Wheeling

Total spending	\$20 million	Up 10%
Total borrowing	\$2.7 million	Up 22.7%
Property tax revenue	\$6.4 million	Up 30%
How much it would cost the owner of a \$85,000 house:	\$176	

36 percent more in property taxes next year because a five-year property reassessment likely will increase land values.

In addition, the \$1.28 tax rate likely will increase, said Robert W. Fialkowski, the village's director of finance. Although the new rate would not be known for several months, Fialkowski expects it to increase to between \$1.45 and \$1.50.

Other revenue increases are expected to come from sales taxes next year. Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the village may receive about 15 percent more in sales tax next year based on inflation, high costs and new businesses in town.

Manufacturer gets zoning change

4-9-89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Bensenville manufacturer's plans to consolidate his business in Wheeling would not infringe on a nearby park, Wheeling village officials say.

Wheeling village trustees recently approved zoning changes for the center, located at 250 W. Carpenter Ave., near Heritage Park. Under the zoning conditions, the business may operate with 174 parking spaces rather than the 219 required under

village law.

In addition, the amount of open land between the building and Heritage Park can be 50 yards instead of the 100 yards required under industrial zoning codes.

Lowell Ruffer, who represents the owners of Dearborn Wire and Cable Co., said the consolidation is needed to cut costs. The company manufactures and sells insulation wrapped around wire to electronics companies.

About 30 employees at the Bensenville location will be transferred

to the Wheeling business. Ruffer said about 20 people may be hired later.

Trustee William A. Rogers was concerned that the building would be too close to Heritage Park.

"It's always nice to have a company build an addition to a building," Rogers said. "But eventually we'll have nothing on this property but rooftop, building and parking lot."

The owners will be required to landscape the area around the building with 12- or 14-foot shading trees. Landscaping plans must be approved by the village's appearance commis-

sion with recommendations from Wheeling Park District officials.

"There are limits as to how much building you could have on property, and I personally think Dearborn is pushing its limit," Rogers said.

Rogers also questioned whether the reduced parking spaces would be adequate when the additional employees are hired.

Village officials said there would be enough parking spaces near the building even with the extra employees because many of the current spaces remain open during the day.

SUBURBAN REPORT

Convenience store denied liquor license

Herald - 4/11/89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A new Wheeling convenience store will not be allowed to sell liquor because illegal purchases would be difficult to monitor, village liquor control commissioners decided Monday.

Convenience stores are not allowed to sell alcohol in Wheeling.

The sale of liquor at Express Food Stores Inc. would attract minors attempting to buy alcohol there, Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

"It does not appear to be a need in the Village of Wheeling to increase the availability of packaged goods," Anderson said.

Also the store could attract on-

premise drinking because of a seating area inside the building, expected to open in August, he added.

"It has been the position of this board and the village board not to issue liquor licenses to those types of establishments," Trustee Anthony Altieri said. The commission has rejected similar requests in the past, he added.

However, selling liquor at the store, located at the southwest corner of Hintz and Wheeling roads, would be convenient for nearby residents, Express owner Solak Dilanjan said.

"We are committed to being a good neighbor to the community we serve," Dilanjan said. "I know it's a policy of Wheeling, but I

know eventually it would be a benefit to the community. It would benefit us financially."

Dilanjan asked the commission grant him a license for one year on probation. But commissioners unanimously rejected the request and said allowing Express to sell packaged beer and wine would encourage other convenience stores to seek liquor licenses.

"One of the problems we face with this is it would be a precedent," Trustee William A. Rogers said. "I could see every convenience store, or even gas station with a food mart, requesting a liquor license. I'm not sure I want to make alcoholic beverages convenient to purchase every one or two blocks."

Thurs. APR. 13, 1989
Canvass confirms election results

An official canvass of the April 4 vote totals has confirmed the election of Sheila H. Schultz as Wheeling village president and Lois Gaffke as village clerk.

The canvass also confirmed the re-election of incumbents Elizabeth L. Hartman, Joseph W. Ratajczak and William A. Rogers to the village board.

Schultz, who ran unopposed and headed the Wheeling Independent Party slate, received 2,906 votes. She was the top vote-getter, receiving more votes than her running mates in each of the village's 25 precincts.

Hartman received 2,664 votes, followed by Ratajczak with 2,606, and Rogers with 2,585.

All five village board members were elected to four-year terms.

The canvass was conducted by Trustee Anthony Altieri Jr. and outgoing Village Clerk Janet D'Argo. D'Argo said the voter turnout seemed higher in this election than in the 1987 election, which attracted about 1,000 fewer voters.

Herald - 4/13/89

SUBURBAN REPORT

Herald - Saturday, April 15, 1989
Voters may unite fire districts

By KEVIN DOUGHERTY
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The president of the Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District says voters may be asked on the November ballot whether the district and the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District should be consolidated.

Robert J. Bremner says he intends to discuss the consolidation issue and the prospect of a November referendum at the board's 7:30 p.m. meeting Tuesday at the Prospect Heights fire station.

"I think we are going to go ahead with it again," Bremner said.

While a March 1988 referendum on the issue failed, Prospect Heights fire district officials contend the question was settled in the courts when it should have been resolved in the voting booths. A Cook County Circuit Court judge ruled in January that the referen-

dum lost because voters in each fire district did not independently approve the consolidation.

The issue went to court because of two precincts. The precincts lie in both fire districts, but the votes within the two precincts were not separated as required.

The referendum passed overwhelmingly in the Prospect Heights fire district, but failed in the Wheeling fire district, the court determined.

Frank Schwab, president of the Wheeling fire district, wants the two fire district boards to jointly discuss the consolidation issue before any referendum is put to the voters.

He is proposing the city of Prospect Heights get directly involved in the talks and consider establishing a municipal fire department, which would resolve the issue without a referendum.

Prospect Heights fire district officials pushed for consolidation in

1988 to give them jurisdiction over, and property taxes from, the entire city of Prospect Heights and a number of unincorporated areas between Prospect Heights, Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

The Wheeling Township fire district, which does not have men or equipment, contracts with local fire departments for service. While two-thirds of the district is in Prospect Heights, the lion's share of the district is protected by the village of Wheeling.

Wheeling officials opposed the 1988 referendum while the Wheeling Township fire district supported it.

Prospect Heights Acting Mayor Jerry Meyer says he would welcome such a meeting.

"If we can determine that the residents of Prospect Heights would be better served by a municipal department, then we should pursue it."

Planners: Condo plan would improve lot

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A proposed condominium complex would improve the appearance of a vacant lot near a heavily-traveled Wheeling intersection, village officials say.

Two McHenry County developers want to build two four-unit town-house buildings on less than one acre at the southwest corner of McHenry and Elmhurst roads.

"It's just a vacant lot and often

littered," Village Planner Robert Sullivan said. "It's kind of an unkempt lot with weeds and litter. With the proposal, it'll have generous landscaping and new buildings."

Village trustees are expected to vote on the proposal Monday. The village zoning board of appeals and plan commission are recommending the village board approve reducing the amount of required open land between the complex and the adjacent Colonial Hills

subdivision.

Under village rules, a 30-foot front yard is required for the area, which is zoned for housing. But the requirement would be reduced to 20 feet for the complex.

Residents living in Colonial Hills were concerned that the land was left vacant for a future park. However, the land was not intended for a park in the village's comprehensive plan and Childerly Park is nearby, said Assistant Village Planner Chris Washburn.

Neighbor/Classified

Wheeling

SECTION

5

Workers to walk streets in clean-up

Herald 4-16-89 (Sunday)

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Clad in worker blues and armed with rakes and bags, Wheeling residents will take to the streets this month.

The village's annual clean-up day, "Up With Wheeling," will coincide this year with Arbor Day events. After the clean-up day, 17 trees will be planted along Dundee Road as a more permanent beautification plan for the village.

The spring cleaners will meet at

8:30 a.m. April 29 at Wheeling's fire station behind the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. From there, the helpers will either walk to their cleaning destinations or take a bus to the trouble spots.

Volunteers are expected to pick up garbage in streets, parks and school yards. In addition, volunteers will concentrate this year on cleaning the Cook County Forest Preserves, where debris has blown in from the streets, Assistant Village Planner Christine Washburn said.

Local business owners will be encouraged to clean up property around their buildings for the 10th annual "Up With Wheeling" day.

Cleaning tools, garbage bags and safety vests will be provided by the village and the forest preserve.

"This is an excellent opportunity to get involved and clean up the community," Washburn said.

About 250 people are expected to participate in the project. Many of the volunteers are members of homeowners associations, Cub Scout, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops and

other community organizations. However, all residents are encouraged to help, Washburn said.

Following the clean up, which lasts about 2 1/2 hours, volunteers will be treated to a picnic at the village hall grounds. All helpers also will receive seedlings to plant trees on their property.

Last year, volunteers picked up debris from streets and concentrated their efforts on cleaning around village entrances. Bushes were planted around the village welcoming signs.

Wed 4/19/89 - Herald



Four more years

Newly re-elected Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz presides over a board meeting following a swearing-in ceremony for her third term in the village's top spot.

Daily Herald Photo/Peter Newcomb

Village tabs \$17.3 million for improvements

Herald - 4/19/89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Street, sidewalk and sewer improvements are some of the major projects outlined in Wheeling's \$17.3 million improvement plan for the next five years.

Trustees will vote today on the capital improvements program, which calls for \$4.15 million in improvements this fiscal year.

Village officials update the plan each year to help determine future costs of improvements and how to pay for them. County, state and federal governments usually foot part of the bill for some of the improvements.

However, the costs included in the program are only estimates

and likely would change after the needed work is specified and contractors are hired. In addition, some of the projects that were not completed last year were carried over to this year.

"It's a guide to make sure we're all thinking along the same lines in terms of planning for the future," Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

Last year, the five-year plan was estimated at \$14.7 million, with \$5 million in projects scheduled for the first year.

The \$7.7 million road and bridge plan includes \$2.5 million for street improvements for this fiscal year. Projects included in that plan are widening Wheeling Road from Palatine to Hintz roads and

widening the intersection at Wheeling and Palatine roads to improve traffic flow there.

One of the major improvements in the plan is constructing and repairing several village sidewalks. The nearly \$1 million sidewalk program is necessary, Anderson said, because some of the village crosswalks are deteriorating.

Some of the sidewalks included on the priority list are the north side of Highland Avenue from Lilac Lane to Wheeling Avenue, Old Buffalo Grove Road from north of Tahoe Circle to the village limits and the west side of McHenry Road north of Dundee Road.

Also included in the plan is \$2.5 million to build a storage tank for additional drinking water.

Loss of hangars could cut airport revenue

Herald 4-19-89 (Wed)

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport could lose about \$3,000 a month in rental fees after aircraft storage buildings are demolished to comply with federal safety standards.

The T-hangars, or private storage garages, and Hangar 3, which stores several aircraft, must be removed from the airport because they are too close to the main runway. Federal Aviation Administration standards call for a "clear zone" along the runway.

Airport officials say they don't know how much the project will cost. However, the FAA would pay for 90 percent of the project. The

Illinois Department of Transportation and the airport each would pick up 5 percent of the tab.

T-hangar renters now pay an average of \$155 a month to lease indoor storage space. Between 16 and 20 of the airport's 65 renters are expected to leave Palwaukee in search of indoor storage after the demolition, said Michael F. Zonsius, assistant airport manager of finance and administration.

The loss of 20 renters would cost the airport up to \$3,100 a month, or \$18,600 for the fiscal year, Zonsius said.

Airport officials say they do not know when the FAA will require the demolition, and they plan to wait for a mandate to remove the hangars.

However, this year's \$1.4 million airport budget shows that airport officials anticipate starting the demolition in October. Moreover, after October, rental revenues for those hangars are not listed in the budget.

In addition to the demolition project, airport officials plan to add 80 tie-down spots for outside aircraft storage by mid-July, off Milwaukee Avenue near Hangar 2.

The tie-down project, which would cost about \$1.2 million, could accommodate tenants now using the indoor hangars, Zonsius said.

With 50 renters leasing the new spaces for about \$107 a month, the airport's leasing revenues would increase by \$5,350 a month for tie-downs.

Village's sprinkling ban starts earlier this year

The Wheeling "sprinkler police" will be dousing out water abusers a little earlier this year.

In keeping with expected recommendations from the state, Wheeling trustees Monday agreed to begin restricting non-essential water use beginning on May 15, a month earlier than previous years. The ban will still last through Sept. 15.

Non-essential water use, including washing cars and watering lawns, won't be allowed between the noon and 6 p.m. during the ban period.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said the Illinois Department of Transportation is expected to soon levy the new water restriction rules for communities that draw Lake Michigan water. Wheeling began using lake water in 1985, with full hook-up with the Northwest Water Commission starting in July 1986.

Anderson said village staff, including police and members of the operations and maintenance department will be out enforcing the ban. Warnings and citations can be given to violators, Anderson said.

"I suppose it was their (IDOT's) concern that we conserve the lake water resource," Anderson said. As far as affecting the lushness of village lawns and the luster of village cars, Anderson said it will likely have no effect.

Residents to get containers

More than 4,100 Wheeling residences will be getting a new orange container from the village next week.

But this 12-gallon plastic bin shouldn't be used by village bookworms as a new book shelf, but rather for the curbside recycling program that will begin May 1.

Dave Kowal, assistant to the village manager, said Wheeling-Buffalo Grove Disposal will begin passing out the plastic bins during their weekly routes next week. Included with the bins will be instructions for placing the aluminum cans, glass bottles and newsprint at the curb each week.

About 3,800 single-family homes will begin the recycling program along with another 300 residences in two town-home complexes that have agreed to the program. Trustees approved the recycling plan late last year after being courted by four different waste haulers.

The program, which will provide for weekly pick up of recyclable materials, will cost residents an extra dollar each month. The village anticipates savings in landfill costs derived in the future by the recycling effort will cover the initial costs.

The Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources has approved a grant that will cover nearly \$11,000 of the cost of the bins.

Parade needs support

Organizers of the annual Fourth of July parade are looking for a couple hundred hungry people to indulge in a spaghetti dinner to raise money for the event.

A two-hour spaghetti dinner, including spaghetti, meatballs, garlic bread and salad, will be held April 26 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the AMVETS post at 700 McHenry Road.

Organizer Judy Abruscato said the proceeds will help bring several bands to the parade, including the Illinois State Police Drum and Fife Corps from Springfield. Abruscato said five bands, including a Chicago martachi band, will perform in the parade. For more information, call Abruscato at 541-8788.

Herald 4/23/89 (Sunday)

It's time to help pitch in for spring cleaning

Dig through your drawer and find your "Up With Wheeling" T-shirt. It's that time of year again. Up With Wheeling Day began in 1980 and has continued since as our community's annual clean-up day. Community groups, Scout troops, clubs, organizations and individuals are invited to participate this week when the spring cleaning of Wheeling begins once again.

Up With Wheeling Day will be part of a weekend package this year, with festivities beginning April 28 with an Arbor Day celebration. The village of Wheeling is working in conjunction with Eugene Field School in Wheeling this year and will plant three trees on their property.

The school will sponsor classroom activities to correspond to the celebration.

Up With Wheeling Day participants will meet at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. A group of workers will go out along Milwaukee Avenue, Wolf Road and Dundee Road to pick up debris from the sides of roads. Participants should wear work gloves. Special crews will also be dispatched this year to work on the forest preserve areas.

At 12:30 p.m., work crews will return to the village hall to deposit their collections in dumpsters donated especially for the event by Wheeling Disposal. A picnic will then be held for all those who helped.

Christine Washburn, assistant



Lisa Schab
Wheeling

village planner, asks that anyone who has a T-shirt from last year's Up With Wheeling Day be sure to wear it to this year's event. The T-shirts were distributed to all participants in the 1988 clean up. This year, the village will dispense complimentary 6-inch to 12-inch seedlings, donated by the Morton Arboretum.

Washburn explained that there is a stronger emphasis on the visual upgrading and aesthetic improvement of our village now in the works. A specific portion of the budget has been set aside for a capital improvement program and beautifying streetscapes.

Tree preservation also is a concern. Where new housing developments are going up, efforts are being made to save as many pre-existing trees as possible.

So come out and enjoy the fun and good feeling of Up With Wheeling Day and the thank you picnic afterwards. Watch for new trees being planted at the west entrance of the village hall, and keep an eye on the vest pocket park located at Dundee and Milwaukee roads. The Senior Citizen's Pavilion will be planting flowers there, and providing care for them during the summer.

Wheeling issues liquor licenses, warnings

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Alleged gambling activity drew stern warnings Monday for three Wheeling restaurant owners as they requested renewal of their liquor licenses before the village liquor control commission.

Commissioners renewed the licenses for the three restaurants and two others, which were late in processing renewal applications. Liquor licenses, which expire May 1, must be renewed each year.

The three restaurants given warnings were connected incidents that led to the recent firing of a Wheeling police officer, Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said.

The restaurants - Vivian Lee's at 604 N. Milwaukee Ave., the Old Munich Inn at 582 N. Milwaukee Ave. and the 94th Aero Squadron at 1070 S. Milwaukee Ave. - were named during testimony at hearings for former Wheeling police officer Richard R. Imber.

Imber, a 10-year police department veteran, was fired last month

after he was found guilty of gambling and battery by the village fire and police commission. Haeger had charged Imber with three gambling incidents, battery, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Imber admitted to gambling in a poker game Oct. 17 at Vivian Lee's and to participating in a game of liar's poker on May 5 at the restaurant. The latter game involves betting on serial numbers on dollar bills.

"The testimony before the board of fire and police commissioners showed the gambling was in public

view," Village Attorney James Rhodes said. "For anyone to suggest that a bartender or owner didn't know about it is ludicrous."

Under village liquor codes, license owners are responsible for any illegal action at their businesses.

During the most recent incident on Jan. 6, Imber testified he was at Vivian Lee's playing backgammon with a friend, Richard Chee, the general manager of the 94th Aero Squadron.

Haeger said he was concerned that a restaurant manager, who was involved in gambling incidents may

condone gambling although the 94th Aero Squadron was not involved in any gambling activity.

Haeger said Imber also was involved in a gambling incident over a game of pool at the Old Munich Inn on Jan. 6, 1988.

Commissioners warned the restaurant owners that repeated violations could result in their liquor licenses being revoked. The owners will be issued information on village liquor codes and be required to hang signs forbidding gambling at their restaurants.

Herald 4/23/89

Condo plans get village approval

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village trustees have approved plans by a McHenry County developer to build condominiums near a heavily traveled intersection.

Two four-unit town house buildings would be built on less than one acre at the southwest corner of McHenry and Elmhurst roads. The complex may also improve the appearance of that corner, which usually is lined with litter and weeds, Village Planner Robert Sullivan said.

However, trustees were concerned whether there would be enough parking spaces for the complex and whether the additional residents would increase traffic flow problems at the corner.

"This development is being built in an area where we have an excess number of cars," Trustee William A. Rogers said. "I think it's going to be a problem."

But developer Phil Konopka said several of the cars parked near the vacant lot are abandoned or belong

to residents in the adjacent subdivision, Colonial Hills. He also has plans to widen the entrance drive for three lanes of traffic, Konopka said.

Originally, trustees were given only plans for the complex. But after viewing details of the landscaping, they unanimously approved the plans, called Elmwood Shire Townhomes.

"Looking at the landscaping, I can certainly see he is doing a fine job with many, many trees being planted on the property," Rogers said.



Spaghetti dinner will benefit parade

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Chef Joe of Wa-Pa-Ghettis Pizza will serve spaghetti tonight in the second of several fund-raisers planned for this year's Fourth of July Celebration in Wheeling.

The dinner, which includes spaghetti, homemade meatballs, garlic bread and salad, will be served from 5:30 to 7:30 tonight at AmVets Hall, 700 McHenry Road in Wheeling. Re-

freshments also will be available.

Tickets for the dinner are \$5 for adults, \$3.50 for senior citizens and \$3 for children 7 to 12 years old. The cost is \$2 for children under 7.

The first of this year's fund-raisers, which was held last month, included a pancake breakfast at the Chevy Chase Clubhouse in Wheeling.

Profits from the fund-raisers will be used to help defray nearly \$3,000 for the village's annual Fourth of July parade.

Some of the participants in this year's parade include the Wheeling High School band and a band called "Marchie." In addition, Wheeling Fire Chief Bernie Koeppen will lead the pack as the grand marshal and the Illinois Police Drum and Fife Band from Springfield also will participate.

The Fourth of July Committee meets regularly to discuss other fund-raisers to help make this year's event the best the village has ever

had, organizer Judy Abruscato said. The committee meets at 8 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the AmVets Hall and volunteers are needed, Abruscato said.

Organizers also are encouraging participants to enter floats in the parade this year rather than decorated cars. Parade participants will carry red, white and blue balloons in keeping with this year's theme of "Stars and Stripes Forever."

Sunday, April 23, 1989

Daily Herald

WEEK IN REVIEW

Demolition may cost airport \$3,000 a month

Palwaukee Municipal Airport could lose about \$3,000 a month in rental fees after aircraft storage buildings are demolished to comply with federal safety standards. The t-hangars, or private storage garages, and Hangar 3, which stores several aircraft, must be removed from the airport because they are too close to the main runway. Federal Aviation Administration standards call for a "clear zone" along the runway, which runs northwest through the airport. Between 16 and 20 of the airport's 65 renters are expected to leave Palwaukee in search of indoor storage after the demolition, said Michael F. Zonsius, assistant airport manager of finance and administration.

Wheeling springs into action with cleanup

Herald - 4/29/89
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

With new trees sprouting, Wheeling now is ready to take on a clean look.

Residents will walk throughout Wheeling today picking up stray wrappers, cans and other debris from village streets, parks and walkways.

The village's 10th annual cleanup day, "Up With Wheeling," coincides this year with Arbor Day. Village officials commemorated the event by holding a tree-planting ceremony at Eugene Field Grade School in Wheeling.

Cleaning volunteers will meet at 8:30 a.m. today at Wheeling's fire station, behind the village hall at

255 W. Dundee Road. From there, workers will either walk or take a bus to their designated cleaning area.

"Basically, it's just a day dedicated to spring cleanup," said Wheeling Village Engineer Jim Edmond. "I've been to it a couple of years and I've always had fun."

The village and the Cook County Forest Preserve are supplying cleaning tools, garbage bags and safety vests.

This year's spring cleaners plan to concentrate on picking up garbage in forest preserves. Much of the debris there has blown in from the streets.

Typically, more than 250 residents participate in the cleanup

project, although non-residents are invited to help, too. Village officials are expecting the same turnout this year.

Many of the volunteers are members of homeowners' associations, Cub Scout, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops and other community organizations.

Following the cleanup, which usually runs until noon, volunteers will be treated to a picnic at the village hall grounds. They also will receive seedlings to plant trees on their own property.

In addition, village workers will plant trees periodically in Wheeling in an effort to return some greenery to the area, said Village Planner Robert Sullivan.

4-29-89



Trees spring up all over suburbs

Children at Field Elementary School in Wheeling, like hundreds of others throughout the Northwest suburbs, celebrated Arbor Day in traditional style Friday, planting a new tree on their school grounds.

The spring holiday dates back to 1872 when J. Sterling Morton, an easterner transplanted to Nebraska, popularized tree planting on the Great Plains.

His efforts helped prompt the establishment of the holiday in that state and, eventually, across the country.

Arbor Day planters in Wheeling celebrate the day in style.

Daily Herald Photo/Vincent Pierri



Cook County sheriff's investigators survey the wreckage of one of their squad cars that was hit by a motorist as he raced through Palatine.

Daily Herald Photo/Michael Meinhardt

Police chase man through suburbs

It began as a basic traffic stop in the wee hours Monday morning, but Daniel Marcopoulos, of Chicago, made it interesting: a 40-minute, high-speed chase through the Northwest suburbs that ended when Marcopoulos drove his car over a 35-foot drop-off in Bartlett and into a ditch. Before that, he hit two Wheeling squad cars and a Cook County Sheriff's squad car. Full story on Page 4.

SUBURBAN REPORT

Rehab loans OK'd for emergency repairs

Herald 5-2-89
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Low-income Wheeling residents now can receive money for emergency home repairs through the village's residential rehabilitation program.

Since 1980 the village has received about \$482,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds from Cook County.

However, the money must be used to bring houses up to village codes and not for basic remodeling. For example, families can receive money to buy a new furnace or repair electrical wiring, plumbing or roofs.

Village trustees Monday approved several changes to the pro-

gram's policy manual including allowing residents who have been accepted for the loans to make emergency repairs to their homes without waiting for the paperwork to be processed.

Other "administrative-type changes" required by the county apply to the village and include such items as guidelines for awarding contracting bids and inspecting lead-based paints used on the houses, said Community Development Director Michael Klitzke.

The village has nearly \$155,000 available in grant funds and officials encourage residents to apply. The village has received \$50,000 from the county this year and about \$105,000 was left over from previous years, Village Manager

Craig Anderson said.

"We love to get rid of it. It's there," Klitzke said of the grant money. "I think people are a little hesitant (to apply for the money) when they hear it's income-qualified."

The loans are discounted at 10 percent each year after the work is completed. Therefore, if a homeowner keeps his house after 10 years, the debt is forgiven. But if the homeowner sells his home after the work is completed, he must pay back the balance, less the 10 percent annual discount.

To qualify for a grant, a family of four must have an income of less than \$33,350; a family of two must make less than \$26,700.

Wheeling trustees may allow ad pennants

5-4-89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees may allow village merchants to hang pennants as advertisements — a practice prohibited in the village for at least a decade.

The village's sign code currently prohibits several displays, including pennants and signs on trees, fences and roofs. Temporary flags are permitted for special occasions, such as grand openings, but only with the approval of village officials.

After a shopping center developer recently requested flying pennants, trustees agreed to discuss allowing the flags in the village. However, some village officials

disagree with the changes.

"You'd really be getting yourselves into a Pandora's box," Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said. "No prohibited sign has ever been part of a special sign package."

A special sign permit allows developers to vary the size of signs from the village's sign code.

Developer Terence M. King wants to fly pennants at the Creekside Plaza Shopping Center on the southeast corner of Elmhurst and McHenry roads. The solid burgundy-colored pennants, which are 4 feet by 9 feet, would hang from 15, 25-foot high light poles in the shopping center parking lot.

"They're more of a benefit in helping the retailer get attention,"

King said. The pennants bring "distinction to the center and also help retailers bring business to stores."

Trustee William A. Rogers voted against discussing or directing staff to review the sign code.

"If you allow that, you're allowing every village business to put up pennants," Rogers said. "I can just imagine the pennants flying all over the village. I'm saying I think they're ugly."

"I'm not talking about plastic gas station pennants that have flown for years," Trustee James R. Whittington said in support of amending the code. "I think we owe it to the retailers in the village to come up with modern ways to advertise their businesses."

'Pennant fever' unfurls as trustees debate sign plan

5-4-89

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Countryside

A shopping center's plan to use pennants to grab customers' eyes instead drew the attention of Wheeling trustees Monday as they debated whether to allow the previously outlawed flags.

In approving a group of codes limiting the type of signs displayed at the Creekside shopping center, now under construction at Old McHenry and Elmhurst roads, trustees agreed to later consider the now-banned pennants.

One trustee, however, said discussion of the matter is unnecessary. Trustee Bill Rogers said the pennants, regardless of their fabric or color, were ugly and not needed. He said the village board should not amend the existing sign code to allow them.

"If you do that, you're allowing every business, every shopping center to put up pennants," Rogers said. "I can just imagine Wolf and Hintz (roads) with 40 banners all over the place."

"I WOULD be opposed to it in any manner whatsoever," Rogers said. He opposed holding a discussion about whether pennants should be taken off the list of prohibited signs.

Arguing that the pennants were attractive and tasteful, developer Terence King said they would help out the center's retailers by drawing in more customers. He said the burgundy pennants would be four feet by nine feet, hang from light poles in the parking lot and act as an "architectural accent" to his project.

The pennants, however, are not allowed under existing village codes, Village Attorney James Rhodes said. In order for them to go up, Rhodes said trustees would first have to take them off the prohibited sign list.

While trustees agreed to sign codes for the center, they left out the pennants' issue and said they would discuss it at a later meeting.

TRUSTEE JAMES WHITTINGTON said the pennants, if done well, could be part of a new wave of "modern" signs. He disagreed with Rogers and said trustees owed the business community consideration of the flags.

Deciding on what is allowed is usually the domain of the sign code board of appeals, with the village board being the final board of approval. But in the Creekside case, the decision on the pennants was left to trustees.

Rhodes said approval of the pennants without modifications to the overall sign code could lead to a dangerous precedent. "I think that if you decide to allow a prohibitive sign in a sign package, you are opening a Pandora's box," Rhodes said.

NO DATE WAS set for the pennants discussion. Without that discussion and subsequent amendments to the sign code, King would not be allowed to put them up.

Resident George Hieber also told the board that the pennants could generate unwanted noise as they flap in the wind. He said neighboring residential neighbors could be annoyed by that noise.

Wellness on Wheels rolls into town

5-7-89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Free tests for high blood pressure, high cholesterol, anemia and diabetes will be offered Tuesday when the Wellness on Wheels van makes its debut in Wheeling.

The Wellness on Wheels program — a pet project of the village's board of health — provides medical care for residents unable to afford it.

Financially-strapped residents can receive medical attention provided by the Cook County Health Department.

For no charge to those who qualify, the clinic offers complete physicals, lab tests, booster shots, vision and hearing screening, dental care and nutrition and weight programs. In addition, patients may receive shots for measles, tetanus, mumps and rubella.

If additional care is required, residents may be referred to a specialist's care for a \$13 fee.

"It may help people who ordinarily put health care on the back burner (to) come out of the closet," said Bruce M. Portnoy, a member of the

Wheeling board of health.

Portnoy said Tuesday's turnout of residents must set an example of the need for the program to remain in Wheeling. Typically, the van returns once a month if the demand is there, he added.

"We have to have interest in it to show the county that it justifies them putting in the time and money," Portnoy said. "The community has to support it."

Residents are not required to fill out lengthy, detailed forms, Portnoy said. Instead, participants must verify

by their need of assistance.

Although the portable medical clinic is open to adults, students who qualify and are entering high school or college may receive physicals through Wellness on Wheels.

The screening and testing process takes about two hours, and 16 appointments are available each day the van is in town.

The van will be parked from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday behind the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. Residents may call 865-6125 for an appointment.

New circuit court building will bring changes locally

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

5-4-89
Courtside

If you've been caught with a your foot on the accelerator and its time for your day in court, check your ticket twice. You might be going to Rolling Meadows.

As part of a wide-ranging reorganization of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Buffalo Grove and Wheeling cases previously heard in Skokie, Hanover Park and Wheeling will now all be handled at the new court facility expected to open June 1 in Rolling Meadows.

With the change, Wheeling traffic and misdemeanor cases will no longer be heard at the village hall. Likewise, Buffalo Grove traffic cases will no longer be heard in Palatine and youth offenders will no longer travel to Hanover Park for hearings.

Instead, as the circuit court reorganizes its second and third districts, Wheeling and Buffalo Grove join Palatine and Arlington Heights in the switch to the new, recently-completed Rolling Meadows Third Municipal Court building.

THE CHANGE REPRESENTS the most recent restructuring of the Cook County Circuit Court system, which handles the largest volume of cases in the United States.

For local police, who have to sit in on court hearings, the change will mostly mean shorter drives to and from the court house. But for Wheeling cops going

to traffic court, the redistricting will save them between 10 and 12 miles with each round trip, Sgt. Jack Kimsey said.

"Overall, it will be a better operation," Kimsey said. "Everything is under one roof. You don't have judges driving to and from (the court houses)."

In making the move, police and officials from the affected municipalities will have to get used to different judges and state's attorneys, Kimsey said.

ALL FELONY, MISDEMEANOR and traffic violation hearings will take place at the new facility at 2121 Euclid Ave., Rolling Meadows.

Buffalo Grove Sgt. Stuart Parets said the move will also cut down travel time for Buffalo Grove officers. He said the route to Rolling Meadows could save police a lot of time during rush hour when they no longer have to battle traffic on the Edens Expressway en route to Skokie for felony cases.

The drive to Rolling Meadows will, however, be longer than the current one to the Palatine courthouse, where Buffalo Grove police now take their traffic cases.

The entire reorganization signals an end to the traveling judge working the "circuit" of courts in outlying areas. Now, all judges and all paperwork will rest under the same roof all the time.

JEFFREY M. ARNOLD, administrative director of the Circuit Court system, said Chief Circuit Court Judge Harry G. Comerford's order, issued in late March, was intended to reapportion the case load in each of the county's six municipal court districts more equitably.



Check it out *Courtside*
Jeffrey Livingston (left) and his sister, Janine, peek inside the windows of P.C., a special promotional car that is part of the Wheeling Police Department force. The car was brought out for Saturday's "Up With Wheeling" campaign. (Photo by Hank DeGeorge)
5-4-89



Cleaning up

A group of civic-minded Wheeling residents pitch in to clean up the village along with McGruff the crime dog Saturday during the village's annual

"Up With Wheeling" program. This group helped clean up Milwaukee Avenue. (Photo by Hank DeGeorge)

Courtside 5-4-89

Recycling a hit with Wheeling residents

5-9-89

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

With more than half of the eligible residents participating in the first week of Wheeling's recycling program, officials say the turnout is good, and they expect participation to increase.

Representatives from Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal and its owner, Waste Management Inc., met with village officials Monday to discuss the progress of the recycling program, which debuted in Wheeling May 2.

"We're very pleased," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said. "Comments we're hearing in the community are so positive. I think that with starting out this well it

would build rather than go the other way around."

The recycling program, which costs residents \$1 a month, is an attempt to reduce the amount of trash hauled to landfills.

All homeowners who have curbside garbage pickup and subdivision residents who have the approval of their homeowners association are eligible to participate. Apartment dwellers and others not included in the program may drop off recyclables at a bin behind the village hall.

During the program's first week, Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal collected 37,602 pounds, or two garbage truckloads, of recyclable goods. The wastes include newspaper and inserts, colored

and clear glass, aluminum and tin.

"We've saved two truckloads that would have gone into a dump," Trustee William A. Rogers said.

About 53 percent of homeowners last week set out the bright orange bins on one of their two garbage pickup days. Based on the participation so far, the average monthly collection of recyclables would be nearly 40 pounds per house, said Tom Mazzenga, general manager of Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal.

"This is a good season for recycling, and I think it should go up," Mazzenga said of the participation. "A lot (of residents) are cautious and wait until the second pickup" to take part.

Palwaukee repair contract approved despite objections

MAY 10, 1989

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Prospect Heights city officials are upset about having to approve an estimated \$35,000 contract for asphalt work on the main taxiway at Palwaukee Municipal Airport without seeking public bids.

The paving work was recommended by the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission, which represents Prospect Heights and Wheeling. The towns jointly own the airport.

The commission, which says the work is "of an emergency nature," requested that Peter Baker & Son Co. of Lake Bluff be awarded the paving contract because of the company's familiarity with Palwaukee Airport.

While the recommendation was passed by the Wheeling village board without debate, some Prospect Heights officials have objected to the request.

Alderman Edward P. Rotchford and Thomas P. Merle voted against the expenditure, saying the expense should have been included in the airport's recently approved budget. Matters passed by the commission are routinely presented to the two towns for final approval.

Commission Chairman Carey Chickerno, who was recently appointed to the city council, bore the brunt of the criticism.

"We, as a municipality, should be putting this out for bid," Merle said.

The amount of work required to fix the main taxiway was "unforeseen," Chickerno said. Commission members believe the repairs were enough of an emergency to forego the bidding process and recommend the contract be awarded to Peter Baker & Son.

"It was a matter of putting your finger in the dike or doing it the right way," Chickerno said.

Putting the work out for bid could have delayed the project 60 to 90 days, City Administrator Robert R. Kiely said. The paving work needs to be completed before the taxiway can be properly delineated.

"The taxiway is in severe need of pavement markings," Chickerno said.

Airport officials budgeted \$6,600 for patching the asphalt cracks, but overestimated the condition of the taxiway. An official of Peter Baker & Son determined the taxiway would require more work when he went to the airport to assess the initial job.

"The item was in the budget, but the amount was wrong," Palwaukee Airport Manager Fred Stewart said.

The difference in cost will be cov-

ered by the airport's contingency fund. Although it is owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights, the airport operates solely from the revenues it generates, Chickerno said.

Still, Rotchford and Merle maintain that airport officials should have known long before the budget was approved by both towns that the taxiway would require extensive patching.

"Somewhere along the line your engineer goofed," Rotchford said to Chickerno.

Acting Mayor Jerry Meyer chastised Chickerno and the commission, saying he didn't "appreciate being put into this position."

The council approved the emergency expenditure without going out for public bid because of liability concerns, Meyer said. City officials were reluctant to expose the airport to the possibility of a lawsuit, especially during the two- to three-month period while the work was out for bid.

Set an example

5-4-89

To the Editor:

Every spring, Wheeling residents are asked to participate in a village-wide clean-up.

I think the village should set a good example by requiring that village employees and sub-contractors not litter our parkways and streets while on the job!

For example, on April 27, an employee in a Wheeling Water Department truck stood by idly as two sewer sub-contractors trashed our parkway with cigarette butts as they worked. I asked the men to stop and when they didn't, I called Scott Shirley, Assistant Director of Wheeling's Operations Department to complain.

It may sound like a minor complaint but it is we homeowners who have to go out and pick up their litter! No one appreciates their streets trashed, either!

The village should put its foot down and help us keep our community clean!

Shirley Zager

Activist remembered as 'Wheeling person'

MAY 10, 1989

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Friends and family members of John W. H. Koeppen Jr. remembered the community activist Tuesday as a true "Wheeling person."

Koeppen, 65, died Sunday at Highland Park Hospital in Highland Park. After being admitted to the hospital April 3 suffering from leg and back pains, he was diagnosed as having a brain tumor.

"There wasn't anything he wasn't involved in," said Alberta Klocke, village clerk from 1977 to 1981. "He was a nice guy. They (Koeppen and his wife, Shirley) were very special people. They were Wheeling people — cared a

lot about the town."

Koeppen, who was born in LaPorte, Ind., lived in Chicago before moving to Wheeling in 1956. He retired in Wilmette in 1984 after selling his business, Wheeling Glass.

Koeppen was a Wheeling village trustee from 1965 to 1975 and a member of the village zoning board of appeals from 1961 to 1965. He was president of the Wheeling Historical Society from 1967 to 1972 and president of the Wheeling Diamond Jubilee Celebration in 1969.

An architectural and insulated-glass salesman, Koeppen was a member of D.C. Cregier Lodge 81 AF-AM, in Wheeling, and a World War II Navy veteran. In 1969,

Koeppen was appointed to the Illinois Governor's Advisory Council.

"He was a very fair-minded individual," said Marvin O. "Syke" Horcher, Wheeling's police chief from 1955 to 1977. "He had a great interest in the community."

"He was a hell of a nice guy," Horcher added. "He's just one of those persons you wish you had a lot more of."

In 1987, Koeppen received treatment for lung cancer and was in remission until the latest prognosis, Shirley said. Koeppen continued to travel for his job and remained active in the community, she added.

"It didn't seem to slow his life down," Shirley said. "We thought he would be one of the lucky ones."

Program tells drunk drivers: stay out

Herald Staff Writer
May 14, 1989

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Members of the Wheeling Jaycees and the village police department want people to know that drunk drivers are not welcome in Wheeling.

The Jaycees are sponsoring an Alcohol Awareness program this week that will demonstrate the consequences of drinking and driving.

The program, which will be held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday at Field School, 51 St. Armand Court, Wheeling, will feature representa-

tives from Mothers Against Drunk Drivers and the Wheeling Police Department, including Police Chief Michael F. Haeger.

"Wheeling has a very vested interest in the whole alcohol issue," Crime Prevention Officer Barb Kobishop said. "We are very concerned with drunk driving. We would like to see it stopped."

Before the program begins, a volunteer will start drinking alcohol as part of a controlled drinking experiment. The volunteer will be videotaped and monitored throughout the

evening so that the audience will see the stages of intoxication.

Haeger will show how the volunteer's coordination, eye sight and memory are affected by alcohol.

Haeger also plans to give a slide show presentation on drunk driving.

Participants will observe a simulated DUI arrest and the procedures police follow. Representatives from MADD's speakers bureau also will present their new awareness program on video.

During the evening, door prizes, which include non-alcohol products,

will be given away and refreshments will be provided. Free babysitting service will be available in room 119 at the school.

Kobishop calls the program a "novel approach" to the DUI issue because the police department has not been involved in such an extensive, informative program with several organizations.

"We're intense about it because we don't like to see young adults involved in car accidents because of drunk driving," Kobishop said.



Getting to the point *Courtesy*
5-11-89
 Construction workers Friday make their way to the top of a new shopping center that is being completed at Elmhurst and Wheeling roads. (Staff photo by Richard Bajjalieh)

Wheeling to spend \$38,000 for traffic

3-16-89
 BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday agreed to spend \$38,000 for a study of traffic flow improvements needed for the Lake-Cook Road corridor despite objections from some officials that the study may not benefit the village.

The comprehensive engineering study would coordinate transportation planning with future development of property along the Lake-Cook Road corridor, which runs 8.7 miles along Lake-Cook Road from Rand Road to the Tri-State Tollway.

Objectives of the study include identifying long-term improvements to the road and alternate

roads, design plans for the improvements and cost estimates. The cost of the study would be split jointly with the members of the Lake-Cook Road Local Corridor Agency, which includes Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, Arlington Heights and Palatine.

However, Wheeling trustee James Whittington said the study may not benefit the village because few Wheeling roads intersect Lake-Cook Road.

"I'm still grasping for the great advantage Wheeling is going to gain from this," Whittington said. "I don't know if this is a good agreement yet. I don't want to trash it, but I don't know if it is a good agreement." Whittington and Trustee Judy Abruscato voted

against the study, which is estimated to cost about \$400,000 and take at least six months to complete.

Under the agreement, Cook County, which has jurisdiction over Lake-Cook Road, would pay 70 percent, or \$280,000 of the cost, and the four villages would split 30 percent, or \$120,000.

Based on the amount of property owned by the villages along Lake-Cook Road, Wheeling's cost for the study would be 32 percent, or \$38,066. Buffalo Grove would pay 63 percent, or \$75,934; Arlington Heights would pay 4.2 percent, or \$5,000 and Palatine would pay .83 percent, or \$1,000. Currently, Palatine does not own any property along Lake-Cook Road.

Intersection near runway is meeting focus

Herald 5/18/89

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners plan to meet in a closed session with Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials in an effort to reach an agreement about relocating the intersection at Hintz and Wolf roads.

Following requests Wednesday by state and federal transportation officials to make a decision on the intersections move, commissioners set a meeting with community officials.

Because discussions about the relocation include the acquisition of land, the meeting is exempt under the Illinois Open Meetings Act. The intersection must be moved

because it is too close to the main runway at the airport, which is jointly owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

Airplanes must clear the roads by at least 15 feet to meet federal safety regulations. Planes now clear the road at less than 10 feet.

Commissioners have been at odds for more than a year on where to relocate the intersection, which abuts the Wolf Run Estates subdivision.

Palwaukee Airport typically receives funding from the Federal Aviation Administration and the Illinois Department of Transportation for safety improvement projects.

But funding for other projects at Palwaukee may be in jeopardy be-

cause the intersection relocation is top priority, said Roger Barcus, an IDOT representative. Funding may go to other airports instead unless an agreement about the relocation is made soon, Barcus added.

Commissioners are requesting to meet with the village president and trustees of Wheeling and the mayor and aldermen of Prospect Heights at 7 p.m. May 31 at the airport, Hangar No. 1, 1120 S. Milwaukee Ave.

"This project has a sense of urgency now," airport commission Chairman Carey L. Chickerno said. "We need a more direct and immediate approach to resolving the issues."

Airport to take over maintenance work

5-21-89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

This may be the last year for Priester Aviation Service to cut grass at Palwaukee Municipal Airport as airport commissioners move closer to assuming the daily chores.

Commissioners are recommending that the Prospect Heights City Council and the Wheeling village board, which jointly own the airport, terminate Priester's maintenance contract for next year. The three-

year pact with Priester expires at the end of this year.

Instead, commissioners want to take over all of the maintenance functions in an effort to save money. The work includes removing snow, cutting grass and weeds, de-icing and inspecting runways and taxiways and maintaining the Federal Aviation Administration Tower.

"It's the sponsor's responsibility to do the maintenance on his airport," Airport Manager Fred Stewart said. Priester is paid about \$250,000 a

year to maintain airport grounds. But commissioners say long-term costs for purchasing equipment and hiring employees to do the work would be less than or equal to what they are now paying Priester. In addition, the maintenance work could be done on an as-needed basis.

A snowblower, two snow plows, lawn-cutting equipment, tractors and trucks would cost the airport in the "ballpark" of \$1 million, said Michael F. Zonsius, assistant airport manager for finance and administra-

tion. Charles E. Priester, president of Priester Aviation Service, said he would like the takeover to be phased in with some of his employees remaining on the payroll during the transition. Priester also agreed to provide his service on a needed basis after the change is made.

"I think it makes sense on behalf of the airport to take over the maintenance functions," said Priester, who continues to operate a aircraft service center and fuel station at the airport.



Daily Herald Photo/Rich Chapman

Fishing for tips

5-20-89

Barbara Hansen shares some fishing tips with Jay Goldberg. Fourth-graders from Walt Whitman School in Wheeling recently fished and lunched with disabled residents of the Pavilion Senior Center.

Study to determine drainage ditch route

5-20-89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

An engineering study is expected to determine whether the Wheeling Drainage Ditch that runs through the Palwaukee Municipal Airport should be rerouted through a drive-in theater on Milwaukee Avenue.

Airport commissioners have agreed to recommend that community leaders approve a contract to study the feasibility of running the ditch through the south end of the theater.

The creek, which runs south from Hintz Road and east of Wolf Road through the airport, must be moved because it runs too close to the airport's main runway.

The creek eventually crosses Milwaukee Avenue into the Cook County Forest Preserve before emptying into the Des Plaines River. The path of the ditch also puts too many restrictions on developing airport property.

However, Wheeling officials have been hesitant to include the theater site in possible alternative places for the ditch. In order to run the ditch along the drive-in's property, the airport must buy the unincorporated land, which could mean a loss of potential commercial revenue for Wheeling.

Airport commissioners, who represent airport owners Wheeling and Prospect Heights, are recommending Wheeling trustees and Prospect Heights aldermen ap-

prove a \$9,700 contract with Crawford, Murphy and Tillis Inc. of Springfield to study the drive-in theater property.

The study would be included in a comprehensive study of three other possible sites for the ditch. Commissioners would consider the four possibilities together before making a recommendation on the relocation, commission Chairman Carey L. Chickerno said.

If the ditch is left where it is now, several bridges would need to be built over the stream because it hinders traffic at the airport. By moving the ditch near the theater, members of the airport commission's engineering committee say, Palwaukee could save \$1.2 million in bridge-building costs.

Balefill builders won't abandon their plans

5-25-87
By DANIELLE ACETO
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Members of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County said Wednesday they will not abandon plans to build a balefill near Bartlett, despite the state's rejection of their permit application.

SWANCC's board of directors voted unanimously to either appeal the state's decision to the Illinois Pollution Control Board or amend their proposal.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency last week denied SWANCC's permit application to build a 142-acre balefill at Gifford and Bartlett roads in unincorporated Hanover Township.

In its ruling the IEPA cited 25 flaws in SWANCC's proposal, opening the door for SWANCC to either make the necessary changes or attempt to get the decision reversed by the Illinois Pollution Control Board. SWANCC is expected to announce its decision June 14.

"There are still a lot of question marks we have from a technical and legal standpoint," said SWANCC Executive Director William Abolt. "We're trying to decide which option would be in the best interests of the

project." Abolt would not reveal what those "technical and legal" question marks were, but in order to comply with state regulations, SWANCC must make significant modifications in the proposed design of the balefill.

They include developing an improved system for monitoring and preventing groundwater from leaking into and out of the balefill. In addition, SWANCC must come up with a better way of removing liquid waste from the decomposed garbage and provide plans for long-term maintenance of the site.

"There is nothing in the EPA's decision that suggests we should abandon the plan," Abolt said. "Obviously there are some substantial issues concerning the design of the balefill that we're going to have to address. We just haven't completed the analysis yet."

No matter what the decision eventually made by SWANCC, opponents of the balefill say they can expect a fight.

"The plan will never be acceptable," said Mary Byrne, vice president of Citizens Against the Balefill. "We knew regardless of the state's decision, the battle would be far from over. It is the wrong site for a garbage dump."

Wheeling considers restrictions on pets

Herald 5-25-89
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials may limit the number of pets residents may own as officials try to put more teeth into village pet laws.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger and members of the village's board of health are reviewing Wheeling's pet laws because they say some parts are ambiguous or difficult to enforce.

The new law would limit the number of pets residents may own, require residents to walk their pets on leashes and pick up animal droppings and list fines for violators. The number of pets residents may own has not yet been determined.

Residents also would be required to pick up excess animal droppings in their yards under the new law, village Sanitarian Daniel Adams said.

All animals, including cats, must be on leashes in public, Haeger said. Although the current law also requires owners to remove animal messes within one hour, the ordinance is difficult to enforce, Adams said.

When owners were issued tickets for violating the one-hour rule, some would claim they intended to come back later to clean up the area, he added.

"It makes it almost impossible to enforce," Adams said. "Are you going to stand there and look at it (animal droppings) for one hour?"

Now village officials are suggesting owners pick up after their pets immediately. The new law may require signs to be posted near heavily-populated areas to remind people of the changes, Anderson said.

The proposed changes, which will be reviewed by the village attorney, would increase the fine for violators from \$20 to \$50 to \$25 to \$500.

Most residents complain that they notice animal droppings or unleashed pets on public walkways, Anderson said.

Complaints about pet ordinance violations may be filed by calling the Wheeling Police Department's non-emergency phone number at 459-2632.

Village officials, residents tackle traffic issue head-on

By Joanne Leis
Staff Writer

The complaints Buffalo Grove Village President Verna Clayton hears most often are those related to traffic congestion. While there are many things local government can do to address traffic, solutions ultimately take regional cooperation.

That was one of the messages Tuesday at the village's first in a series of town meetings. About 20 residents attended the public forum to address the issue of traffic planning and management. Village trustees and staff members discussed village procedures and answered questions from residents in the two-and-a-half hour meeting that will be broadcast on cable channel six during the next month.

Village staff members explained the roles they play in managing traffic, while the trustees pointed out the importance of regional cooperation. Village Planner Bob Pfeil explained that the village's comprehensive plan and transportation policies are reviewed each time a development is proposed to ensure that the village's long-range plans are carried out.

Trustees Gary Glover and Sydney Mathias said that neighboring municipalities must work together to alleviate congested areas. On Monday, the village agreed to participate in a study of Lake-Cook Road with Wheeling, Palatine and Arlington Heights.

"THE PROBLEM is we can develop roads within our town and jurisdiction,

(Continued from page 12)

of the (added) traffic and improve existing conditions."

A DEVELOPER IS expected to extend Bush Road to Deerfield Road, said Greg Boysen, director of public works.

In addition to road improvements developers may make, there are some proposals that would ease congestion for Buffalo Grove residents.

If the General Assembly passes a six-cent increase in the motor fuel tax,

but traffic is not a local problem," Mathias said. "Buffalo Grove didn't cause the problem. It added to it, but it didn't cause it. We've got to get together and do this on a regional basis, just like waste and other issues."

But four-year village resident Larry Sills said the village is causing the traffic congestion, and the only way to control the traffic problem is to stop development.

"The city adds to the traffic problem considerably," Sills said. "There is growth all over but none that rivals Buffalo Grove."

"The Town Center was supposed to be upscale, but there are three shoe stores, a cleaners, a yogurt shop ... all things that we have within three or four miles of each other. Put a halt to development and you won't have to look at this problem again."

RAY HIBNICK AGREED with Sills that development should stop until existing traffic problems are solved. He complained about the 45-minute wait he must endure on Bush Road to get to Deerfield Road.

"I hear a lot about 10-year plans and giving money to consultants, but if you decided you were not going to issue any more building permits you wouldn't need consultants," Hibnick said.

Clayton said Bush Road wouldn't exist if the developer hadn't built it.

"Unfortunately, at the time, the development didn't go far enough south to connect to Deerfield Road," Clayton said. "As the village grows we take care

(Continued on page 20)

three road projects would directly affect the village, said Andy Plummer, assistant director of Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS).

A \$25 million project would widen Ill. Route 83 from Arlington Heights Road to Buffalo Grove Road, and proceed east to Ill. Route 45.

THE EXTENSION OF Ill. Route 53 from Dundee Road to Lake Cook Road is expected to open in November, and will ease some congestion on Dundee Road, Boysen said.

Wheeling cops stop 237 cars in roadblock

Wheeling police stopped 237 cars and wrote 15 citations to motorists late Friday night and early Saturday morning during a scheduled roadblock designed to check for unsafe cars and unsafe drivers.

Three motorists were charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, one was charged with possession of cannabis, two were charged with transportation of open alcohol as village police teamed up with Illinois Secretary of State police in the roadblock. Four motorists were charged with driving with a suspended or revoked license, while another four were charged with driving without a valid license. Another citation was issued for allowing an unauthorized person to drive.

Officers also doled out four citations and 16 written warnings for seat belt violations along with a variety of citations for registration and equipment violations.

The road block was set up between 10 p.m. Friday night and 2 a.m. Saturday morning.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger called the safety check successful and said it should send a message that the village and state are taking a strong stance against drivers driving under the influence of alcohol.

Exhibition provides sobering look at drunk driving

The national push to get adults to drink more responsibly and to grab the passenger seat instead of the steering wheel after imbibing hit home this week with a demonstration put on by the Jaycees and local police.

Countrywide

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

5-25-89

About 8:30 p.m. last Thursday, Ray Himmelblau wanted to share a secret: He really wasn't drunk. Had it not been for the ninth rum and Coke, finished just 15 minutes earlier, he said he might have been able to drive.

More than 15 people, including two Wheeling police officers, disagreed with Himmelblau's assessment of his motor skills. While he was confident about his professed ability to drive a car, they weren't.

They had good reason to doubt Ray, because after six drinks, officer Bill Benson gave Himmelblau a series of field sobriety tests. Ray didn't fare too well.

Benson asked Ray to stand on one leg, extend the other about six to eight inches off the ground and keep his hands at his sides while counting by one-thousands to 30. On his first attempt, Ray couldn't get to three. With his second, he got to 25, but his arms were flapping like a duck stuck in quicksand.

"HE FAILED every part of that test," Benson said. Balance, sureness, counting, hesitation — Ray had either too little or too much.

"Would any of you let this man drive away?" Deputy Chief Gary O'Rourke asked the audience. "I would be pretty upset if any of my men let him drive away."

Only one person disagreed with O'Rourke. Ray. "I'm feeling it a little bit in the head," Himmelblau said. But, he added, "I have all my faculties."

This scene would have ended differently had it taken place alongside a road rather than in the Eugene Field School gymnasium where the Wheeling Jaycees were putting on an alcohol awareness program. If Ray had been pulled over by police, his lack of balance and poise would have landed him in the backseat of a squad car.



Ray Himmelblau tries unsuccessfully to keep his feet on the line while performing a field sobriety test as part of a demonstration last Thursday at Field School on the dangers of drinking and driving. He ended up failing the test. (Staff photos by Daniel White)

HIMMELBLAU AGREED TO get drunk for a crowd and a cause as part of the Jaycees program at Field School. And in two short hours, Himmelblau did everything the two officers predicted he'd do: he got drunk and then he made bad decisions. He said he could still drive.

"There's nothing wrong with me," Himmelblau would later say just minutes after failing five consecutive times to touch the tip of his finger to the

tip of his nose. "I should have stopped one drink ago."

Poor judgment. It's an attitude as common to drunk drivers as bad breath. If he got behind the wheel of a car, Himmelblau's inability to keep his balance would have found him weaving, straddling lanes, speeding — all elements of a dangerous driver, Benson said.

Fortunately, Himmelblau's wife was on hand to make sure that didn't happen.

But not everyone who knocks down a couple libations has enough sense to have a designated driver.

MORE THAN 130 times last year, Wheeling police arrested and charged motorists with drunken driving. In 1987, 186 drunk motorists were stopped by Wheeling police and in 1986, there were 231 charges made against drunken drivers, O'Rourke said.

Wheeling police have targeted drunken drivers for several years, O'Rourke said, as they try to send a message to motorists: Showing slides of accidents in which alcohol and driving made for a bloody combination, O'Rourke emphasized the deadliness of that devil's mix. Of all the fatal accidents occurring in Wheeling since he joined the force in 1986, only one was free of alcohol.

"We take a real hard line on driving under the influence of alcohol because we don't like scenes like this," O'Rourke said. "We don't want any (drunken drivers) here. We don't want them on our roads in the area."

While Ray, normally a beer man, was sitting off to the side of the gym polishing off drinks four, five and six, O'Rourke was saying drunken driving was a violation of the law, not just something you do after a party.

"IT IS a crime. It's not fun and games," O'Rourke said. It's in the same misdemeanor class as battery, theft and assault. "It is against the law; you could spend time in jail."

Luckily for Ray, that's not where he would spend this Thursday evening. During the last battery of sobriety tests, Ray repeatedly failed as he staggered and bobbed down a straight line. And when asked to follow a pen being moved before his face, his eyes jerked like clock gears, a sure sign to the trained officer that he is drunk.

Again, Ray offered his opinion that if he had stopped just one drink before, he might have been able to drive home. At the conclusion of Ray's performance, O'Rourke gave him one last chance to redeem himself. Would he have driven if he had stopped at eight drinks?

It all depends, Ray stammered. If had just been a short ride from Jeffrey Lanes, sure. And surely, O'Rourke thought, it would have been a bad decision.

Volunteer learns important lesson about drinking

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Ray Himmelblau learned a lot last Thursday. One, never lose your lunch in front of a video camera; your friends will never let you forget it. But much more importantly, he learned not to drive drunk.

While Thursday evening found him a glib and confident man, a more somber Himmelblau said Tuesday he was lucky that all the talking he did about driving was just that, talking.

Several days after his accelerated run-in with alcohol during a demonstration put on by the local Jaycees, Himmelblau knew his Thursday attitude toward driving drunk was more than a little impaired.

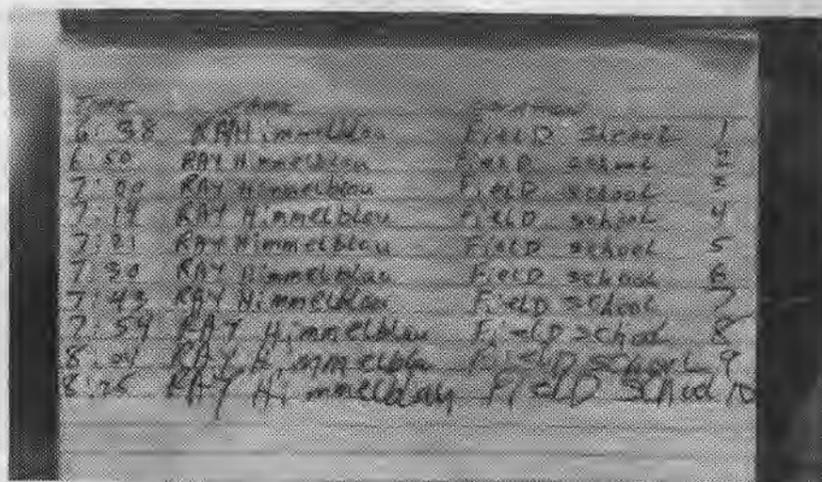
"I probably should have stopped after six (drinks)," Himmelblau said

from his work at Rugby Laboratories in Glenview. "At eight, they should have cut me off."

HAVING HAD A few days to reconstruct the evening that found him downing 11 rum and Cokes in just over two hours, the 200-pound Himmelblau knew that if no one else did, he sure got the message the Jaycees' alcohol awareness program was trying to get across.

"You've got to make sure there's a designated driver," Himmelblau said. Although on Thursday night he said he could drive a short distance, he said Tuesday that would have been a poor decision.

"Looking back on it, I probably should not have said I could have driven," Himmelblau said. "That's what people figure, if it's two miles



The effects of 10 rum and Cokes that he drank in about two hours last Thursday began to show in Ray Himmelblau's writing skills as well as in other motor skills.

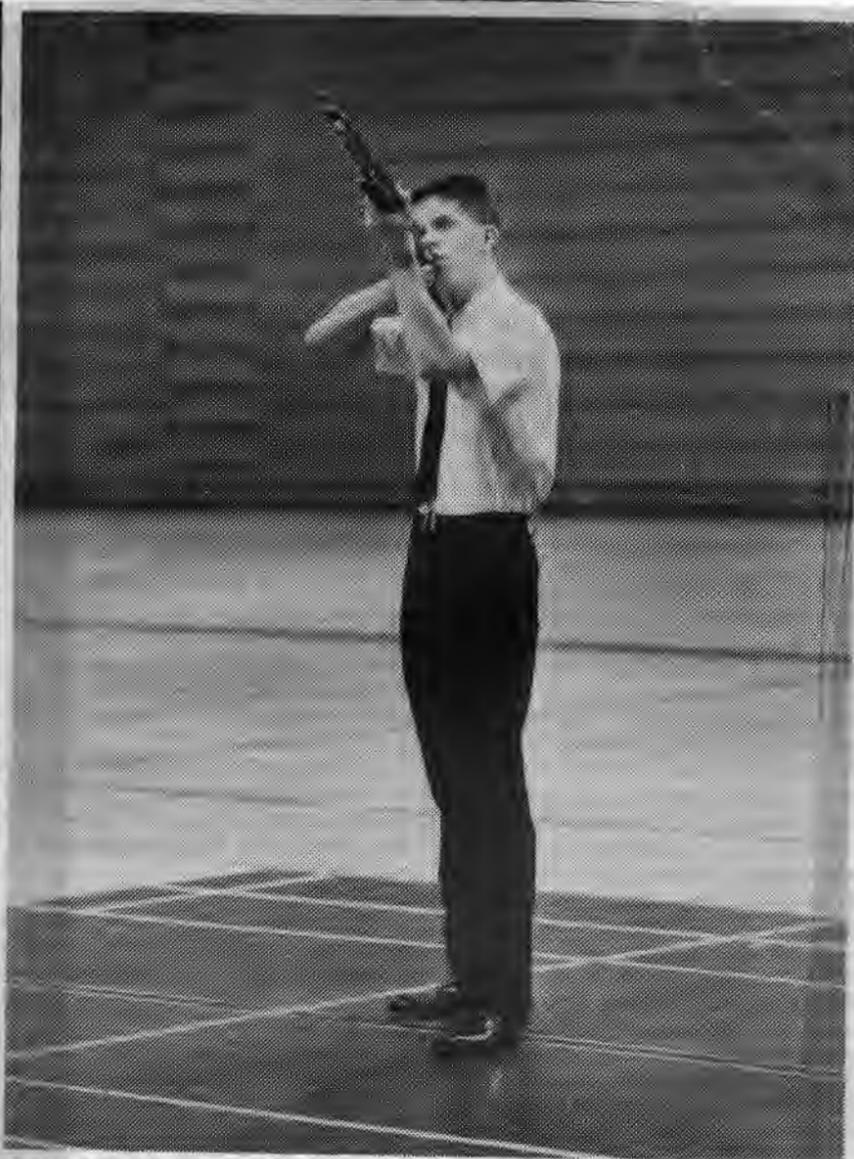
Lesson —

(Continued from previous page)

in a straight line, it's only two miles."

But during his biggest liquor binge in 10 years, the 32-year-old Wheeling man said he wasn't able to make a quality decision. If anything, one of the problems was the people pouring his drinks. Like a blind tavern keeper, they kept filling his glass.

"THE LAST four, they should have cut me off," he said. "That's what bartenders should look for." Unfortunately, no one was watching all of Ray's movements. Just after he pounded his twelfth drink — not knowing it was without alcohol — Ray turned a little green, and then painted the floor. Videotape captured the moment.



Scott Nightlinger performs a salute during the exercise.

Countryside 5-25-89

Showing their 'true colors'

Wearing the school colors with pride is one of the few remaining rites of high school life.

For a select number of High School District 214 students, however, last week was a special opportunity to show off their colors in a different way.

They wrapped themselves in their nation's colors as part of the annual inspection of Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps candidates at Wheeling High School.

As part of an annual program at the school, the future leaders of our country's military were inspected by Wheeling Village President.

Staff photos by Daniel White



Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz inspects the troops.



Matthew Weber of Wheeling accepts congratulations. He will attend the U.S. Naval Academy.

Cable firm seeks cutback in number of local channels

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Countryside

Wheeling channel changers could be conducting their couch potato business a lot differently if "substantial" changes in cable services requested by TCI of Illinois, Inc. are adopted.

In calling the existing provisions of their cable agreement with the village "excessive", TCI has requested changes that may include halving the number of overall channels, dropping a number of the public access channels and reconfiguring the government access channels.

TCI general manager Mark Hess, in a letter to the village dated May 17, has requested a review of the existing agreement which governs all aspects of service. The agreement was initially signed by the village and Cablenet, which TCI took over in 1987.

Attempts to reach Hess Tuesday for comment were unsuccessful. In his letter to the village, however, Hess called upon the village to begin negotiations.

"IT IS our intention to abide with the current terms of the franchise agreement while seeking modifications to the now excessive provisions of the agreement," Hess's letter states.

Dave Kowal, the assistant to the village manager, termed TCI's requests as substantial changes, and said they will be considered by the Northwest Cable Council before recommendations are made to the village board.

While TCI has reservations about the existing agreement signed before it they took over cable service for the village, Kowal said the initial franchise agreement was a good one. He said TCI will have to prove why it feels that agreement is "excessive."

"If it's not going to help the system and the citizens, then I'm not going to recommend any modification to the existing agreement," Kowal said.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT SHEILA Schultz agreed with Kowal. "They will have to show some real good justification," Schultz said. "They may be able to do that."

Kowal said TCI has made similar requests with nearby communities. Like those requests, Kowal said TCI is expected to ask that it eliminate the two-cable, 120-channel system and go to a one-cable, 60-channel format.

Kowal said the cable company is also expected to ask that the number of institutional channels, now set at eight, be reduced. Those channels are set aside for area park districts, libraries, school districts and municipalities. Also, Kowal anticipates TCI will ask that communities within the cable council share some of those channels.

Schultz said she would object to a reduction or access to those channels.

"I MUST admit that I don't believe the other communities have taken as good of an advantage with the access channels," Schultz said. "I'd be very reluctant to see those go."

TCI will likely also request a move from television top converters to boxes outside of each home, Kowal said. While the boxes would allow cable users to use cable-ready televisions, he said the council is studying whether the move benefits the system.

No decisions will be made on the request until the cable council meets to discuss them, said Kowal, who is the village's representative on the cable council. He said the council is expected to hire a cable expert as a technical advisor on TCI's request.

As part of the negotiations, he said the council will likely try to get better definitions of service requirements that TCI must meet. In the past, the village, along with other members of the council, have considered fining TCI for poor response time to customer phone calls.



Towering oaks and maples highlight attractive ranch homes at the well-maintained Meadowbrook subdivision in Wheeling.

Daily Herald Photo/Vincent Pierrri

Meadowbrook ages gracefully with village

May 26, 1989

By JANE OPPERMANN
Daily Herald correspondent

When ground was broken for Wheeling's Meadowbrook subdivision in the 1950s, Elvis was king, Eisenhower was president and Chicago's Northwest Suburbs were still a twinkle in every ambitious builder's eye.

One of the first subdivisions to be built in Wheeling, Meadowbrook offered first-time homeownership to those hardy souls willing to make the trek out to no-man's land. To induce house shoppers to their innovative California-style models, Family Homes, Inc., offered door prizes for adults and balloons for the kids.

The Wheeling of the 1950s with a population of 900 is charming history now. With a population of 26,278, this seasoned suburb has come a long way. Today's Meadowbrook is 34 years old and has a maturity that becomes it. Towering oaks and maples decorate the neighborhood of charming ranch homes. Conscientious homeowners in this 500-home development have clipped and pruned landscaping to create a well-manicured, attractive neighborhood.

"Meadowbrook has a reputation as a well-maintained neighborhood," William G. Hoos, president of Red Carpet Ambassador Associates, Inc., in Wheeling noted. "People take a lot of pride in the neighborhood and it's

NEIGHBORHOODS



Daily Herald Map

infectious. You won't see homes stay on the market for long in this area because owners have maintained them so well. They're the most reasonable starter homes in this area."

Bordered by West Jeffrey on the north, Sunset Lane on the west, Manchester Drive on the south and Wolf Road on the east, Meadowbrook's U-shaped configuration assures low traffic in the area and is its own enclave. Immediately adjacent to Heritage Park, residents have easy access to Wheeling Park District's tennis courts, baseball fields, lake and park building.

Back in the 1950s homes with exotic California monikers signaled

buyers that the past was behind and easy long-term G.I. loans were ahead. Three-bedroom, two-bath ranches with names like Imperial, Capri and El Dorado, promised streamlined living with room to grow. Today those same ranches continue to provide homes for first-time buyers. With an average selling price of \$103,000, buyers can still qualify for FHA housing loans.

"This is one of the rare areas where homes still qualify for FHA financing," Hoos noted. "Wheeling is one of those few suburbs that offer reasonable starter homes and let young families get a foot in the door with homeownership."

Starting at \$16,550 35 years ago, homes are now six or seven times what those original buyers paid for them. Since many were purchased at 4½ percent interest, these homes have proved a wise investment.

Most homes are three-bedroom ranches with an average square footage of 1,200. There are a few split levels and Cape Cods, however. Models either feature combined living room and dining room with eat-in kitchen or L-shaped living and dining room with galley kitchen. Vaulted or cathedral ceilings with a wide expanse of glass window wall offer innovative styling even today.

"These homes featured really avant-garde styling for that period of time," Hoos explained. "You could

almost say these homes are the grandparents of today's contemporary homes with cathedral and vaulted ceilings. Even today, they have a unique feeling of openness."

Homes placed on standard lots of approximately 55 by 110 feet were originally offered with carport. Most of these however, have been replaced with one- or two-car garages. While none of the original models included basements, some residents have added them to accommodate growing families.

"A lot of original owners are nearing retirement now. For many, this area has met the needs of their families over quite a few years," Hoos reflected.

Kitchens featured solid wood cabinets in original models. Many homeowners have updated these with solid oak or European cabinetry. Bathrooms have been updated as well to include more contemporary amenities.

Youngsters walk to Walt Whitman Elementary School for kindergarten through sixth grade and Holmes Junior High for grades seven and eight. Teens are bused to Wheeling High School.

Thirty five years of growth have been kind to Meadowbrook. Helping usher Wheeling into a dynamic period of growth, Meadowbrook has kept pace with the times and continues to be one of this suburb's best.

Local officials plan summit to resolve airport land use

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

COUNTRY SIDE
5-25-89
In an attempt to clear the cluttered air surrounding proposed improvements to Palwaukee Municipal Airport, officials from Wheeling and Prospect Heights have agreed to a joint meeting designed to get those improvements off the ground.

After haggling for more than six months over a series of disputes tied to revenue generated by the municipality-owned facility, both the Wheeling Village Board and the Prospect Heights City Council will meet with the airport commission next Wednesday at 8 p.m. at the airport's meeting chambers.

Expected to top the agenda is how the two communities can agree on airport land use so that the relocation of the Wolf-Hintz roads intersection can be approved, funded and constructed.

Without the relocation of the intersection, the airport's longest runway could lose its minimum 5,000-foot rating because of a limited safety clear zone. Without out the rating, many of the

airport's corporate jets - considered the lifeblood of the facility - would be unable to land at Palwaukee.

"THE INTERSECTION has to be moved, we know that," Prospect Heights alderman and airport commission chairman Carey Chickerno said. "It's a must."

Without quick approval of some plan for the intersection's relocation, Chickerno said the airport could miss the 1990 construction season. Any plans adopted by the two communities must also be approved by varying branches of federal, state and county governments while the airport buys the property for the relocation.

Prospect Heights has approved the relocation plan recommended by the commission. But Wheeling trustees, citing concerns over the amount of developable village land that proposal would have consumed, voted against the plan.

That proposal called for the airport to purchase enough land west of the north end of the runway to include the

construction of future airport-related businesses. According to state and federal rules, the amount of land needed for the relocation could be decreased, precluding construction of the airport businesses.

WHEELING TRUSTEES HAVE said they want to know how the village would make up the tax dollars lost with the recommended relocation scheme. Village officials, both on the board and on the commission, are also concerned whether the village would be able to annex land now targeted for purchase.

Those questions, and the failure of the two communities to agree on answers, have resulted in the existing impasse.

Chickerno said the only reason the village is considering coming to the table now is because of recent rumblings from state and federal aviation officials that funding for the airport could be diverted to other airports in the state and country.

"I think that finally got Wheeling's attention and because of that we might see ourselves move ahead more quickly

on this issue," Chickerno said. Besides the volley of letters between the village and the city on revenue sharing, Chickerno said there has been little movement.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS BRISTLE at the implication that they have willingly delayed discussion of solutions to the problem. Village President Sheila Schultz said the village has made proposals on revenue sharing and annexation at the airport.

"I do not appreciate comments about Wheeling dragging its feet," Schultz said, explaining that trustees have sound reasons for their concern. "It's a recurring theme that is inaccurate and offensive."

The village, she said, is well aware of airport funding and said that was not the cause for the joint meeting that Chickerno requested at the May 17 airport commission meeting.

Schultz said the Wednesday meeting, expected to be held in open session, will give the three boards a chance to meet in person to air out concerns.

Palwaukee wants to pay bills without waiting for approval

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

5-27-89
Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commissioners want to pay bills that exceed \$4,000 without waiting for approval from the airport's owners.

Commissioners are requesting that Wheeling trustees and Prospect Heights aldermen allow them to pay monthly bills as they come in, as long as the expenditures are detailed in the airport's budget.

Currently, when the airport receives a bill for services, the commissioners must first recommend approval to the airport's owners, Prospect Heights and Wheeling. The communities then vote on paying the bills at their respective monthly meetings.

The process can take several months, which often delays payment

of the monthly bills, commission Chairman Carey L. Chickerno said.

"My fear is that we're going to get into the delaying of payments to our contractors," Chickerno said. "My concern is for regular, consistent business."

Most of the payments exceeding \$4,000 are for construction projects, which typically already have been approved by the communities.

As long as improvement projects are detailed in the budget, or the communities have approved the overall project, commissioners should be able to approve payments for the work as it is completed, Chickerno added.

Attorneys for the airport commission are preparing an amendment to the intergovernmental agreement between the communities. Both communities must vote on the amendment before it would take effect.

Airport officials seek intersection decision

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

5-27-1989
Officials in Wheeling and Prospect Heights hope the Palwaukee Airport Commission reaches a decision next week on where to relocate the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads.

"This is not a fact-finding meeting," Commission Chairman Carey L. Chickerno said of the meeting, which is set for 8 p.m. Wednesday at the airport's Hangar No. 1, 1120 S. Milwaukee Ave, but "a decision-making" session.

For years, officials from Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which own the airport, have been at odds about moving the intersection, which is too close to the airport's

main runway.

Under Federal Aviation Administration regulations, airplanes must clear the roads by at least 15 feet. Planes now clear the intersection by less than 10 feet.

In order to move the intersection west of where it is now, officials would need to purchase property.

Wheeling may forfeit some prime commercial property because the space acquired for the new intersection would become part of the airport.

Both Wheeling and Prospect Heights share the airport's earnings.

But representatives from the FAA and the Illinois Department of Transportation are urging the

communities to reach an agreement on the relocation because funding for other airport projects rides on the decision.

"I'm going to take a very aggressive role in getting a resolution," Chickerno said. "If it's not conclusive, we will be on our way to a conclusion" by the end of the meeting, he said.

"What I would hope to get out of this is a better understanding between the (communities) of the concerns we have and our attempts to resolve them," Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said.

"If we can come to an agreement that would be welcome," she said.

Service will feature 21-gun salute

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

5-27-89
Members of Wheeling's AMVETS will begin their Memorial Day by paying tribute to war veterans in local cemeteries.

At 5:30 a.m. Monday, members of the Phillip Carpenter Post No. 66 AMVETS will travel to Wheeling Cemetery, Memorial Gardens in Arlington Heights and St. Mary's Cemetery in Buffalo Grove.

The 20-year tradition will begin with a prayer for the veterans, followed by a 21-gun salute by the veteran gravesites that are lined with American flags.

A Memorial Day parade in Wheel-



Daily Herald Map

ing will step off at 10 a.m. from the K mart parking lot on Dundee Road. Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger and the AMVETS Color Guard will lead the 18 parade en-

tries north on Route 83 and west on McHenry Road to the AMVETS Hall.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz will ride in the parade in a customized antique car restored by AMVETS member Bill Willard. Other participants in the parade include the U.S. Marine and Navy Color Guards from Great Lakes Naval Base, the Auxiliary Women of Post 66, at least six Boy and Cub Scout troops, the Wheeling High School band and members of the ROTC and the AMVETS 1929 red, white and blue car.

Following the parade, on the AMVETS grounds, three students from Wheeling High School, who won \$50 savings bonds for their essays on

what Memorial Day means to them, will read their works.

A chaplain at Fort Sheridan Naval Base will give the invocation after the narratives. Refreshments will be served at the AMVETS Hall after the ceremony.

Meanwhile, the North Suburban Chapter of Vietnow is holding a ceremony at 1 p.m. Monday at All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the death of Michael Blanchfield. Blanchfield, of Wheeling, was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously. A wreath will be laid at his grave and a rifle team from the Elk Grove Village VFW is scheduled to be at the ceremony.

'Miss Mae' still thriving at age 100

5-29-89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The oldest resident of Wheeling also is one of the most lovable.

So say Mary Cavanagh's friends at Addolorata Villa Home for the Aged, where the century-old native of Canada lives.

"She's a very sweet and gentle person," said Barbara Tuman, director of activities at the Wheeling home, where Cavanagh has lived since 1972. "She's a very giving person."

Cavanagh, known as "Miss Mae," dressed in her Sunday best this past week to celebrate her 100th birthday. Her friends threw a party, decorated the hall with flowers and balloons, and ate birthday cake.

Miss Mae received cards from friends and birthday greetings all the way from Washington, D.C. She plans to frame a birthday certificate signed by President and Mrs. Bush.

Although Father Time has taken its toll on Cavanagh, Tuman said Miss Mae still enjoys listening to music and singing along with songs.

"With her skin and everything about her, you would think she's 65 or 70," Tuman said.

Cavanagh was born May 25, 1889 in Canada, but grew up in Chicago, where she spent most of her life teaching high school math.

After graduating from Loyola University, Cavanagh received a



Wheeling's oldest resident, Mary Cavanagh, celebrates her 100th birthday with friends at Addolorata Villa Home for the Aged.

Daily Herald Photo/Bob Chwedyk

master's degree in education from the University of Chicago.

Last fall, Cavanagh was honored by the First National Bank of Wheeling as "Wheeling's Eldest Statesman." The bank president presented Cavanagh with a \$100 check as part of a promotion to attract older depositors to the bank.

Veterans honored with parade, memorials

5-29-89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Members of Wheeling's AMVETS are visiting local cemeteries today to pay tribute to war veterans.

Beginning at 5:30 a.m., members of the Phillip Carpenter Post No. 66 AMVETS will go to Wheeling Cemetery, Memorial Gardens in Arlington Heights and St. Mary's Cemetery in Buffalo Grove.

The 20-year tradition will begin with a prayer for the veterans, followed by a 21-gun salute by the veteran gravesites that are lined with

American flags.

A Memorial Day parade in Wheeling will step off at 10 a.m. from the K mart parking lot on Dundee Road. Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger and the AMVETS Color Guard will lead the parade north on Route 83 and west on McHenry Road to the AMVETS Hall.

The U.S. Marine and Navy Color Guards from Great Lakes Naval Base, the Auxiliary Women of Post 66, at least six Boy and Cub Scout troops, the Wheeling High School band and members of the ROTC and the AMVETS 1929 red, white and

blue car are among some parade participants.

Following the parade, on the AMVETS grounds, three students from Wheeling High School will read essays on what Memorial Day means to them.

Also on this Memorial Day, the North Suburban Chapter of Vietnow will hold a ceremony at 1 p.m. at All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the death of Michael Blanchfield. Blanchfield, of Wheeling, was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.



Daily Herald Map

Zoning board member gains park post

May 30, 1989

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling Zoning Board of Appeals member has been selected to a fill a seat on the Wheeling Park District Board that has been open since February.

Park commissioners are expected to approve the appointment of William D. Mattes Thursday, when the newcomer assumes his position.

"I'm excited that I've been selected," said Mattes, a plant supervisor for United American Metal in Chicago. "I will make every effort to make the appointment a success for all. I will try to live up to the confidence the commissioners have placed in me."

Mattes will fill the vacancy left by the sudden death Feb. 15 of former park board President James W. Gallagher, whose four-year term expires in 1991.

Mattes, a zoning board member for the past two years, was chosen over two other candidates.

Dennis R. Drake and Ken Kostzewski, who both ran unsuccessfully in the April 4 park board race, interviewed for the position.

Drake, who was appointed to the park board in 1984 to fill a vacancy, lost his bid for re-election the following year. Kostzewski, an insurance adjuster in Chicago, is a Neighborhood Watch block captain.

Mattes has been a youth baseball coach for the past six years

and a basketball coach for the past year at the park district. He also has umpired baseball games for the National and American Leagues for youths.

"He's done an excellent job," park board President Thomas Webber said. "He has a history of doing things very thoroughly. We're pleased to have him on our team."

As a park board member, Mattes will serve as a liaison to the Wheeling Historical Society and as a member of the buildings and grounds committee. That committee will be negotiating a new contract with Northwest Suburban High School District 214 for use of Neptune's Pool at Wheeling High School.

Area airport projects targeted for state aid

BY DAVE URBANEK
of our Springfield bureau

SPRINGFIELD — Area airports are in line for more than \$116 million in state grants for safety, repair and construction projects, state Transportation Secretary Gregory W. Baise said Tuesday.

The funds for suburban projects make up the major portion of the state's \$142 million state airport improvement program for the year beginning July 1. The program combines federal, state and local money.

O'Hare International Airport would receive \$61.4 million this year for various projects. Major expenditures include:

- \$19 million in state funds to help build stations for a \$1.6 billion proposed "people mover" system between terminals 1, 2 and 3 and to build a remote parking lot for the system.
- \$11.2 million to soundproof several schools close to O'Hare where teaching is constantly interrupted because of high jet noise.
- \$7.8 million for unspecified security improvements.
- \$7.3 million to overlay and mark runways.
- \$6 million to expand public elevators at the airport.
- \$5 million to resurface the main access road from Mannheim Road to

the airport terminals.

- \$2.2 million to upgrade Mount Prospect Road inside the airport.

The DuPage County Airport in West Chicago would receive \$46.3 million this year:

- \$45 million to begin a controversial expansion of the airport. This allocation includes preliminary engineering, land acquisition and construction of two new runways, taxiways and aprons as well as the relocation of existing railroad tracks, roads and utility lines.
- \$1.3 million to resurface and mark the west quadrant aprons.

The Waukegan Regional Airport would receive \$2.3 million:

- \$1.3 million to construct, light and mark an access taxiway and ramp at the Trans Air north ramp.
- \$794,000 for engineering to build the new T-hanger complex.
- \$484,000 to construct, light and mark a taxiway extension to Waukegan Aero ramps.

Pal-Waukee Airport, located in Wheeling and Prospect Heights, would receive \$6.1 million:

- \$5 million to buy 11.5 acres to buy land and re-locate Wolf and Hintz roads.
- \$590,000 to relocate the Wheeling drainage system.
- \$501,000 to buy land next to the airport, clear land and remove obstructions.

Suburban waste panel pushes for area refuse transfer station

5-31-89
BY LARRY SMITH
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County presented its case for a refuse transfer station to the Rolling Meadows City Council Tuesday night.

In front of a crowd of about 30 people, SWANCC presented plans for the estimated \$12 million facility to the council at a public hearing in the Rolling Meadows High School auditorium. The station would be located at the west end of Berdnick Street, an industrial area west of Rohlwing Road.

"This transfer station is a critical part of our program," said William Abolt, director of SWANCC.

Jacques A. Gourguechon, a planning and zoning consultant of Camiros of Chicago, said that the northwest side site in Rolling Meadows is good because it is in an industrial area.

"I concluded that this is one of the best sites that you will find in this region," Gourguechon said.

Thomas Burney, an attorney representing SWANCC, said the facility would be 79,000 square feet with three balers. It would be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, he added.

William Abolt said the transfer station is a required part of the agency's solid waste disposal program. He said the facility would handle 900 to 1,300 tons a day of resident refuse from 14 of the 28 communities served by SWANCC.

"No waste will be allowed to stay in the station overnight," Abolt said.

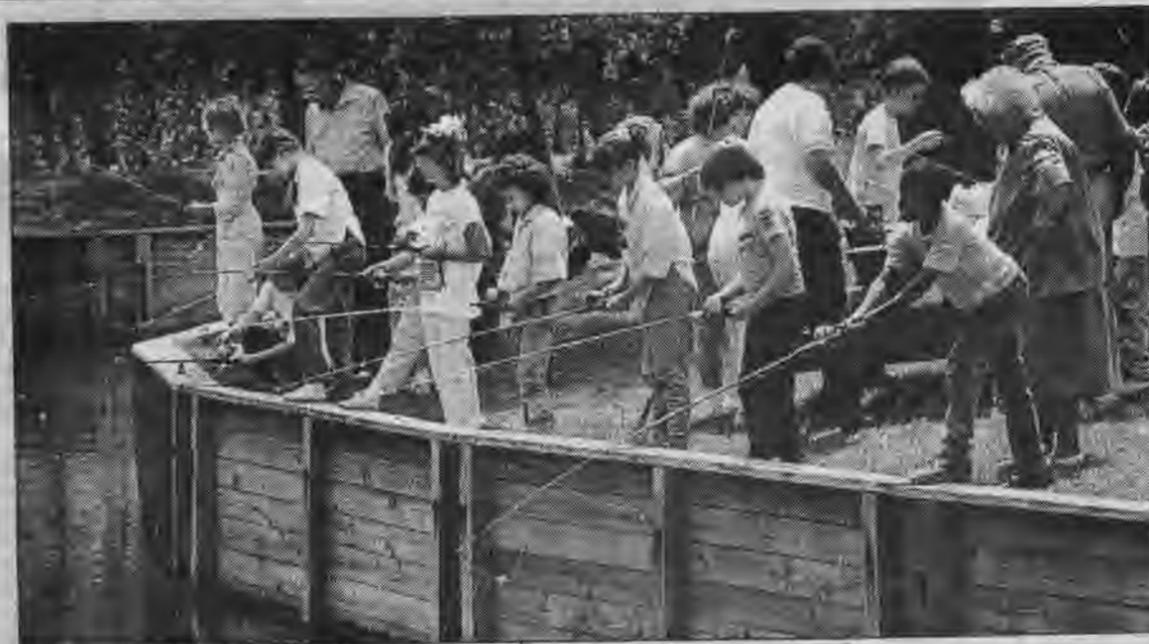
Daniel Dietzler, president of Patrick Engineering of Glen Ellyn, said the operation of the building would be completely endorsed. He said the building would be completely cleaned at the end of each day.

Dietzler said design of the building would prevent trucks from being backed up off the property waiting to unload garbage.

Earlier this month the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency denied SWANCC's application to build the controversial 142-acre baffle in incorporated Hanover Township, but SWANCC is not giving up.

Abolt said the agency analyzed the 25 flaws the IEPA cited in SWANCC's proposal and believes all those can be met reasonably. He said meeting those will result in the issuance of a permit by the state.

The city council has until Aug. 15 to make a decision on SWANCC's request. The hearings will continue at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the theater in Rolling Meadows High School, 2901 Central Road.



Fishin' expedition

6-1-89
Everyone's gone fishin' at the Pavillon Senior Center in Wheeling. Senior citizens held a picnic and fishing outing with fourth-grade students at Walt Whitman School in Wheeling. At right, a fish escapes as Willie Franta helps Yecenia Melgoza pull an empty hook from the water.

Daily Herald Photo/Rich Chapman

Deadline to end Palwaukee bickering set

6-1-89
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Chief administrators in Prospect Heights and Wheeling have two weeks to reach an agreement on issues concerning Palwaukee Municipal Airport that the two communities have been feuding over for more than a year or lose government funding.

The controversies include realigning the intersection at Wolf and Hintz roads, relocating the Wheeling drainage ditch and annexing airport property north of the Prospect Heights property line.

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart and Engineering Consultant Steve Moulton will assist Wheeling

Village Manager Craig Anderson and Prospect Heights Village Administrator Robert R. Kiely during their discussions.

Airport commissioners and elected officials from the two towns, which jointly own the airport, met Wednesday in an effort to reach a decision on some of the issues by this summer.

"I think the four of us in the course of an afternoon can pull this thing together," Kiely said. The group will put together a "simple outline" and submit a recommendation to their respective municipal governments, Kiely added.

The move comes on the heels of urging by state and federal transportation and aviation officials to

reach an accord or stand the threat of losing funding from the governments for airport improvements.

The Federal Aviation Administration pays 90 percent of the airport improvement costs while the Illinois Department of Transportation pays five percent and the airport owners split the remaining 5 percent.

Wheeling officials have stalled on approving a proposal to relocate the intersection, which is to close to the airport's main runway, west of where it is now. That plan as well as the proposed move for the ditch that runs through the airport would absorb some prime commercial property for Wheeling.

Residents pitch in for recycling

6-1-89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Darlene Workman didn't know Wheeling's new recycling program would accept her used aluminum and tin cans — in addition to the newspapers she puts out in her bright, orange container on Thursdays.

And Doug and Darlene Cartwright on Coral Lane thought they had paid \$12 for the bin that the village delivered free last month to every Wheeling homeowner. The Cartwrights also thought the village was charging them more than \$1 a month to collect their recyclables each week.

The Workmans and the Cartwrights may represent examples of the difficulty the village faces in trying to educate residents about its month-long recycling program.

During the first week, 53 percent of all village residents participated in the program. Of the 4,313 homeowners with recycling bins, 2,306 set the containers out on their garbage collection day.

"We're very pleased," Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said of the program. "The comments we're hearing are so positive. I think with starting out this well it will continue to build rather than go the other way around."

The program represents an effort by village officials to reduce the amount of trash hauled to landfills. As a member of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, Wheeling must comply with a policy that requires municipalities to reduce the community's solid waste stream by between 10 percent and 14 percent.

"It wasn't a question of whether we should do it or not," Wheeling's Administrative Assistant David Kowal said. "It was a question of when we could get started. It was a policy decision by the (village) board."



Tony Szybkowski of Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal sorts through bins for bottles and other recyclables in Wheeling. About 53 percent of the town's residents participated in the new program.

Daily Herald Photo/Gilbert Boucher

It took almost a year to get the program started. Trustees listened to pitches by three garbage haulers before choosing Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal, which is owned by Waste Management, Inc.

Waste Management, which has been hauling Wheeling's garbage, now collects residents' recyclables each week on one of the two regular pick-up days.

But some residents complain that separating garbage is inconvenient.

"I think it's stupid," Doug Cartwright said of the program. "I don't

see why we should be charged. The reason you do it is for the environmental factor. That overrides the cost."

The Cartwrights did not know how much money they were paying for the orange bin filled with a few scattered newspapers that sits in their garage.

Under Waste Management's contract, the company adds \$1 to customers' regular monthly bills. The village picked up the \$21,825 tab for

See RECYCLING on Page 3

"The comments we're hearing are so positive. I think with starting out this well it will continue to build rather than go the other way around"

— Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz

RECYCLING: Residents pitch in for program

Continued from Page 1

4,500 of the 14.5-gallon bins, but the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources will reimburse half of the cost.

The additional charge is used by the disposal company to pay for added labor, fuel, equipment and maintenance costs.

Disposal employees sort the recyclables right at the curb and separate the trash in bins on a truck designed for keeping the items separated.

To make the collection job more efficient, the village encourages residents to stack newspapers, including inserts, on the bottom of the bins,

with aluminum and tin cans next and glass on top.

Residents should remove labels, rinse the cans and pinch the top closed before putting them in the bin. Labels, metal and plastic rings may be left on glass jars, which can be clear or colored.

However, the company does not accept cardboard, window glass, bottles caps, pull tabs or computer print-out paper.

Waste Management hauls the trash to a processing center. The processing center hires developmentally disabled people from the Clearbrook Center and BLARE House to smash cans and process the recyclables before selling them to a buyer.

Because of the novelty of the program, figures are not yet available for how much money the company receives for the village's recyclables. All profits, less the processing costs, are returned to the village.

The village will use the money to pay off the cost of buying the bins. After that, the money, which is not earmarked for anything, may be used to rebate residents' garbage bills, Kowal said.

Residents of townhouse subdivisions must have the approval of the homeowners association to join the recycling program.

For apartment dwellers or residents not participating in the pro-

gram, a recycling truck is set up behind the village hall. The bins are divided for newspapers, aluminum and tins and glass.

Kowal said the response he has received from residents has been positive. One town house association already has agreed to join the program.

Some residents say separating trash is inconvenient, but they will continue to participate in the program anyway.

"It's a pain the neck," a St. Armand Lane resident said. "You've got to wash cans and bottles and keep two garbage bags. I'm doing it because I understand it's going to help the environment."

Former Wheeling officer files appeal to his firing on gambling charges

Wheeling Police Officer Richard Imber, who was fired following gambling charges leveled against him, will appeal his discharge by the board of fire and police commissioners.

Village Attorney James Rhodes said the village has been notified that Imber has filed for appeal in the Circuit Court of Cook County, chancery division. The village will challenge the appeal, Rhodes said.

"We're going to argue that the decision of the board of fire and police commissioners was correct," Rhodes said. He said a hearing will probably be held in several months.

Imber was fired April 6 after the commission found him guilty of two counts of gambling and one count of battery stemming from three incidents at Vivian Lee's restaurant on Milwaukee.

Imber was cleared of another gambling count and a charge of disorderly conduct. Police Chief Michael F. Haeger sought Imber's discharge after filing a petition with the commission charging that Imber had violated police department rules which forbid officers from breaking federal, state and village laws and other department rules that call for officers to enforce laws broken in their presence.

Former Wheeling resident's trial on intimidation charges set to begin

The bench trial of a former Wheeling man facing intimidation charges was set to begin Wednesday afternoon in Cook County Circuit Court a day after his attorney waived a jury trial.

Wheeling police charged William Albrecht Aug. 11, 1988, with intimidation after he allegedly threatened Police Chief Michael F. Haeger.

Albrecht is also facing seven counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse stemming from incidents which allegedly involved five boys ranging in age from 12 to 16. The alleged incidents took place between February, 1987, and April, 1988, at Albrecht's apartment on Deborah Lane.

Following the completion of the intimidation trial, Cook County State's Attorneys are expected to try Albrecht

on the sex charges.

Albrecht was first arrested in May, 1988 and was charged with five counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse. Subsequent investigation led to two additional counts being leveled against Albrecht last June.

At the time of the incident, Haeger said Albrecht wanted police to investigate six boys Albrecht said were vandalizing his property and harassing his family.

After Albrecht gave the chief the list of six boys, Haeger said he then told the chief that unless his accusations were investigated, he would kill the six boys and bring them to Haeger.

Circuit Court Judge Marcia B. Orr is hearing Albrecht's case at the Skokie courthouse.

Local man acquitted for police harassment

6-1-89

By DIANE DUNGEY
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A man accused of threatening to bring four youths to the Wheeling police station "in body bags" if he got no response to complaints he was being harassed was acquitted Wednesday on charges of intimidating the police chief.

Cook County Associate Judge Gerald T. Rohrer said the vow by William Albrecht, 38, was "a knee-jerk reaction" to telephone threats against Albrecht's family — threats Albrecht believed came from the four youths.

Albrecht made the comments in a phone call last August to Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger. Albrecht made the comments in anger because he believed the Wheeling Police Department was not investigating the telephone threats or five instances of vandalism to his car, said Michael T. Norris, Albrecht's attorney.

Three months earlier, Albrecht had been charged with five counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse for allegedly having sex with five teen-age boys. The charges are still

pending.

Albrecht believed one of his accusers was among the youths who made telephone threats against his wife and daughter, Norris said.

"The inference was it was open season on Bill Albrecht in the town of Wheeling, that his daughter could be raped, that his wife could be attacked, and literally, no one was going to do anything," Norris told the judge.

Albrecht was charged with intimidation because his threats against the four youths were meant to force Haeger to take the youths into custody, Assistant State's Attorney Toni Winninger argued during the hearing in the Skokie branch of Cook County Circuit Court.

Haeger testified that Albrecht angrily accused police of ignoring the threats against his family and said, "I'll get a shotgun and deliver the kids to you in body bags."

Albrecht had made similar complaints to Police Detective William Stutzman in two phone calls, one of which ended when Stutzman hung up because Albrecht would not discuss the issue "in a reasonable manner," Stutzman said.

Wheeling slices pizzeria out of center

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

6-6-89

Wheeling trustees rejected plans Monday for a carry-out pizza restaurant to open in a developing shopping center because they said it would increase traffic problems. Donald Waldman, a regional director for Little Caesar's Pizza, asked the village to approve plans for a new restaurant at 12 W. Dundee Road in the Center Plaza Shopping Center.

Under village codes, a carry-out restaurant in that shopping center requires twice as many as the five parking spaces already allocated for the proposed building. In addition, trustees, who rejected the request in a 4-1 vote, were concerned that the large number of pizza restaurants already located in Wheeling would present too much competition for the new business.

"I don't think we're really in the business of deciding who should compete with whom in the village," said Trustee James Whittington, the only board member to vote in favor of the request. Waldman said Little Caesar's targets families as customers, who would phone in a pizza order and pick it up. Their cars would not be parked more than 15 minutes in the lot, he added.

"The restaurant would have less than 10 customers an hour during week nights and less than 50 cars an hour during weekend evenings," Waldman said.

"I see it as a detriment to the shopping center," Trustee William A. Rogers said. "I'm certainly not welcoming that type of business in the area."

Funds OK'd for study of Lake-Cook Road plans

6-3-89

By KRIS KOPP
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Buffalo Grove trustees, joining forces with three other communities, have agreed to pitch in about \$76,000 toward an engineering study on a 8.7-mile stretch of Lake-Cook Road.

The study will help transportation officials pinpoint traffic flow problems along Lake-Cook Road between Rand Road and the Tri-State Tollway. Also, the study would coordinate future development along the Lake-Cook Road corridor with transportation plans for the area.

As the leading member of a recently created Lake-Cook Road Local Corridor Agency — which also includes the villages of Wheeling, Arlington Heights and Palatine — Buffalo Grove will contribute the largest portion of money for the \$400,000 study.

That cost will be split between the four villages — based on the amount of property owned by each of those communities — and Cook County.

Because Lake-Cook Road is a county road, Cook County officials have agreed to pay 70 percent of the cost, which would end up being about \$280,000.

The remaining \$120,000 would be divided amongst the agency members, with Buffalo Grove picking up the largest chunk of the balance, or about 63 percent.

Wheeling trustees have agreed to pay for about 32 percent of the project, or roughly \$38,066. Arlington Heights would pay about 4.2 percent, or \$5,000. In Palatine, officials have agreed to pay 83 percent, or about \$1,000, even though the village does not own any property along Lake-Cook Road.

Transportation officials said it may take up to six months to complete the study, which will require the collection of traffic data, aerial mapping and ground control studies and a review of drainage and flood-plain patterns and intersection design plans.

Airport study subcommittee 'unnecessary'

6-7-89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Prospect Heights officials say a Wheeling subcommittee formed to study Palwaukee Municipal Airport issues is unnecessary because administrators from both towns already are doing the job.

Wheeling Trustee William A. Rogers requested a village board subcommittee be formed to contact Federal Aviation Administrators and "obtain specific answers" to questions about proposed safety improvements at the airport.

"The state of Illinois, the airport manager (Fred E. Stewart) and the consultants appear to be the driving force behind the various plans submitted to the commissioners

and the two municipalities," Rogers said.

Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz appointed Rogers and Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman to the subcommittee. Both trustees also are members of the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission, which includes representatives from the airport owners, Prospect Heights and Wheeling.

There has been controversy between the two towns over the safety improvements, namely realigning the intersection at Wolf and Hintz roads and relocating the Wheeling drainage ditch that runs through the airport.

Airport commissioners a week ago gave top administrators from

both towns two weeks to reach an agreement on the issues both towns have been feuding over for more than a year.

"These are issues that we've had plenty of time to hash out," said commission Chairman Carey L. Chickerno, 3rd Ward alderman from Prospect Heights. "I'm not sure a subcommittee is necessary. All that stuff should have been thought about a year ago when we started discussions. Why wait until our backs are against the wall?"

Federal transportation and aviation officials have been urging the towns to reach an accord by this summer or face the threat of possibly losing the funding to other airports needing improvements.

Retirement home construction nears

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Construction of a 200-room health care and retirement home in Wheeling could begin as early as this summer following trustees' endorsement of changes in plans that were first approved two years ago.

The senior citizen health care and housing complex will be built on nearly eight acres off Wolf Road, east of Chamber Park and west of the Pavilion Senior Citizen Center.

Plans for the six-story center, called Leisure Care, include 30 one-bedroom apartments, 170 studio apartments and 26 state-licensed nursing-care rooms for residents over 65 years old.

Residents will pay about \$1,300 a month for rent, which includes two meals a day, transportation, some light housekeeping and linen changes.

6-7-89
Although the plans for the center were first approved by village trustees in April 1987, problems with financing and recent changes in the building layout caused some delays in breaking ground for the complex, said Alan Itzkowitz, project manager with the architectural firm Braun Skiba, Ltd. in Chicago.

The Wheeling development is part of a \$1 billion project backed by one of Japan's largest steel manufacturers, Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd., and Leisure Technology, a Los Angeles adult housing developer. The joint venture includes developing 44 full-service retirement communities in the United States, Canada and Mexico over the next 15 years.

Modifications to the original Wheeling site plan include reducing the height of the building from seven to six stories and reducing the number of one-bedroom apartments by 10. The changes increase the number

of studio apartments in the retirement home.

The plans were changed, Itzkowitz said, after a recent market study showed senior citizens preferred studios to larger one-bedroom apartments.

But village officials were concerned Wheeling would be stuck with a center designed strictly for senior citizens if the project failed. A building with mostly studio apartments may develop into a transient center, village planners said.

But, the developers said the center could be converted into one-bedroom apartments to appeal to more renters.

In addition, Village Attorney



James A. Rhodes said he will review the original agreement with the village to determine whether the owners had agreed to convert the apartments if the building was sold.

Wheeling, Prospect Heights near pact on Palwaukee

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

6-8-89
Countryside
After months of discussions that seemed to lead Wheeling and Prospect Heights no closer to approving improvement plans for Palwaukee Municipal Airport, the two sides are nearing an agreement.

Plans to relocate the Hintz and Wolf roads intersection got off dead center when the two sides came to an agreement that will limit the amount of airport-related development while calling for revenue sharing between the two communities that own the airport.

A volley of letters and proposals between the two municipalities came to an end following a joint meeting last Wednesday of the Wheeling Village Board, the Prospect Heights City Council and the airport commission.

"I'm happy because everything is moving forward," airport commission chairman Carey Chickemeo said. "This is the first time in months that we're moving forward."

AFTER PUSHING FOR an equal split of all revenues on the airport and seeking what Wheeling termed "expansion" at Milwaukee Avenue and Hintz Road, Prospect Heights changed its tune and a conciliatory suggestion made by City Manager Bob Kiely was met with cautious acceptance.

"I think it's something I could live with," Village President Sheila Schultz said. "I think they (Prospect Heights) heard what we were saying."

If the village and city approve the tentative agreement suggested last week and further honed Monday by Kiely, Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson it could pave the way for quick approval of plans to relocate the Hintz and Wolf roads intersection.

In responding to Kiely's suggestion, made after more than 90 minutes of sometimes heated discussion between the two communities, Anderson said he

couldn't "shoot too many holes" in the suggestion. Anderson said Tuesday that an agreement is being drafted by airport attorneys that would be before village and city officials next week.

WITHOUT THAT APPROVAL, state and federal officials warn the airport could lose funding for improvements that are necessary to keep the airport's longest runway operational for corporate aircraft. Those aircraft provide the bulk of the airport's revenue while generating thousands of dollars of business in the community.

An intersection relocation plan proposed by the airport commission has been approved by Prospect Heights but struck down by the village board. Until both sides agree to a relocation plan, environmental studies necessary to get the project rolling will be delayed.

The tentative agreement calls for the movement of Wolf Road far enough west to accommodate development on the airport side of Wolf Road, with the village collecting all property taxes generated by that development.

It also calls for limited development of the Twin Drive-In property at Milwaukee Avenue and Hintz Road. Although not included in the initial list of properties the airport needs to acquire, the drive-in property has been recently labeled as a possible location for the diversion of the Wheeling Drainage Ditch.

PROSPECT HEIGHTS HAS suggested the drive-in be bought, the ditch put in and the remaining land used for airport-related development. Wheeling officials have balked at that proposal. Kiely's compromise included buying the property solely for the ditch, with the village controlling development of the property.

A possible benefit to Wheeling in the proposal could be Prospect Heights willingness to allow the village to annex all property acquired by the airport that lies in the middle of the aviation facility.

Cable council may hire aide for TCI talks

68-89

BY DANIELLE ACETO
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Northwest Municipal Cable Council is looking to hire a consultant to aid in upcoming contract negotiations with TCI of Illinois cable company.

The consultant, whose fee would be paid for by TCI, would help members of the council with technical and legal questions as they begin talks with the cable firm for a proposed system overhaul.

TCI officials are recommending converting the current 120-channel system to a 60-channel system in hopes it would improve reception to subscribers in the eight council towns now being served by TCI.

The proposed conversion could take two years and between \$3 million and \$5 million to complete.

"We've seen a little bit of an improvement, but complaints are still up and down," said Mark Masciola, chairman of the cable council. "Once we have the consultant, we want to go ahead with the modification adjustments."

Members of the council, whose towns have been plagued with problems for the past year, threatened, but did not follow through on a threat last fall to fine TCI up to \$200 per day unless it improved customer service and picture quality.

"The council developed target goals and asked TCI to meet them and they did," said Des Plaines City Manager Lawrence A. Asaro. "We still get complaints, but no more or less than we used to."

Still, members of the council — who represent Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Des Plaines, Hanover Park, Mount Prospect, Park Ridge, Prospect Heights and Wheeling — say they will be counting on the soon-to-be hired consultant to ensure proper safeguards are included in the new franchise agreement.

"First and foremost, we want customer service standards set into the agreement," said Carole Stannard, executive director of the cable council. "We want this person (consultant) to look at the technical plans and make sure they are feasible and will work the way the company (TCI) says they will work."

State could snuff out smoking at local board meetings

Countryside 6-8-89

Public meetings held in smoke-filled rooms have for the most part gone by the wayside. The issue of allowing smoking in public places is not dying, however, and several local boards in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove may soon be affected by a proposed state ban on the practice.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

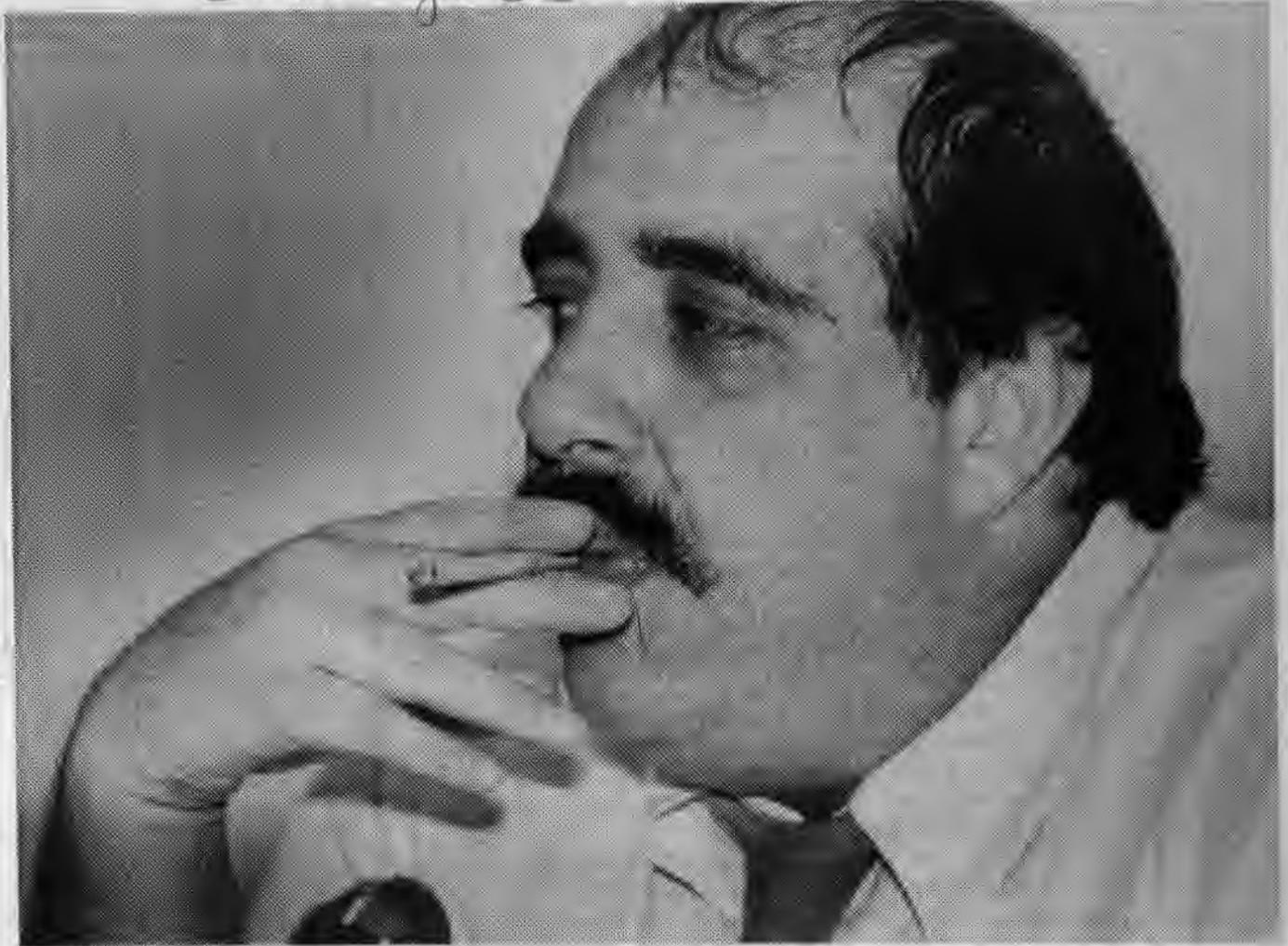
It doesn't happen at Wheeling Village Board meetings, it has been extinguished at Buffalo Grove Village sessions and the Buffalo Grove Park Board has informally made sure Bics are not needed at its weekly gatherings.

The practice of allowing smoking at local board meetings, however, has not been completely eliminated in Buffalo Grove and Wheeling. That could all change depending upon the outcome of a legislative proposal aimed at making the need for ash trays at public meetings unnecessary.

For the first time in 10 years, the Illinois General Assembly is on the verge of making Illinois the 44th state to adopt a clean air act that would prohibit smoking in public places. The legislation was expected yesterday to move one step closer to passage as the Senate executive committee reviewed the bill.

"We're not saying you can't smoke, we're just saying you can't do it around me," said Janet Williams of the Chicago Lung Association (CLA). The CLA has been a staunch supporter of the state

(Continued on page 18)



Smokers like Wheeling Park District Superintendent of Resource Management Services John Piazza may not be able to light up at future board meetings if a

clean air bill being considered by the Illinois Legislature is approved. The bill would ban smoking in public places. (Staff photo by Richard Bajjalleh)

(Continued from page 9)

legislation. "You can't damage my health because you want to damage yours."

BUT WHILE THE Marlboro Man is unwelcome at an increasing number of public places, he can still find a spot to torch up his trusty cigarette at school and park board meetings in Buffalo Grove and Wheeling.

Kildeer School District 96, Aptakisic-Tripp School District 102 and the Wheeling Park District all permit smoking at meetings.

The three boards are clearly in the minority. As the health effects of "passive" or secondary smoke become known, many governmental bodies are beating the state to the punch and banning smoking in public areas such as taxi cabs, polling places, meeting rooms and public washrooms.

Wheeling has banned smoking in the public areas of Village Hall and allows smoking only in designated areas. Village President Sheila Schultz said the board long ago agreed that the health risks warranted banning smoking. Two board members who smoked approved the ban, Schultz said.

"IT'S NOT a question of ... preference, it's a question of 'is this really bothering my health,'" Schultz said.

In 1985, an informal poll of municipalities in the northwest suburbs found that only 11 of the 21 polled allowed smoking at its meetings. As of last week, five of those communities have since adopted bans while two others are now considering them.

"It's a touchy subject," said District 96 School Board President Barbara

Cohen. "We have three board members who are smokers and who enjoy smoking. As long as they are considerate to others ... it's not a problem."

Cohen said the board has not considered a ban. Board member Valerie Lubecke said she and the other board members that do smoke refrain from the practice when school children are present.

"I THINK what we're trying to do is be considerate to those who smoke and to those who do not," Cohen said. "I think the board is always open to consider any changes."

District 102 Board Member Bob Kossack, an admitted heavy smoker, said he would object to his board adopting such a ban until the government bans tobacco altogether. While Kossack doesn't debate all the government's findings on the effects of passive smoke, he said it should outlaw tobacco rather than legislate against it.

"If it is that deadly, then it should be made illegal and if it's made illegal, I'll abide by the law," Kossack said. "The government has to decide: Is it trying to protect the health of people or are they trying to protect choice?"

For Williams, the issue is clear. "The tobacco industry wants you to think it's about rights, but it's not. It's about health risks," she said.

AT LEAST ONE of the remaining boards that allows smoking is considering a ban. Wheeling Park Board President Tom Webber said that his board will consider a smoking ban.

After consulting with park district Manager Karop Bavougian - a smoker - Webber said he expects the board to consider a smoking ban for the district.

Wheeling trustee seeks independent review on airport safety requirements

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Countryside 6-8-89

Trying to ensure Wheeling doesn't approve an "airport parking lot" if it doesn't need one, village trustees are seeking direct answers from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on safety rules governing Palwaukee Municipal Airport improvements.

Trustee Bill Rogers suggested the meeting to see whether FAA regulations mandate that Wolf Road must be moved 1,000 feet west of the existing runway. Rogers said his reading of FAA rules suggest the road may only have to move just 600 feet from the runway.

"It's the FAA rules we're going to follow, but I want to make sure we're following the right ones," Rogers said. Rogers, Trustee Elizabeth Hartman and Village Manager Craig Anderson are expected to meet next Monday with FAA officials, Rogers said.

Prospect Heights acting-Mayor Jerry Meyer said the airport commission should be studying Rogers' request. Rogers and Hartman are also members of the commission. Meyer suggested that Rogers might not be listening to what the airport staff is saying at those

meetings. "He's on the commission. If he doesn't have the right answers, I wonder where he's been," Meyer said.

Rogers said he has been asking questions but that the Prospect Heights members of the commission have thwarted his attempts to get answers from the FAA. He said he wants to make sure Wheeling has all the information possible before it decides on how much land will be acquired for the road relocation.

"I DON'T know why anyone would object to our meeting," Rogers said. "It's a very important decision."

Rogers also said he wants to know how changes to the runway are going to affect flight patterns. The initial airport agreement called for the village to contact local school officials about such changes.

Anderson and Village President Sheila Schultz recently flew to Springfield for a similar meeting with Illinois Department of Transportation officials in the aeronautics division. They discussed the relocation and other airport issues with director Robert Coverdale.

Suspect found not guilty in local intimidation case

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

In the first round of a series of trials that will focus on the investigation practices of the Wheeling police department, William Albrecht was found not guilty of intimidation last week.

Calling Albrecht's threats against Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger "knee jerk" reactions to a frustrating situation, Cook County Circuit Court Judge Gerald Rohrer last Thursday found Albrecht not guilty.

Michael Norris, Albrecht's attorney, said he will continue to question the department's handling of the Albrecht case when the former Wheeling resident goes on trial for seven counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse stemming from incidents dating from February, 1987, and April, 1988. A June 15 status hearing has been set for that case.

In reaching his verdict during a bench trial in the Skokie courthouse, Rohrer said a combination of harassing phone calls and violence against the Albrecht family created a situation in which Albrecht "blurted out" threats to bring four boys to the Wheeling police department in body bags.

Courtesy
THOSE THREATS, HOWEVER, did not constitute a violation of state law, Rohrer said.

"It (the threat) was more or less blurted out and I don't think he gave any conscious consideration to it," Rohrer said after announcing his verdict. The judge labeled Albrecht's "body bag" comment as "knee jerk-type reactions. They were in response to a frustration situation."

Afterward, Albrecht would say little about the case. "Let's just say the record speaks for itself," Albrecht said as he and his family left the court building.

Haeger defended the charges, saying he wouldn't have brought them "if I wasn't concerned about the safety and welfare of the people to whom he made the threats."

"I'm not so sure we can allow people to have knee jerk reactions like that just because they're frustrated," Haeger said. As for Norris' claims that he will question the department's investigative practices, Haeger said he was "comfortable" with how the department has handled the Albrecht case.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Toni Winninger said Albrecht, in a phone call to Haeger, threatened to kill

four boys if the department didn't investigate Albrecht's claims that the boys were responsible for vandalism and harassment of his family.

THE COOK COUNTY State's Attorney's office brought the intimidation charge against Haeger Aug. 11, 1988, after he made several phone calls to the Wheeling Police Department, including the call to Haeger in which he talked about bringing the four boys to the department in body bags.

According to testimony given at the two-hour trial, Albrecht called officer William Stutzman first and Haeger second to complain about what he perceived as a lack of investigation into his family's claims, including rape threats against his daughter.

During one of the conversations, Haeger testified that Albrecht said that unless the department "arrests" or "picks up" a group of suspects that Albrecht had identified, he was "going to get the shotgun ... and bring these kids to the station in body bags."

While Winninger claimed the implied threat constituted intimidation, Rohrer agreed with Albrecht's attorney Michael Norris that it did not.

DURING THE TRIAL, the investigation of the four boys was questioned by Norris. In questioning Stutzman, Norris said Stutzman claimed the department could not find the four boys Albrecht said were the culprits.

Subsequent questioning by Winninger, however, revealed that the department had already scheduled interviews with several of the suspects. Rohrer, however, said the department was not on trial. He said only the circumstances surrounding Albrecht's alleged threats were to be considered.

The day before calling the department, Norris said the Albrecht family car had been vandalized for a fifth time. The next day, Mary Albrecht called her husband at work and told him that Wheeling police officers taking their complaint had told them to leave Wheeling, Norris said.

Frustrated, Norris said Albrecht called Stutzman about the complaint. But because the paperwork hadn't been filed, Stutzman did not know about the most recent incident.

NORRIS SAID ALL the facts taken into account showed that "it was open season on Bill Albrecht and his family in

(Continued on page 17)

Police officer suspended for car chase

lice chase and continued to Chicago go without a supervisor's permission.

As part of a bargain made between attorneys for Rompala and Haeger, Rompala admitted to leaving village limits while on duty and failing to stop the chase when safety was at risk. Also under the agreement, Haeger dismissed the other two charges against Rompala, who waived his right to a commission hearing.

Rompala also was suspended for 92 days in August 1988 after admitting to sexually harassing three Wheeling Police Department employees between fall 1984 and March 1986. Rompala was accused of fondling two female dispatchers and a clerk.

ing a chase and failing to stop the chase when risks were involved. The village fire and police commission Thursday unanimously agreed to suspend Rompala after he admitted to two of the four charges.

The charges stem from a Jan. 26 incident when Wilmette Police were involved in a car chase from the North Shore suburb through Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect, Schaumburg, and onto the Northwest Tollway before ending in Chicago on 1-90.

Haeger said Rompala was on duty when the chase began at about 3 a.m., and drove into Mount Prospect about 1 1/4 mile from the Wheeling border. From there, Rompala joined the Wilmette po-

A 20-year veteran of the Wheeling Police Department has been suspended for 10 days for his unauthorized participation in a high-speed car chase to Chicago in January.

Wheeling police officer Michael T. Rompala, 49, will be suspended for five days without pay and forfeit five days of accumulated vacation and holiday pay.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger charged Rompala with leaving village limits in a police car while on duty, interfering in a case being handled by another police department, failing to use emergency lights and sirens dur-

(Continued from page 5)

the town of Wheeling."

On the stand, Stutzman said Albrecht was upset and condemned the department for its "incompetence." Stutzman testified that he then hung up on Albrecht. When Albrecht called back, they talked for awhile before Albrecht brought up the suspects, who he did not name to Stutzman, and made a reference to body bags.

After that call, Stutzman said Albrecht called Haeger's office, first talking with secretary Joyce Sheets. Haeger testified that Albrecht complained about the investigative work of the police department. After giving Haeger the names of the boys he suspected, Albrecht then made the body bag threat, Haeger said.

"If we couldn't find the kids who were doing the damage and making the phone calls, he would find them," Haeger testified that Albrecht said. "He told me twice during our conversation, he said he was going to get the shotgun ... and bring these kids to the station in body bags."

ROHRER, IN LEADING to his verdict, said that Stutzman did not react

to the body bag charges, instead referring Albrecht to Haeger. Taking in the fact that Albrecht and his family was being harassed on the phone and his car vandalized, Rohrer said his calls were "calls of a citizen" who was "crying out to his government."

Albrecht and Norris have had contact with the Wheeling Police Department before. During testimony last week, Haeger said a complaint had been brought by Albrecht against Stutzman in February, 1987, saying the officer had been "rude" and "belligerent" to Albrecht.

Norris has also handled several cases involving Stutzman and other Wheeling police officers. A suit is now pending in U.S. District Court in which Norris' client Jon Arbogast is seeking damages for alleged misconduct by the Wheeling officer.

Norris has also successfully defended several other clients in cases charging Wheeling police with police brutality. He was also the attorney for William Boyd, the Wheeling teen-ager who was charged with the 1981 murder of teen-ager Mary Kosinski. The state's attorney's office dropped the case after Boyd's confession was tossed out.

Local police confiscate cache of street weapons

A cache of weapons, including brass knuckles, throwing knives and two electric stun guns, has been confiscated by Wheeling police and Cook County Sheriff's police following an investigation at the Twin Drive-in flea market.

James P. Raia, of Niles, was charged with unlawful use of weapons for allegedly selling the weapons at the flea market. Wheeling police say undercover officers initially bought some weapons from Raia during the month-long investigation into weapons sales at the south Milwaukee Avenue flea market.

When police finally added up the confiscated weapons and released the information last week, they found 28 sets of brass knuckles, nine throwing knives, 155 throwing stars, 13 brass knuckle knives, 11 spring loaded knives, 32 sets of nunchaku sticks ("numb-chucks") and the two stun guns.

The arrest and confiscation was made June 4. Deputy Chief Gary O'Rourke said the items are typically bought by gang members and teen-agers.

"It's a lot of stuff we don't want to see around our community," O'Rourke said. "They aren't the type of items you would use in sporting events."

Officer receives 10-day suspension for role in chase

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Courtesy 6-15-89
A Wheeling police officer who pursued and later apprehended a suspected car thief last January has been suspended for 10 days for conducting an improper chase.

Both officer Michael Rompala and Chief Michael F. Haeger agreed on the punishment stemming from the officer's early morning chase that found Rompala traveling eastbound in the westbound lanes of the Kennedy Expressway before the suspect was captured near Central Avenue in Chicago.

Rompala will serve two concurrent five-day suspensions without pay, Deputy Chief Gary O'Rourke said. No dates for the suspensions have been set.

O'Rourke said Haeger brought the charges against Rompala because the officer should have ended the chase, which was started by Wilmette police over a traffic violation. It wasn't until the driver was caught that police learned the car had been stolen, O'Rourke said.

UNDER THE WHEELING Police Department's pursuit policy, O'Rourke said officers and

their immediate supervisors must decide the costs and benefits of conducting a chase.

"If the risk of pursuing were greater than the risk of letting them go, then the pursuit should be terminated," O'Rourke said.

The veteran officer's punishment was registered last week at a meeting of the board of fire and police commissioners.

Rompala pleaded guilty to two counts of violating department rules and regulations and two counts were dismissed. In pleading guilty, Rompala admitted that he violated department rules and regulations precluding an officer from leaving the village during a pursuit without direct order from a superior.

ROMPALA ALSO VIOLATED department rules with his method of pursuit when he drove the wrong way down the Kennedy, O'Rourke said. The two counts that were dismissed dealt with similar charges, O'Rourke said.

Rompala was one of the officers who eventually apprehended the suspect. Wheeling police charged the suspect with aggravated fleeing and eluding police and various traffic violations. He was later charged by Wilmette police with possession of a

stolen auto.

The reason the charges were filed, O'Rourke said, was out of concern for the safety of motorists who may have been in the area of the chase. Rompala's direct supervisor at the time of the incident was also disciplined, O'Rourke said. He declined to identify that officer.

Rompala is one of eight officers on the promotion list for the two vacant sergeants' positions. He has been on the force since June, 1969, and only six other officers in the 47-person force have more seniority.

LIKE MANY DEPARTMENTS, the Wheeling Police Department is now reviewing its pursuit policy. O'Rourke said the proposed changes offer more detailed explanations of when and why officers should pursue suspected criminals.

Officers, in conjunction with their immediate supervisors, must consider the severity of the crime committed, traffic conditions, weather conditions, recognizability of the car being chased and a host of other factors in determining whether to pursue a motorist, O'Rourke said. The proposed policy will provide more criteria for making that decision, he said.

Boyd hopes to bring case to the U.S. Supreme Court

Courtesy 6-15-89
A man who alleges his civil rights were violated by the Village of Wheeling and several of the village's police officers during a 1981 murder investigation wants the U.S. Supreme Court to hear his case.

The William Boyd case could soon leave Illinois as it heads for Washington, D.C. and the U.S. Supreme Court.

After being denied a rehearing by the U.S. Appellate Court in his push to win a civil rights suit against the Village of Wheeling and several current and former Wheeling police officers, Boyd and his family have asked attorney Michael Norris to take the case to the U.S. Supreme Court, Norris said Tuesday.

Boyd was charged with the 1981 murder of teen-ager Mary Kosinski. Charges were dropped after his confession - reportedly given while he was under hypnosis - was thrown out. He then launched a \$23 million lawsuit against the village, police officers and a psychotherapist, claiming his civil rights had been violated through an illegal arrest.

That court ruled in favor of the village and the officers. Three U.S. Appellate Court justices later affirmed that ruling and two weeks ago that same court decided not to rehear the case.

JAMES RHODES, THE village attorney, said the appellate court had

made the right decision in affirming the U.S. District Court ruling and deciding not to rehear the case.

Norris said he will soon submit a brief for consideration by the highest federal court. He said he did not know on what grounds he will make his appeal.

Elizabeth Brown, the attorney representing the village, said the Boyd family had turned down a settlement agreement before the case went to a U.S. District Court jury in January, 1988. She declined to say how much village and the insurance companies for the former officers offered to Boyd.

Brown will continue to represent the village should the Supreme Court agree to hear the case. Only a small percentage of the tens of thousands of appeals made to the court are heard by the nine Supreme Court justices.

AFTER CHARGES WERE dropped against Boyd by the Cook County State's Attorney's office, no one else was charged with Kosinski's murder. The case is officially listed as an open, but inactive file, Deputy Chief Gary O'Rourke said.

Wheeling cop faces rules violations charge

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

6-19-89
For the third time in six months, Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger has charged one of his employees with violating police department rules.

The latest charge is against Sgt. Michael J. Staufenbiel, an 18-year veteran of the police department. His annual salary in this year's police budget is listed at \$41,492.

Neither Haeger nor village fire and police commissioners would comment on the charges against Staufenbiel, who lives in Vernon Hills.

The commission will review the charges at a hearing set for 7 p.m. today in the fire department con-

ference room at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

In April, police officer Richard R. Imber was fired from the police department after commissioners found him guilty of battery and two gambling charges brought by Haeger.

The violations included bets on poker and liar's poker stemming from three separate incidents at a Wheeling restaurant/lounge. During the hearing, all but one of the six Wheeling police officers who testified as character witnesses admitted to having played liars' poker or poker.

Earlier this month, Wheeling police officer Michael T. Rompala, 43, was suspended for 10 days for unauthorized participation in a

high-speed car chase in January. Rompala will be suspended for five days without pay and forfeit five days of vacation pay.

Rompala admitted to leaving village limits while on duty Jan. 26 and failing to stop a car chase that led him to Chicago. As part of a plea bargain, Haeger dropped charges against Rompala that he interfered in a case being handled by another police department and that he failed to use emergency lights and sirens during the high-speed chase.

Rompala, a 20-year police department veteran, was suspended for 92 days in August 1986 after admitting to sexually harassing three Wheeling Police Department employees.

Rodeo to peddle bicycle safety

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

6-18-89
Being a safe bicyclist is as important as being a safe driver on the streets.

That's the message Wheeling village officials are trying to get across to bicycle riders this summer as police officers gear up for the annual bike rodeo next month.

The rodeo, which has been canceled twice in the past month because of inclement weather, will be held at 10 a.m. July 8 behind the Wheeling Police Department, 255 W.

Dundee Road. During the rodeo, young bicyclists will be tested for their skills on the two-wheelers and for their knowledge of the rules of the road.

"It really is fun and the kids really take it seriously," said Barb Kobishop, Wheeling's crime prevention officer. "We stress obeying rules. Most kids are not even familiar with bicycle rules of the road."

Riders will weave around orange fluorescent cones to demonstrate their accuracy in riding and ability to cut close corners. Proper hand-

signals and the use of bike brakes also will be tested.

The top three riders who receive the most points in three age groups will be awarded trophies. Everyone who participates will receive a certificate from the Illinois Secretary of State's office.

Bicycle inspections and licenses also will be available during the rodeo. Village and park district officials will test tires and brakes and register the bicycles. Kobishop said bicyclists should follow the same rules as cars, includ-

ing riding on the right side of the street, signaling turns and riding the correct direction on one-way streets. Cyclists should not ride two on a bike, weave through traffic or ride next to other cyclists.

Although Wheeling has few reports of bicycle violations, Kobishop said most offenses occur in subdivisions, where cyclists tend to ride in groups and block the roads or cross streets illegally.

Kobishop cautions riders to lock bicycles even if they are left unattended for a short time.

Changing of guard set at Wheeling's Le Francais

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

For those of you who have not yet sampled the fine fare served by internationally-famous Chef Jean Banchet at Wheeling's Le Francais Restaurant, don't worry. You never will.

"We are booked up until we close," co-owner Doris Banchet said Tuesday.

Closed? Yes, after carving a top-star rating out of their internationally famous Milwaukee Avenue restaurant for 17 years, Doris Banchet and her husband will hand over the ovens, grills and stoves at Le Francais to Chef Roland Liccioni June 24.

When Liccioni reopens the restaurant under the same name July 12, it will mark a new era in the storied restaurant's history.

"THEY ASSURED me the new owners are going to maintain the quality and the standards that are the Le Francais tradition," said Jackie Pollack, executive director of the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Le Francais has long been known for an extensive wine list and its \$100 a person dinners, which many considered the right price for outstanding food and exceptional service. Doris said she is confident the new proprietors will run the restaurant in a similar fashion.

She said her husband has decided to go into the restaurant consulting business. She said they will continue to live in their home on the Des Plaines River that lies next to the restaurant.

Although Liccioni is considered one of the finest chefs in the area and one of the reasons why Carlos Restaurant in Highland Park is so highly rated, Pollack considers herself lucky to have been treated to a Banchet dinner at Le Francais by her husband two years ago.

HE TOOK HER there on her birthday, passing up the more typical fare (read: less expensive) at other

Milwaukee Avenue establishments. A combination of incredible taste, perfect service and outstanding presentation made her dining adventure as unforgettable as those served to thousands who have traveled long distances to stop in, Pollack said.

"It was wonderful there," Pollack said as she drifted back in time. "It was a dining experience."

Pollack said no other business has generated more calls into the chamber's office in the eight plus years she's spent with the chamber. Some need the restaurant's phone number, while others wondered if maybe Pollack might have better luck helping them get a reservation in the always busy establishment.

Customers often flew into Palwaukee Municipal Airport, had dinner, and flew back out of town that night. Other restaurants also benefited from Le Francais. Local restaurateurs said they often were reviewed by the media after the notebook crowd drove by on the way to Le Francais.

"WHEELING HAS a reputation for fine restaurants," Pollack said. "Obviously, Le Francais is the premier restaurant."

Doris Banchet, 50, said she will spend the next three months slowing down following the two months of negotiations and more than 16 years of working 12- to 16-hour days six days a week. The restaurant is always closed on Monday, as well as for the month of January.

"We really just want to take the first three months and relax," she said. Chef Jean, 48, will spend some time in France before coming back to work as a restaurant consultant.

Doris and Jean met in England when she was managing a restaurant and he was a chef in the restaurant across the street. Both had grown up in restaurants, each having started working in food establishments at age 13, Doris

(Continued on page 18)



Doris Banchet, co-owner of Le Francais in Wheeling, and her husband Jean will leave their internationally-famous French restaurant June 24. The restaurant will retain the same name but will be operated by a new team. (Staff photo by Richard Bajjalieh)

LE Francais

(Continued from page 5)

said. She grew up along the Rhine River in Germany while Jean was born in Roanne, France, near Lyon.

THEY CAME TO Wisconsin from England to work for the Playboy Corporation and worked at the resort in Lake Geneva. After several years there, Chef Jean sought out a restaurant and Le Francais was born.

Now that their stay as the village's - no, the area's - top restaurateurs, Doris said it will be difficult to leave the town that is often identified as the home of restaurants.

"It's (17 years) the longest time I've ever lived anywhere and I love it," Doris

said, her German accent still clinging to her words. "It's one of my biggest heartaches about the area is moving out of the area."

Liccioni began working at Carlos when the restaurant opened more than eight years ago. That restaurant recently was given Chicago magazine's top rating of four stars. His wife, Mary Beth, will also work at Le Francais as the pastry chef, a position she also held at Carlos, Doris said.

BANCHET SAID SHE expects the Liccioni to serve much of the same food while altering the sauces slightly, presenting a lighter side of French cuisine.

Airport commission to OK new parking lot

Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners are expected this week to approve an engineering and contracting agreement for construction of a new parking lot near the airport administration offices.

The new parking lot, which would be north of the airport manager's offices at Hangar No. 1, includes 127 parking spaces. The lot also would be lighted, fenced, landscaped and lined with sidewalks.

In addition to the need for parking for airport administrators, the new

parking lot would provide space for cars that were displaced when a fence was installed around the airport this past spring.

Several parking spaces south of the manager's offices were deleted with the installation of the new security fence. And the lot would be used by pilots who no longer drive their cars out to the airfield and park them near their airplane storage spaces.

Although commissioners approved the agreement at last month's meet-

ing, they later rescinded it the same night because they thought the cost was too high.

But Stephen W. Moulton, the airport's consulting engineer, met with airport officials last week and explained the \$370,000 estimate includes not only the cost for engineering but also construction of the lot.

The cost also includes federal and state safety standards, such as removing unusable soil, installing a drainage system and using a thicker paving for the lot.

The top meeting

Who: Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission

Where: Palwaukee Municipal Airport, Hangar No. 1, 1120 S. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling

When: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday

6/18, 1989

Harold

Wheeling police officer faces disciplinary hearing

Wheeling police officer Michael Rompala, a candidate for promotion to sergeant, is facing charges by Police Chief Michael F. Haeger that he broke department rules.

Rompala is scheduled to appear before the board of fire and police commissioners tonight (Thursday). He is one of eight Wheeling officers that are eligible for the two vacant sergeant positions with the department.

Fire and Police Board Commissioner Ed Main said that Haeger has only told the commission that Rompala is being charged with breaking department rules. Haeger was unavailable for comment and Deputy Chief Gary O'Rourke declined to comment on the charges.

In the past, Haeger has only brought those discipline cases before the board in which he is asking for a more than five-day suspension for the offense.

Most recently, Officer Richard Imber was fired by the board after the board found him guilty of gambling and battery and breaking department rules. Imber was fired April 6. He is appealing his termination.

Wheeling says 'no' to pizzeria

Little Caesar's Pizza may be welcome in Wheeling, but trustees Monday said not at the northwest corner of Wolf and Dundee roads.

Claiming the traffic would be too heavy and saying there would be too many pizza restaurants in the area, the

village board denied a request by the Detroit-based company to put a carry-out restaurant in the new Center Plaza shopping center.

"I don't have a problem with Little Caesar's, maybe in another part of town," Trustee Tony Altieri said. Trustee Bill Rogers also questioned what the added competition would do for the local pizza business.

"I question the viability of opening a pizza establishment with the (existing) competition," Rogers said. "I'm certainly not welcoming that close location to the other pizza places."

But Christopher Illitch, an official from the company's Detroit headquarters, said studies have proven that the metropolitan Chicago area pizza connoisseurs fancy four or five different types of pizza and that Little Caesar's provides one of those types.

Trustees, however, also complained that the carry out nature of the restaurant would add too much traffic to an already burdened intersection. After being told that the company suggested that the store would generate 50 cars of traffic an hour during peak times, Rogers said that was too high.

"Fifty cars to me on a Friday night seems to be a real problem," Rogers said.

Joe Rybowicz, the real estate manager representing Little Caesar's, said the company has no other plans for

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expansion within the village.

The village plan commission had recommended approval of the special use permit which would have allowed Little Caesar's to open a carry-out restaurant in the shopping center.

Senior housing site gets nod

Construction should start in September on a 200-unit senior housing development in Wheeling that won village approval for a design change.

Village trustees Monday agreed to a major change in the building's size and configuration, allowing LeisureCare to take the seventh story off the building and change all the units to studios.

Sheldon Kantoff, of LeisureCare, said without the changes, which will save the

developers \$2 million in construction costs, the project would not be feasible.

Village Manager Craig Anderson and several trustees balked, however, at the provision changing the make-up of the building from one-, two-bedroom and studio units to all studios. If the venture failed, Anderson said he feared the village would be left with a building that could result in transient housing.

But Kantoff and attorney Philip Grossman said a previous agreement with the village will not allow any other type of housing facility to operate on the site unless approved by the village.

Because of a 50-bed nursing home approved by the state, Grossman said anyone who would take over the facility would continue to operate it as a senior housing facility.

Kantoff said that the development should be finished between 16 and 18 months after construction starts.

Officials will revise plans for balefill

By STEVE GORECKI
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Members of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County on Wednesday said plans rejected last month to build a balefill near Bartlett will be resubmitted with revisions that take into account state recommendations.

In an effort to salvage the plans for the \$40 million dump, SWANCC's board voted unanimously to submit revised plans instead of appeal last month's rejection by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

SWANCC's 28 member towns already have spent about \$3 million on the plans for the 142-acre balefill at Gifford and Bartlett roads in unincorporated Hanover Township, said William Abolt, the group's executive director.

"We chose to make the revisions because they clarify our application and make for a better project," Abolt said. Most of the changes take into account the 25 flaws the state cited last month.

The revisions, which Abolt said will add an extra \$2.5 million to the project cost over the balefill's 15-year life, include redesign of the collection system for contaminants that could leak from the site, into groundwater.

The new plan also calls for an expanded monitoring system and expanded clay liners and side seals around the site. SWANCC also is proposing a more comprehensive maintenance program for the balefill once it shuts down in 15 years.

But opponents who have been battling the balefill for three years said they will continue their fight.

Bartlett Village President John Stark, the balefill's most outspoken critic, predicted the revisions would actually cost an extra \$12 million, and would count for nothing.

"We think they're gambling on Las Vegas-type crapshooting and we think they're going to lose. It's a very faulty site," Stark said.



Chef Jean Banchet will cook his last meal in his legendary Le Francais restaurant in Wheeling on Saturday after 17 years of serving world-class French cuisine. Daily Herald Photo/ Dave Tonge

Le Francais gets a new flavor

As legendary chef bids adieu, changes are cookin'

BY JOAN FLEISCHER
Daily Herald Business Writer

The suburbs are not generally regarded as the home of haute cuisine.

Yet for the past 17 years, French chef Jean Banchet and his legendary Le Francais restaurant have brought countless foreign dignitaries, film stars, politicians, top executives and connoisseurs to the small hideaway restaurant on Milwaukee Avenue in Wheeling.

They drive up in shiny Mercedes, limousines and even an occasional Rolls. Some jet into nearby Palwaukee Municipal Airport just to dine at the internationally prominent Le Francais.

Only the host receives a menu with the price printed on it, but it's generally assumed that you will spend up to three hours on palate-pleasing delicacies such as *foie gras*, salmon tartare topped with quail egg, ethereal souffles, buttery crepes and Calvados sorbet. And in general, the tab runs about \$100 a person.

On a given night of the week, you're just as likely to be seated next to a couple from Tokyo as from Barrington Hills.

So when news hit that Banchet



Talented but unknown chefs Roland and Mary Beth Liccioni will reopen Le Francais July 12.

Daily Herald Photo/Bob Chwedyk

— credited with bringing world-class status French cuisine to Chicago — was stepping out of the kitchen and that he and co-owner wife Doris were handing the reins to an unknown yet talented young chef and his wife, it sent spasms of distress to gourmands the globe over.

Doris Banchet said she's fielded phone calls from Le Francais patrons in London, Toronto and Los Angeles who rushed to fill in the few remaining seatings before Banchet, 48, cooks the last meal at Le Francais this Saturday. It will reopen July 12 under new management.

"Le Francais was the best rea-

son to go to Chicago," muses Craig Claiborne, former food editor for the New York Times and author of numerous cookbooks from his home in East Hampton, N.Y. "You're losing one of the great landmarks. I hope the new owners maintain the same outstanding standards. The heartbeat of a restaurant is the chef. It must be a daunting experience to take over Jean Banchet's kitchen."

Enter Roland Liccioni.

"We feel the pressure, but it's a stimulating type of pressure," says Liccioni, a Highwood resi-

See CHEF on Page 5

CHEF: New flavor for Le Francais

Continued from Page 1

dent. "We know the responsibility. It's a great step for us. We're ready for the challenge."

On Friday morning, he and his wife, Mary Beth, visited Le Francais to talk to the restaurant's 30 employees.

Liccioni, 34, trained in classic French cuisine but with a bent for more modern nouvelle cuisine, is the former chef of Carlos' in Highland Park, which he helped bring to national prominence.

Carlos' is more moderately priced and offers lighter, smaller portions and less to choose from than the highly touted Le Francais menu.

Liccioni and Mary Beth, the former pastry chef at Carlos', talk of gradually introducing menu changes at Le Francais, and even lowering prices especially with the new lunch seatings to be introduced later this summer.

"This will always be a fine restaurant. Chef Banchet can be expensive because he is a world-class chef," Mary Beth says. "We hope to keep the same clientele while at the same time maybe making it more accessible for those who felt they could never afford to come here. But it will never be *bon marche* (inexpensive).

sive).

The Liccionis have an agreement with the Banchets for a five-year lease with an option to buy.

Jean Banchet plans to work as a restaurant consultant while Doris will run a bistro they will open near their winter home in Palm Beach, Fla.

Banchet said he was selective about to whom he handed the soup ladle. Le Francais had been rumored to be up for sale for years, with a reported going price of about \$1 million.

"Many people offered me money," Banchet said. "But that wasn't the most important. I could have been a millionaire if I had wanted to be. I've never been the best businessman. Yet I live well."

He says of his successor: "He's very capable. I only received 3½ stars from Chicago magazine, but Roland, he got four stars. I never got four stars from them."

Chicago magazine Dining Editor Carla Kelson said it doesn't mean Liccioni is a superior chef. More astute of America's health-conscious diets, perhaps.

"Jean Banchet is one of the great chefs of the world," Kelson said. "Our only quibble was in the fact the restaurant's food is so very rich, ex-

cessive. When you left, you were uncomfortable. With so many surprises and wanting to taste everything, if you're not used to it, you could end up being sick."

Liccioni, as a nouvelle cuisine chef, uses a minimum of rich sauces, yet still presents spectacular dishes.

"Roland is extremely talented. He has a very light hand, sense of balance and fine technique. He has the potential," Kelson added. "They're biting off a lot, but if anyone can do it, Roland and Mary Beth can."

Son of a French government officer and Vietnamese mother, Liccioni, 34, was born in Vietnam and his family moved to southwestern France when he was 2.

Like Banchet, he apprenticed at age 13 where he began cutting vegetables and washing pans while learning from the great chefs of France. He worked in restaurants in Paris and London before immigrating to the United States in 1980 when a friend told him of a chef's opening at Alouette in Highwood. A year later, he became the chef at Carlos Nieto's new restaurant.

"When I was 13, I was a very good soccer player and they asked me to train to become a professional. But my father said I must choose between that and learning to cook," Liccioni

said. "I still play soccer in the summer here. Maybe we'll organize a team from Le Francais."

In contrast to the flamboyant Banchet, whose *joie de vivre* and grand showmanship in the dining room is matched only by his passion for racing Ferraris, Liccioni is soft-spoken and subtle. His only hobbies outside the kitchen are soccer and tennis.

"This man has no bad habits. He doesn't smoke or drink, not even coffee," says Mary Beth Liccioni, 34, an acclaimed pastry chef in her own right who was the first female to ever work in Chef Banchet's kitchen. The Rockford native spent two years as a pastry chef trainee at Le Francais and later at La Mer, Banchet's joint venture with restaurateur Arnie Morton before going to work at Carlos' where she met Chef Liccioni.

If many attribute the success of Le Francais to the complimentary talents of Jean and Doris, then the same can be said of Roland and Mary Beth.

Banchet's enthusiasm and innovation in the kitchen could not have prospered if it had not been for Doris' skillful management of the front of the house. She trained and supervised in the 90-seat dining room. In the early years, she herself would drive to the airport three to

Dossier on the chefs

<p>Jean Banchet</p> <p>Age: 48 Home: Wheeling Birthplace: France Training: Apprenticed at age 13, worked at fine restaurants in France before coming to work at Playboy Club in Lake Geneva, Wisc. in 1968 Achievements: Opened Le Francais in Wheeling in 1973 raising it to international prominence Awards: France's <i>Ordre National Du Merite</i>; Mobil Travel Guide Awards Specialty: Classic French cuisine Style: Flamboyant</p>	<p>Roland Liccioni</p> <p>Age: 34 Home: Highwood Birthplace: Vietnam, raised in France from age 2 Training: Apprenticed at age 13, worked at fine restaurants in Paris and London before coming to work at Alouette in Highwood in 1980. Achievements: Chef at opening of Carlos' in Highland Park in 1981, raising it to among the country's finest restaurants Awards: Four star ranking in Chicago magazine Specialty: Nouvelle cuisine Style: Subtle</p>
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Daily Herald Graphic

four times a week to pick up the special ingredients flown in from France.

"I believe it made the difference. We didn't get into each other's way," Doris says. "We shared the dream. Jean always wanted something better. We love the place. We never both took the same night off. One of us was always here."

That same joint devotion to the dream is evident in Roland and

Mary Beth.

Roland Liccioni says as a chef trainee in France working grueling hours under constant scrutiny, he would dream while his fingers quickly worked.

"Always in the back my mind was to have my own restaurant."

Adds Mary Beth, a Banchet protégé, "I've always dreamed of having my own place, too. I just never dreamed it would be Le Francais."

June 20, 1989

Wheeling chief wants sergeant demoted

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger is seeking to demote a police sergeant he charges showed disrespect for the village of Wheeling and its fire and police commissioners.

Michael J. Staufenbiel is accused of turning the village flag that stands in the village boardroom upside down and leaving the flag portion on the floor and the pole leaning against the wall, Haeger said.

Staufenbiel "acted in such a manner which brought the department into disrepute and reflected discredit upon himself," Haeger stated in his charges. Staufen-

biel's actions "will impair his efficiency as an officer and a supervisor."

Haeger is requesting fire and police commissioners demote Staufenbiel, an 18-year department veteran, to a patrol officer. Staufenbiel's salary in this year's police budget is listed at \$41,492.

Haeger said the incident occurred April 7 following a commission hearing for a Wheeling police officer who was fired for gambling and battery.

During that hearing, all but one of the six Wheeling police officers who testified as character witnesses for Richard R. Imber admitted to having gambled. Staufenbiel testified then that he had played liar's poker.

At a police and fire commission meeting Monday Staufenbiel requested a continuance to gather information such as his personnel file, test scores for sergeant's training and results from previous written, polygraph and psychological tests.

The hearing is continued to 7 p.m. July 20 at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Staufenbiel said he does not plan to hire an attorney nor will he call upon any witnesses to testify for him at the hearing.

"I will simply question those who are testifying against me," Staufenbiel said. He refused to comment further.

Staufenbiel is the third police officer charged with violating rules.

WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

6/21/89 Herald
Wheeling trustees have approved plans for a carry-out Chinese restaurant in a new corner shopping center.

The restaurant, owned by Francis Yau of Chicago, will feature carry-out Chinese food as well as delivery service to customers. There will be no seating for customers inside the restaurant, Yau said.

Trustees approved a special use permit for the restaurant in the Creek Side Plaza Shopping Center, at the southeast corner of McHenry and Elmhurst roads.

Plans include reducing the required size of the building from 16,100 square feet to 12,000 square feet and reducing the number of re-

quired parking spaces by five.

Yau agreed the restaurant would cater to Wheeling residents, following the urgings by trustees.

"I am concerned that if you're going to be in Wheeling that you serve Wheeling residents," Trustee Anthony Altieri Jr. said.

Creek Side Plaza plans amended

Along with approval of plans for the Chinese restaurant, trustees agreed to amend the Creek Side Plaza Shopping Center plans which they approved last month.

The developer of the center,

Terence M. King of TMK Development, Ltd., plans to move the bicycle path closer to the parking area and away from the Buffalo Creek that runs south of the center.

The change should make the bike path more interesting because it would be more curved than the previous proposal for a straighter route, village planners said. The amount of landscaping also would increase with the change.

King said tenants of the center will move in September or October. Trustees also are considering King's request that he be allowed to hang

pennants as advertisements for the center — a practice now prohibited in the village.

Appearance board cancels meeting

The Wheeling Appearance Commission meeting set for 7:30 tonight has been canceled due to a lack of items for review. The commission meets regularly at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month in the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. The next meeting is set for July 5.

Geese to lose Palwaukee watering hole

6-22-89
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport officials are trying a new tactic to rid the airport of the hundreds of aircraft-threatening geese: eliminating their watering hole.

Officials plan to fill a pond by the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant, which is on airport property, in an effort to deter the geese from landing at Palwaukee.

Geese fly dangerously close to and sometimes even collide with airplanes. Not only do the feathered flyers risk their lives with such flights, they also threaten the safety of aircraft at the field.

Last year, two Canadian geese were killed when they flew in front

of a plane that was about to take off.

Although Palwaukee uses blank shots fired from cannons stationed around the airport to scare off the geese, filling in the pond would be a preventative measure, Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said.

The pond is used for aesthetic purposes for the restaurant. It fills with water and then drains, to a certain point, into the Wheeling Drainage Ditch. The ditch runs through the airport before emptying into the Des Plaines River.

By filling the bottom of the pond with rocks and covering the top with dirt and grass, the bottom of the pond would fill underground and drain. The water would not be visible from the surface and there-

fore would not attract geese.

Chunks of rock left from recent construction of new taxiways at the airport may be used to fill the pond bottom to reduce costs, Stewart said.

Next week a group of wildlife specialists from the U.S. Department of Agriculture are expected to come to the airport and capture some of the geese with nets. Last summer, when the specialists came out, there were no geese around to catch, Stewart said.

For now, the cannons, which blast every two to three minutes from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily, are shut off because most of the geese have been scared off, Stewart said. The blast will resume when the geese return, he added.

Wheeling, BG motorists advised to steer clear of following projects

6-23-89
While drivers may have to play a form of motorized hopscotch to find their way around some of the more major road construction in the suburbs, locally there are only a handful of road work projects to steer clear of.

The number of local road projects in future years, however, could see a measurable increase depending on whether the state's gas tax is increased and how much of that revenue is doled out to local municipalities.

In Buffalo Grove, the lone major project this summer is the Buffalo Grove Road extension construction that is now going on. By July 1, village officials expect the portion of the extension between Busch Road and State Route 22 to be completed.

The portion of the project between State Route 83 and Busch Road could also be completed by

July 1, depending upon when necessary signal permits are obtained for a light that will be installed at the Buffalo Grove Road-Busch Road intersection.

The final leg of the work, from State Route 83 up to Port Clinton Road, is expected to take a couple of months, according to Village Engineer Richard Kuenkler.

In Wheeling, three road projects will affect local motorists.

Work is nearing completion on resurfacing projects on Seventh Avenue north of Glendale Avenue and on Old Willow Road west of Wolf Road, according to Village Engineer Bob Gray.

The other remaining project is the reconstruction of Foster Avenue north of Camp McDonald Road. Work on that project is set to be complete by late August, Gray said.

Haeger continues emphasis on policing department

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Although three of the four disciplinary actions taken over the past year by Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger are unrelated, they are a clear reminder of why Haeger was selected to succeed former police chief Ted Bracke in February, 1982.

And although village officials call the actions the by-product of normal police activity, the disciplinary actions and scheduled internal training sessions show that Haeger is reaffirming his authority as the department's top administrator.

Haeger has ordered additional in-service training for the department. Announced last week, the classes will cover police ethics, department rules and regulations and department disciplinary procedures, Haeger said.

"We are taking planned steps to provide guidance and direction to the department," Haeger said.

WITH MONDAY'S CHARGES filed against Sgt. Michael Staufenbiel following other charges over the past year against officers Michael Romapala, Richard Imber and Adrian Russell, officials say the message Haeger and the village are sending is the same one sent when he was hired: past practices aside, poor and unprofessional conduct won't be tolerated.

"I don't see it as terribly unusual," Village President Sheila Schultz said. "I see it as positive in the respect that it

Chief seeks to demote sergeant following allegations of misconduct

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

For the fourth time in a year, Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger Monday brought charges against one of his officers, this time asking that the board of fire and police commissioners demote Sgt. Michael Staufenbiel.

Haeger charges that Staufenbiel allegedly turned the village flag upside down following an April hearing that resulted in the firing of police officer Richard Imber. The alleged action, the chief charged, brought the department "into disrepute" and "reflects discredit" on Staufenbiel.

In the petition filed with the board of fire and police commissioners, Haeger said the incident, witnessed by other members of the department, will "impair (Staufenbiel's) efficiency

as an officer and a supervisor." Haeger said the alleged violations of department rules are grounds for demoting Staufenbiel to patrol officer.

Although Haeger is recommending the demotion, the police and fire board will determine what, if any, punishment to assess against Staufenbiel.

IN ADDITION, HAEGER charges that Staufenbiel broke department rules governing good conduct and behavior of an officer, and that the incident showed disrespect for the village and board of fire and police commissioners.

Haeger declined to comment further on the case until the matter is heard by the board July 20. Staufenbiel asked for a continuance in order to develop his case using department

(Continued on page 12)

carries out the message that we want to have a top-notch department."

Schultz said the disciplinary actions taken before the board of fire and police indicates the village won't tolerate bad apples in the department.

"He (Haeger) was hired to assure us that we would have professionals in the police department," Schultz said. So far,

trustees have had no problems with the actions Haeger has taken. "I think that when the police chief thinks the standards are not being met and he takes action on it, we are satisfied," Schultz said.

Officer Ed Theriault, president of the department chapter of the Combined Counties Police Association, said the

actions taken by Haeger are within the chief's rights. He said the charges have not disrupted the department and that there are no underlying problems with the officers.

WITH HAEGER MONDAY seeking Staufenbiel's demotion, the village again got a glimpse of the disciplinary process that Haeger has used to bring a total of six officers before the board asking for suspensions, demotions and terminations since he was hired.

It is a process that may have been in existence in 1982, but one which the previous chief seldom used. Former village manager Tom Markus said he demoted Bracke and hired Haeger because the former chief wasn't providing the leadership and discipline necessary for the department.

"I didn't think there was the kind of respect of the police department in the community that I expected there to be," Markus said.

Haeger was hired after Markus conducted a search using a tribunal of former area police chiefs to narrow his choices. Haeger, he said, was hired to close the credibility gap that he felt had existed in the department.

SINCE THEN, HAEGER has redefined the department's disciplinary process and made its function known to department personnel. In acknowledging that similar procedures may have been on the books before he took the job, he said it is the action taken by department

(Continued on page 12)

Property owner asks village board to keep him in mind on road relocation

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Clarence Marquardt Monday tried to use the past to gain sympathy for the future.

Dragging up long-dead issues of shake downs and bribe suggestions, Marquardt sought compassion from Wheeling village trustees, hoping they would approve a Wolf Road relocation plan that doesn't take away parts of his industrial park that he said previous village and township officials tried to provide him with — for a price.

Since he started developing the 98-acre Wheeling Center for Industry in 1966, Marquardt said he was asked to pay bribes to township and village officials in order to get proper zoning and public improvements. Although he says he never paid off anyone, he said he was a victim of bad government.

Now, Marquardt said he wants village officials to consider his past when they decide how far to move Wolf Road.

HE TALKED ABOUT past corruption, he said, "only to impress what I've been through all these years with the Village of Wheeling," Marquardt said.

With current village officials telling prospective developers that land they might buy from Marquardt could be condemned for the airport, Marquardt

said he's received several nibbles of interest, but no hard bites for land.

"All I want is one of three things," he said Wednesday, repeating comments he made at Monday's village board meeting. "Either condemn the property, pay me for an option on the property or let me sell it."

Until the village approved building plans for John and Silas Cartland to build an industrial building on the northwest corner of Larkin Drive and Wolf Road, Marquardt had fought local government in court and sought relief, claiming the airport expansion plans effectively took his land.

BUT WHEN THE village allowed the Cartland building to go up, Marquardt said he thought it meant the rest of his park could be developed. Original development plans, he said, called for limited land acquisition to make the airport safe.

Today, Marquardt said he is finding the newer road relocation plans means some of his land still can't be built upon.

"It's a question of what is the situation and the situation was there would be no expansion of the airport," he said.

As he waits to find out if Trustee Bill Rogers' suggestion to restrict some of that expansion is successful, Marquardt said he may consider refiling his lawsuit.

Demote —

(Continued from page 5)

and village files.

During the brief hearing Monday, Staufenbiel said he will represent himself in the case. He said he would not call any witnesses during the hearing. "My intention is only to question those who are to testify against me," Staufenbiel said.

After the hearing, the 17-year department veteran declined to comment further.

THE CHARGES AGAINST Staufenbiel represent the fourth time Haeger has brought an officer before the board of fire and police commissioners for disciplinary reasons in the past 10 months. Under state law, only that board can impose suspensions of greater than five days upon officers.

In April, Imber was fired by the board of fire and police commissioners after he was found guilty of two gambling charges and one battery charge relative to three incidents at Vivian Lee's restaurant on Milwaukee Avenue dating back to May, 1988.

By finding Imber guilty of the crimes, the board said Imber broke several provisions of department rules that call for officers to obey and to enforce village, state and federal laws.

Just two weeks ago, officer Michael Romapala was given two, five-day concurrent suspensions for taking a car chase into Chicago.

LAST AUGUST, OFFICER Adrian Russell was handed a 10-day suspension for missing his seventh court date since 1984. The missed court appearance cost Russell \$1,300 in salary and earned him his fifth suspension in nine years on the force.

(Continued from page 5)

leaders that determine a policy's success.

"It's not so much the system, so much as it is the management people that manage the system that makes it work," Haeger said.

For Trustee Bill Rogers, the chief has been doing that. While most officials downplay the number of charges brought against officers in the past year, Rogers said the board has and will back Haeger as he tries to police the department.

"The village trustees are backing the chief hoping he can bring about the necessary changes," Rogers said. But Rogers said the department has had to combat some of the residual attitudes left over from the previous administration.

"THAT'S THE problem, you sometimes have people who don't agree with you, but you have no way to terminate them," Rogers said.

Instead, Haeger and the department must work to reinforce the rules as they exist. In calling for the classes on ethics, rules and discipline, Haeger acknowledges they are part of the continuing fallout from Richard Imber's firing.

Imber was fired for gambling and committing a battery in a village restaurant while he was off duty. During the hearing, several officers testified that it wasn't unusual for officers to gamble. Following the hearing, Haeger said he was formulating a response to those comments. Now, more than two months later, that response has been made, he said.

Villages put the clamps on vandalism

By Staci Dolgin

6-22-89
Countryside
There may be no cure for the summertime blues, but committing vandalism has traditionally been one of the more popular alternatives for teen-agers with too much time on their hands and BB-guns or slingshots in their pockets.

But despite the fact that school is out and the populations in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove are growing, crimes against property in the two communities is actually dropping slightly.

Meanwhile, investments in high-tech security systems by local school districts are starting to pay dividends in slowing the amount of damage done to buildings once school is out.

Buffalo Grove Police Cmdr. Gary Del Re said he cannot pinpoint the reason why vandalism and other related crimes have dropped slightly in the community.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO property cases in Buffalo Grove dropped by only about 1 percent between 1988 and 1987, but a review of the department's statistics on five-year crime trends shows a more significant drop-off.

The report shows the number of criminal damage cases has decreased from just under 20 cases per 1,000 residents in 1984 to about 16 cases per 1,000 residents in 1988 — roughly a 20 percent decrease.

In all, 292 verified incidents of criminal damage to property, which includes vandalism, were reported to Buffalo Grove Police in 1988. This is about a 1 percent decrease from 1987 property damage incidents when 304 cases were reported. Many cases were

targeted at schools and other public facilities. In those cases, damage mainly included broken windows, although vandals sometimes defaced the outside of buildings.

The number of criminal damage cases reported in Wheeling during 1988 was slightly lower than the amount of incidents in Buffalo Grove. A total of 226 cases of property damage were recorded by Wheeling police. These statistics represent a 1.2 percent decrease from the 247 cases reported in 1987.

"MORE PATROLING in the past three years by our men has made vandalism less of a problem in Wheeling," said Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger. He said he expects vandalism rates to continue to decline over the next few years.

Police patrols in Wheeling will continue to be increased as more residents move into the area and as community awareness of vandalism continues to grow, Haeger said. With almost six months of 1989 accounted for, only 74 cases of criminal damage have been reported in Wheeling. However, spray-painting incidents are becoming more prevalent.

In classifying criminal damage and vandalism cases, Del Re said, the incidents "can be as simple as throwing eggs at a house and ... as serious as breaking windows or painting obscenities on the outside of buildings."

Property damage usually has a monetary value attached to it, whereas vandalism does not always involve property damage or may not have a damage estimate included, Del Re said.

"USUALLY ANY vandalism that we've found either happens right before school starts or around the holidays, especially Halloween," said Kent Blake, assistant superintendent for business of Kildeer District 96.

Blake said he thinks many people make schools the main target of their frustrations because educational facilities traditionally symbolize authority, discipline and power. "Most kids think it's a great way to vent their anger," he said.

Prairie Elementary School, 1530 Brandywine Court, has been the target of vandals many times over the past several years. Blake said one of the main reasons for that is because of the school's vulnerable location.

In the past, the area behind Prairie has been poorly lit, making it easy for intruders to break windows and steal equipment. Police also had difficulty monitoring the area because the parking lot was oddly shaped, Blake said.

BECAUSE OF THESE problems, about two years ago windows were broken at Prairie and a number of computers were stolen. Teachers' supplies and personal belongings were also taken.

To curb the problems, a motion burglar alarm detector was installed at Prairie. The system, which cost about \$4,500, is able to pick up any body movement or motion in the building. In addition, another \$2,150 was invested in new lights in the parking lot and in enlarging the lot to make it easier for police to patrol school grounds.

Shatter proof glass at Prairie also
(Continued on page 16)

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makes it difficult for burglars to break in, Blake said. The other schools within the district will all soon have alarm systems and stronger glass installed in some windows, he said.

Unlike District 96, Community Consolidated District 21 has experienced little or no vandalism for the past eight years. Director of Operations Bill Senne said he attributes the low crime rate in his district to the security system which has been installed in each school building.

THE HONEYWELL DELTA 1000 system monitors the 14 school buildings in the district from the administrative offices. All heating and air-conditioning functions are programmed through the system as well.

Initially, this machinery cost about \$135,000 and an additional \$1,000 to install. Senne, however, said the system has been very valuable for the district because there has been minimal vandalism at the school sites.

"We decided to install the system when there were a couple of computers stolen out of a classroom window. There were no burglar detectors in any of the rooms," Senne said.

Another reason Senne attributes to the low vandalism rates within the district is due to growing public awareness about vandalism and other related crimes.

BLAKE ALSO CREDITS public awareness for denting property damage. "People were aware of the Prairie school situation and it concerned the community that our schools were being

vandalized.

"I also think a lot of the vandals realized that police were watching them and that they feared being caught. The system which we installed is very capable of picking up any body movement inside the buildings," he said.

High school district officials, too, have seen the trend in vandalism decreasing. Stevenson High School District 125 reports show building damage averages about \$200 each month. In the past two years, vandalism damages cost about \$1,000 a month, said Business Manager Jim Hintz.

"I think a lot of the decrease in incidents at Stevenson has to do with a greater appreciation of the building facilities we have and higher security measures which have been taken to ensure low vandalism rates," Hintz said.

LIKE THE OTHER schools, Stevenson installed an alarm security system in high-risk areas of the building when the school was enlarged about three years ago. Custodians also are on call 24 hours a day.

Aside from school districts, other community centers have experienced vandalism of a different kind. The day after Thanksgiving, Northwest Suburban Jewish Community Center officials discovered swastikas painted on the outside of the building at 1250 Radcliffe Road.

"I don't classify this incident as vandalism," said Ron Ramer, executive director. "This is more than vandalism, this is malicious intent by individuals to hurt someone. Clearly, this is anti-Semitism."

Trustee seeks revisions in road relocation plan

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Wheeling Trustee Bill Rogers Monday called for a major revision of road relocation plans near Palwaukee Municipal Airport that could save several existing and proposed buildings from the wrecking ball.

Labeling plans proposed by the City of Prospect Heights and airport engineers "expansionistic," Rogers said the relocation of Wolf Road should take as little land as possible, leaving as much available industrial property on village tax rolls.

"The plan in the draft is purely expansionistic, no matter what we call it or how you dress it up," Rogers told the board. "In good conscience, I cannot accept that portion of the agreement that calls for the village to donate land to the airport above that required for safety requirements."

Under a plan adopted by the airport commission but defeated by the village board, Wolf Road would be moved west 1,000 feet from the center line of the airport's longest runway. Unless a larger safety area is created at the northwest end of that runway, the airport could lose its corporate jet traffic, considered the lifeblood of the airport.

(Continued on page 8)

BUT ROGERS DISAGREES with a portion of that plan calling for on-airport development between the runway and the new Wolf Road. Rogers claims Federal Aviation Administration officials have said FAA regulations show the roadway only has to move 621 feet west, saving at least five properties now scheduled for airport acquisition.

Two of those property owners appeared before the board Monday asking trustees to consider a plan that wouldn't include the condemnation of their property.

"We feel kind of trapped. We would like to know what is going on, what is being planned," said builder John Cartland. His building at the northwest corner of Larkin Drive and Wolf Road could be targeted for condemnation if the current 1,000-foot proposal is adopted.

"We ask that you reconsider the plan with an attempt to save our property that we have been constructing and hope to move into next month," Cartland said.

PROSPECT HEIGHTS AND Wheeling — joint owners of the airport — have been battling over the road relocation for more than six months. Unless the two communities can agree on a proposal that can be submitted for federal and state review, funding for the relocation project could be jeopardized.

Village and city officials are studying a proposed settlement that attempts to resolve the issues surrounding the airport improvements. But on Monday, Rogers asked for an amendment to one of the main components of that agreement — the movement of Wolf Road 1,000 feet west. Village Manager Craig Anderson was directed to amend that proposal to include Rogers' suggestion of going with 621 feet.

"Both Prospect Heights and the state of Illinois have publicly stated that they do not have a preference which plan we chose," Rogers said. "Therefore the choice will have to be made by this

board."

None of the trustees objected to Rogers' suggestion and Anderson said he will ask the FAA to clarify its rules for the village.

"WE'RE GOING to ask the FAA ... to give us something very specific in writing what the requirements are," Anderson said. He said the issue will also be brought up with Prospect Heights.

With the village now ready to accept partial acquisition of the Twin Drive-In property at Milwaukee Avenue and Hintz Road for the relocation of the Wheeling Drainage Ditch, the center of the airport would no longer require the cost-prohibitive bridges the FAA has balked at constructing, Rogers said.

Rogers said that would create enough development space to make up for the lost land alongside Wolf Road.

The village has fought the purchase of the drive-in property for airport purposes, saying it was not on the original list of properties scheduled for purchase. But Prospect Heights officials are now willing to consider only creek relocation at the drive-in, and not airport development. The city has said the balance of the property would be available for non-airport development.

IF THAT PROPERTY is purchased and used to relocate the drainage ditch, land at the center of the airport would still require an extensive drainage system. But Rogers said the FAA — which will pay the bulk of the cost along with the Illinois Department of Transportation — would rather build sewers than bridges.

"Moving the creek is a positive step to give the airport all the land it will ever need," Rogers said.

For Cartland and developer Clarence Marquardt, that land could mean their property is saved. Marquardt said he was upset with village officials for telling prospective industrial builders that their property could be taken by the road relocation.

6-23-89
Landowners await Palwaukee decision

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Business owners and homeowners near Palwaukee Municipal Airport are growing increasingly impatient with the length of time airport owners are taking to determine where to relocate the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads.

William Nemitz is sure his house is one the buildings that would come down when construction begins on the new intersection, which would be moved north of where it is now.

"It's a pretty uncomfortable situation and has been for some time," said Nemitz, whose lives on the far east dead-end in the Wolf Run Estates. "We can't sell and we can't improve (our house). We're

trapped."

Airport officials said they will contact the Federal Aviation Administration to determine where the roads would likely run and what land is needed for the relocation. Commission Chairman Carey L. Chickerno said he expects an answer within the next 60 days.

Hintz and Wolf roads must be moved to create a "clear zone" at the north end of the main runway, which ends too close to the intersection. Under FAA regulations, airplanes must clear the roads by at least 15 feet. Planes now clear it by less than 10 feet.

Officials in Prospect Heights and Wheeling — the two communities which own the airport — have been at odds for more than a year over where the intersection should

be moved to. Wheeling officials are hesitant to forfeit any prime commercial property that would be required for the proposed realignment of the roads.

John and Si Cartland, consulting engineers, fear the land they recently bought at the northwest corner of Larkins Drive and Wolf Road also would be included in the acquisition plans for the roads' relocation.

"I would like it if they could just make up their minds," said John Cartland, who plans to move his family business from Des Plaines to the new Wheeling location.

"With the possibility of condemnation, and airport officials being indecisive, tenants don't want to come into our building," Cartland said. "It's extremely unsettling."

6-23-89
Requests for liquor licenses to be discussed

The top meeting

Who: Wheeling Liquor Control Commission
Where: Wheeling village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.
When: 8 p.m. Monday

maximum of 135 people. It would be open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

ly restaurant at Lexington Commons Shopping Center also are requesting a Class B liquor license.

Wheeling trustees have approved plans for the restaurant, which will take the place of the former Hungry Fox restaurant, which has been out of business for the past six months. The former restaurant on Lake-Cook Road held a Class B license when it was open.

Restaurant owner Strath Panagakos said the restaurant would seat a

cluding beer, wine and mixed drinks, to restaurant patrons.

The Licconis, of Highwood, plan to reopen the restaurant, which closed Saturday, on July 12.

They are expected to gradually change the menu and even lower prices for the restaurant, which has been known throughout the world for its expensive French cuisine. New lunch seatings may be introduced later this summer.

Meanwhile, owners of a new fami-

Wheeling Liquor Control Commissioners this week will discuss requests for liquor licenses from two restaurants, including Le Francois and a new family restaurant on Lake-Cook Road.

The new owners of Le Francois, Roland and Mary Beth Licconis, are applying for the same license held by the Milwaukee Avenue restaurant's former owners, Jean and Doris Bancheh.

Under the Class B license, owners may serve a full line of alcohol, in-

Village transfers Le Francais liquor license

June 27, 1989

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The new owners of the famed Le Francais restaurant in Wheeling moved one step closer to calling the restaurant their own as the Wheeling Liquor Control Commission approved their request to transfer liquor licenses.

With little discussion Monday, liquor commissioners agreed to change the license owners from Jean and Doris Banchet to Roland and Mary Beth Liccioni.

"We're really sorry to see the Banchets go," Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said. "They've been a real asset to the community. I'm just glad they're turning it over to a high quality couple who can continue running the restaurant in the way Le Francais has."

The Liccioni plan to reopen on July 12 the Milwaukee Avenue restaurant, which is known for its expensive French delicacies. The Banchets served their last meal there Saturday.

The opening will be a quiet one, said Mary Beth, the former pastry chef of Carlos' in Highland Park. But, the symbolic changing of the guard will take place during a "press opening" July 23 when French chef Jean Banchet hands over his kitchen to Roland, Carlos' former chef.

Besides a more moderate price for meals, the most noticeable change for the restaurant will be the addition Aug. 1 of a lunch menu, which will feature a lighter cuisine from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The dinner menu will keep with most of the traditional specialties, but focus on lighter sauces for seafoods, poultrys and salads. Mary Beth estimates the average dinner bill to run about \$80 per person.

The Liccioni will lease Le Francais from the Banchets under a five-year agreement with an option to buy. Jean Banchet plans to work as a restaurant consultant while Doris will run a bistro they will open near their Palm Beach, Fla., winter home.

SUBURBAN REPORT

Wheeling to see 13% tax hike

6-28-89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Tax bills for residents in Wheeling are expected to increase about 13 percent on the average, mainly because of double-digit increases in tax rates for the village and a local elementary school district.

The impact of new tax rates, extended Tuesday by Cook County, is lighter in Buffalo Grove, where the combined tax rate for most residents will climb about 6 percent. That should translate into a 10 percent increase in the typical homeowner's tax bill because of an increase this year in the state tax multiplier, which raises the taxable value of all homeowners' property.

"The bottom line is we asked for more money," Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said of the village's tax rate increase of almost 11 percent. "Last year when we did the levy, we knew we would increase the rate, and this is pretty close to what we estimated."

The increase is needed for several projects and salaries for new police and operations and maintenance employees, he said.

Anderson said growth in Wheeling has prompted village officials to increase the number of employees. Also on tap are some improvement projects, including replacing water mains, sewers and deteriorating sidewalks.

Some residents of Wheeling and Buffalo Grove were affected by a tax rate increase of almost 15 percent in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21. The district was enabled to levy more taxes after voters in April approved a 39 percent tax increase in the education fund.

School officials say the increase is needed to help offset the \$2.5 million to \$3 million the district overspends each year in that fund, which pays for salaries and supplies.

But in Indian Trails Public Library District, which includes Wheeling and the southern portion of Buffalo Grove, the tax rate is decreasing. Administrative Librarian Kenneth Swanson said the decrease is due solely to the fact that the district may no longer levy for its working cash fund.

In the working cash fund, the li-

	1987	1988	%
Cook County.....	\$.913	\$ 1.128	+23.55
Forest Preserve.....	.102	.101	-.98
Suburban TB Sanitarium District .	.010	.010	n/c
Metro. Water Rcl. Dist. ....	.517	.536	+3.68
NW Mosquito Abatement District .	.011	.011	n/c
Wheeling Township (all funds) ....	.089	.096	+7.86
School District 21	2.561	2.944	+14.96
High School District 214	2.196	2.238	+1.91
Harper College.....	.304	.319	+4.93
Village of Buffalo Grove	1.561	1.448	-7.24
Village of Wheeling.....	1.281	1.506	+17.56
Buffalo Grove Park District .....	.649	.707	+8.94
Wheeling Park District.....	.522	.503	-3.64
River Trails Park District.....	.335	.400	+19.40
Indian Trails Library District .....	.333	.279	-16.22
Wheeling Twp. Rural Fire Dist. ....	.146	.464	+217.81
Forest River Fire Protection.....	.300	.300	n/c
Buffalo Grove Total.....	\$9.274	\$9.817	+5.86
Typical tax bill.....	\$1,643.45	\$1,813.30	+10.32
Based on the village's average home sale price, \$114,701, and a state-estimated assessment level of 11.41 percent.			
Wheeling total.....	\$8.867	\$9.671	+9.07
Typical tax bill.....	\$1,005.48	\$1,142.92	+13.66
Based on the village's average home sale price, \$84,400, and a state-estimated assessment level of 11.41 percent.			

brary district may levy 5 cents per \$100 assessed valuation for up to four years, which Indian Trails has done to help pay off a \$1.5 million building debt.

In the Cook County portion of the village of Buffalo Grove, the tax rate is expected to decrease 7.24 percent. Growth is the number one reason for the decrease, Buffalo Grove Finance Director William H. Brimm said, because the cost is spread throughout the growing community.

"The village has made every attempt to hold its tax levy in line," Brimm said. "We've been able to benefit from our tax base."

In Northwest Suburban High School District 214, the tax rate for Wheeling Township residents is increasing by nearly 2 percent.

The system's tax rate was "right on the money," District 214 Assistant Superintendent Jonathan E. Swanson said. The rate has been fairly consistent over the past few

years, an attempt by school officials to fund programs, but not at the expense of taxpayers, he added.

"Our board has been consistent in that approach," Swanson said. "They try to run a good program. But they are cognizant we have senior citizens in the community... and try to keep the rate as low as possible."

Tax rates account for only a portion of a homeowner's total property tax bill. Increases to the assessed value of a home often can outweigh a drop in the tax rate, with the net result being a higher property tax bill.

Overall, most residents in Wheeling will pay a combined tax rate of \$9.67 per \$100 assessed valuation. In Buffalo Grove, a typical combined rate is \$9.817.

That translates to a typical tax bill of \$1,143 for the owner of a \$85,000 home.

In Buffalo Grove, where houses sold for \$114,701 on the average, the typical tax bill should be about \$1,813.



Frank Lipowski stands proudly atop the vintage M-47 Patton tank he helped acquire for Wheeling AMVETS Post 66. (Staff photo by Bill Oakes)

Countryside - 6-29-89

Vintage war tank stands as tribute to Wheeling area service veterans

After nearly three years of looking for the right monument, Wheeling AMVETS Post 66 has landed itself a Korean War-vintage M-47 Patton tank.

Now officially stationed in front of the Philip Carpenter Post, the tank is part of the post's permanent memorial to area service veterans.

"It's an eye catcher," says post member Frank Lipowski. "People are coming in and asking questions."

Wheeling's new gun is still operational until the Illinois National Guard can come out and "demilitarize" the vehicle. The motor runs and its main gun can still reel off a 90 mm shell. That is, if anyone has one.

WHEN IT WAS part of the main line defenses of the U.S. Army, the M-47 tank could tool around at a top speed of 37 mph and changing the spark plugs was a chore on the 12-cylinder gasoline engine.

When Lipowski was post commander in 1986, he put in an order with the U.S. Department of Defense for one of the surplus tanks.

Lipowski was notified in 1988 that the post could have the tank if it could pay the transportation costs necessary to move the 95,000-pound vehicle from Anniston, Ala., to Wheeling. The post agreed to cover the \$5,100 tab and in late April, the tank arrived.

After the National Guard cuts off the breach of the gun, makes the motor inoperable and welds the hatch shut, the post plans to paint the tank.

LIPOWSKY SAID THE post is also hoping to get a surplus 105 mm howitzer from the Army. However, there are 183 other people on the waiting list before the post, he said.

Task force tours commuter train station sites in area

By Miri Ascarelli

Staff Writer

Countryside

be," he said.

In order to build a rail line, you need train stations.

That was the job facing the Wisconsin Central Task Force, a committee within the Northern Suburban Transportation District (NORTRAN), whose members Saturday toured by bus the length of a commuter rail line that would stretch from Mundelein to Chicago.

The task force aims to convince communities along the proposed commuter rail line to acquire land to build train stations. The line would follow the route of the Wisconsin Central rail tracks, which snake through Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, Vernon Hills, Mundelein, Mount Prospect and Prospect Heights.

"Under the framework we're working in, we and the communities are working to acquire the train station sites," Glenn Ahrenholz, chairman of the task force, explained Monday.

"THIS WAY we can go back to Metra and say, 'We've got our act together. All we need are the trains,'" added member Earl Sabes.

But so far only Buffalo Grove has planned for setting aside land for a future train station, said NORTRAN chairman Stan Bristol.

"They are furthest along because they started thinking about it before it became a joint (community) project," he said.

In Wheeling, village officials are working to acquire a site, and Prospect Heights officials "have some good thoughts on where a station should

THE VILLAGES OF Mundelein and Vernon Hills appear to lag further behind, primarily because they have had little contact with the task force.

Though task force members were pleased last Saturday when they met Vernon Hills Village Manager Larry Laschen for the first time, they were also surprised to learn that the tract of land they envisioned as the site for a future train station in Vernon Hills was not the same one village officials had in mind.

The task force had envisioned a site adjacent to the Vernon Hills golf course, near U.S. 45 and the railroad tracks. But Laschen told the group village officials were considering a tract farther south, which the village has acquired as right-of-way for the proposed extension of Buffalo Grove Road.

"Nobody's talked to us about this for a long, long time," Vernon Hills Mayor Barbara Williams said Tuesday.

IN MUNDELEIN, A similar communication gap may exist.

Task force members say they see a station south of Maple Avenue and U.S. 45.

But Mundelein Mayor Marilyn Sindles said she does not think there is enough room for parking at the site and wants to look at alternatives.

She also echoed Williams' desire to have more contact with the organizers of the project.

"I NEED to get some further
(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

information on the project," he said.

The Wisconsin Central Task Force was formed in April 1988. Its members include representatives from all of the communities affected by the proposed commuter line, as well as representatives from the Lake County Division of Transportation, Metra, and Nortran, Ahrenholz said.

An education professor at Trinity College in Deerfield and NORTRAN representative from Northfield Township, Bristol is pleased plans for the commuter rail line have met with some success. This April, it was included on the Chicago Area Transportation Committee's 2010 plan, a blueprint for future transportation projects in the six-county Chicago Metropolitan area.

"It (being part of the 2010 plan) is kind of a pre-blessing that says this is a project worth talking about," he said in an interview Monday.

THE PLAN HAS also been endorsed

by Metra, the Metropolitan Railway, which currently operates 13 suburban rail lines in the Chicago area, he said. Under the proposal, Metra would also operate the Wisconsin Central commuter line.

Though the proposed line has yet to receive any funding, it promises to be more cost-efficient than any of the existing commuter lines, officials argue. According to a 1988 update to a study completed by R.L. Banks and Associates Inc., of Washington, D.C. in 1987, operating revenues would meet 79.1 percent of operating expenses in the first year. Within five years, revenues would exceed operating expenses by 15 percent, the study concluded.

But that does not eliminate the significant start-up costs for infrastructure. The Banks study estimated it will cost more than \$36 million in capital expenditures for the purchase of four locomotives and 10 double-decked commuter cars.

Wheeling set to swear in five new officers on July 7

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Five new officers will join the Wheeling Police Department July 7 when the village board swears in the quintet of new blue.

In addition, officer John Stone has been promoted to fill one of the two vacant sergeant's positions in the department, pending positive completion of a medical examination.

Joining Stone in the department are newcomers Michael Korzeniowski, 28, Elgin; Mark Weber, 25, Chicago; Stephen Truver, 22, Des Plaines; Terrence Glynn, 23, Chicago; and Brian Jacobson, 30, Oak Forest. Glynn and Jacobson are now police officers in Bridgeview and Hazel Crest, respectively.

Korzeniowski, Weber and Truver will enter the Chicago Police Academy July 10, while Glynn and Jacobson begin field training with the department on the same date.

THE SEARCH FOR the new officers began last March, when more than 300 prospective candidates showed up at Wheeling High School for a pre-process talk with department leaders. That search was concluded when the board of fire and police commissioners agreed June 8 to hire the five. On June 20, that same board decided to promote Stone, an 11-year veteran of the force.

Two of the vacancies were created when officer Thomas Javens retired and officer William Hubner resigned to take

a job with the Portland, Ore., Police Department. A third vacancy came when the board of fire and police commissioners fired officer Richard Imber April 6. Stone's promotion created the fourth vacancy and village trustees the fifth when they authorized an extra police officer and sergeant's position.

For the past year, Stone has been the supervisor of the department's six-member special operation's unit, Deputy Chief Gary O'Rourke said. He was at the top of the department's eligibility list. Officers Theresa Delahanty and Robert MacDonald were next on the eligibility list.

One sergeant's position remains unfilled pending litigation involving former Sgt. Steve Weber. The department veteran resigned from the force in 1987 and later tried to have his resignation rescinded. However, the board of fire and police commissioners decided it did not have the authority to rescind a resignation, Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

ANDERSON SAID a recent ruling by a Cook County Circuit Court judge could put Weber back on the force. The judge ruled that the board of fire and police commissioners could have rescinded the resignation and suggested the village reinstate the officer, Anderson said.

The judge is expected Thursday (today) to hear a village motion to have him reconsider his decision. If the village loses that decision, Anderson said he did not know if the village would appeal the initial ruling.

Fizzled fireworks blamed on cash shortage

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Friday, July 7, 1989

Wheeling Park District officials are washing their hands of what they call "one of the worst displays of fireworks ever put on in Wheeling" this Fourth of July.

President Thomas R. Webber said, "The letter will outline who is responsible for what activities and what is expected of each group for next year's festivities, park board

works ever put on in Wheeling." Klocke said. "The display wasn't all that great," said Michael T. Lynch, vice president of the seven-member festival committee. "I think it's a little over-reaction on the park district and a little under-reaction on the community in coming up with the money if they want a good display."

The committee raised \$5,000 for the fireworks and \$2,400 for the parade through donations and fund-raisers like a spaghetti dinner and pancake breakfast, Lynch said.

Veterans seek sponsor for flag memorial

7-1-89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Local Vietnam veterans are trying to find a sponsor to pay for a flag in front of the Wheeling village hall that would honor war veterans.

Monday marks the 20th anniversary of the death of Michael Blanchfield of Wheeling, who threw himself in front of a grenade to save at least four of his friends in Vietnam. Blanchfield, who was 19 when he died, received a Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Congressional Medal of Honor in 1987.

The veterans hope the Wheeling Chamber of Commerce, a business or a resident will pay for a flag to

hang in front of the village hall. The flag would bear the acronyms for Prisoner of War and Missing in Action.

Blanchfield's friend, Terry Toerpe, who grew up with Blanchfield in Wheeling, convinced Wheeling trustees two years ago to fly a POW-MIA flag next to the village and American flags at the village hall. The flag was flown to honor Blanchfield and all veterans, Toerpe said.

But after a year, the tattered flag was removed and was never replaced. The now-defunct Wheeling American Legion Post, which took Blanchfield's name and donated the flag, never replaced the flag.

Now the North Suburban Chap-

ter of Viet Now in Evanston has promised to donate a flag and one replacement flag for Wheeling, said Kathy Verschelden, of Viet Now. But the veterans organizations would not be able to make repeated donations, she added.

The flags — purchased through Viet Now — cost \$27 each and must be replaced every three to four months, Verschelden said. Viet Now, which sponsors flags for Highland Park and Evanston, cannot afford to pay for all the replacement flags.

"If we supplied the flags every time we get someone to fly it, we're going to go broke," Verschelden said. "Because Viet Now is non-profit, it would get to be a big expense."

Wheeling cop faces charges for upending village flag

Wed., July 5, 1989
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The nation's highest court says it's legal to burn, trample or otherwise desecrate the American flag, but in Wheeling the question now is whether a police officer should be punished for turning the village flag upside down.

The village flag was designed more than 20 years ago by a student to symbolize respect for local government. It hangs on a pole next to the American flag in the council chambers.

"It's a symbol of pride," said Village President Sheila H. Schultz. "We're very proud of it and treat it with respect."

Wheeling Police Sgt. Michael J. Staufenbiel is accused of not showing respect for the village flag when he upended the flag and left it on the floor of the chambers early one April morning, Police Chief Michael F. Haeger says in charges filed with the village fire and police commission.

Because of the alleged actions, which occurred during the disciplinary hearing for another officer, Staufenbiel could be demoted to patrol officer. An 18-year department veteran, Staufenbiel is accused of discrediting the police department.

The demotion could cost the sergeant more than his rank. His annual \$41,492 salary could drop to between \$27,117 and \$36,555 — the pay scale

for a patrol officer.

The charges against Staufenbiel stem from an emotional fire and police commission hearing on April 6 at which Staufenbiel was a character witness for police officer Richard R. Imber, who later was fired for gambling while off duty. The commission also convicted Imber of a battery charge stemming from a scuffle in a local restaurant/lounge. In his testimony, Staufenbiel, along with four other Wheeling police officers, admitted to participating in small-stakes poker games.

Following the hearing, police officers and a supervising officer saw Staufenbiel, who was off duty but wearing his police uniform, walk up to the village flag and turn it upside down, balancing the pole against the back wall, Haeger said in the formal charges. Staufenbiel allegedly then walked out the back door of the chambers.

The action "brought the department into disrepute and reflected discredit upon (Staufenbiel)..." and will impair his efficiency as an officer and a supervisor," the charges state.

Haeger refused further comment. Staufenbiel said that Haeger suggested Staufenbiel resign to save himself from public embarrassment. But Staufenbiel said he refused and will defend himself without an attorney before the commission. The commission hearing on the charges is set for 7 p.m. July 20.

SEAMLESS GUTTER
Call Greg
Taping, Hanging & Painting
Textured Ceilings

Clowns, candy and kids
Jeanette Niessner, 4, receives candy from clown Andelique LeBrun while John LeBrun juggles Dundee Road during Wheeling's Fourth of July parade.



Harold - Wed. July 5, 1989

Tuesday, July 4, 1989
Parade, Familyfest round off celebration

Wheeling's annual Fourth of July parade kicks off the final day of holiday activities at 10 a.m. with a parade.

The parade route runs from the K mart parking lot to Heritage Park.

Johnny Star opens the day's musical activities with a show from 2 to 4:30 p.m. on the main stage at St. Joseph the Worker Church, 181 W. Dundee Road.

Alex and His Amazing Dogs will entertain crowds at 3 and 4 p.m. on the children's stage. Buster the Clown will perform at 5 p.m.

Throughout the day, grounds will be filled with food, drink and game stands. The tasty attractions will come from 20 local restaurants, including Barry's Ribs & More, Maine Street Cafe, Bob Chinn's Crabhouse, Chumley's, Hackney's and R.D. Clucker's.

Bingo, a petting zoo and elephant,



pony and helicopter rides also will be offered at the eighth annual Familyfest.

Tickets, which cost 50 cents each, must be used to pay for food, games and drinks. Entertainment, parking and admission are free.

The Shadows of Knight, a Chicago band that scored big in the 1960s with "Gloria," will perform from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on the main stage.

Melikin Puppet's Circus Show will take over the children's stage at 6

Wheeling Fourth of July Festivities

Today

10 a.m.	K mart	Parade kicks off
2-4:30 p.m.	Main stage	Johnny Star
3 p.m.	Kid stage	Alex and His Amazing Dogs
4 p.m.	Kid stage	Alex and His Amazing Dogs
5 p.m.	Kid stage	Buster the Clown
5:30-7:30 p.m.	Main stage	The Shadow of Knight
6 p.m.	Kid stage	Melikin Puppet's Circus Show
7-9 p.m.	Grounds	Free games and events
8-9:30 p.m.	Main stage	The American Breed
9:15 p.m.	Heritage Park	Fireworks

All events, except the parade and fireworks display, are part of Familyfest '89 and will be held on the grounds of St. Joseph the Worker Church, 181 W. Dundee Road.

p.m. There will be free games and events at St. Joseph from 7 to 9 p.m.

Tuesday's musical headliners will feature another blast from the past as The American Breed handle main

stage duty from 8 to 9:30 p.m. The group's biggest hit in the 1960s was "Bend Me, Shape Me."

The fireworks are scheduled to begin at 9:15 p.m. at Heritage Park and will close the annual festival.



Rose Champion does her best Betsy Ross flag-sewing imitation during Wheeling's annual Independence Day parade. The flag-covered float was sponsored by a local real estate agent.

Daily Herald Photo/Bob Turner

Harold - Wed. July 5, 1989

\$10 million mall threatened?

Redevelopment plan faces new challenge

Wheeling's long-planned Crossroads redevelopment plan along Milwaukee Avenue is facing a potential challenge from the Illinois Department of Revenue on whether certain parcels in the district qualify as blighted or conservation areas.

1-6-89
By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Strike two!
With the Illinois Department of Revenue picking up where a Cook County Circuit Court judge left off last December, the keystone of Wheeling's redevelopment project has been tossed another curve ball.

Claiming that three portions of the village's tax increment finance (TIF) district along Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road do not meet state criteria to qualify for that designation, the revenue department is suggesting the village delete those areas from the district.

But while village officials intend to strongly object to that contention, they say it could completely derail the redevelopment project that is projected to bring new vitality to commercial areas along the village's main thoroughfare.

"IF WE don't get a TIF on Milwaukee Avenue, I can guarantee that

in 15 years you will see the same buildings, the same area — because nothing is going to happen," Trustee Bill Rogers said.

What the village objects to most is the suggestion that the area northwest of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road be stricken from the district's boundaries, set in 1985. That quadrant is slated to house the \$10 million, 130,000-square-foot shopping center that is considered the cornerstone to the entire project.

In making the suggestions to the village in June, revenue department TIF analyst David Keil said deleting the three areas would not "compromise" the integrity of the special tax district. Keil said too few of the lots and buildings are of poor enough condition to qualify for a TIF district in those three areas.

The two main standards used to determine whether an area qualifies under a TIF district are whether the property in question is blighted or whether it is part of a conservation area.

IN OFFERING HIS assessment of Wheeling's TIF district, Keil's letter states his comments were only "initial thoughts" on the district and that a final decision would be made after the village answers his letter.

"We believe strongly that it would compromise the district," Village Planner Bob Sullivan said. "Without an anchor, you're not going to have a whole lot happen."

Revenue department officials have previously said that a successful challenge of a TIF district could

jeopardize future state sales tax revenue for the district. The village received \$206,000 in sales tax TIF revenue last year. More importantly, such a ruling could also threaten the foundation of the entire TIF district by claiming certain areas do not meet state designations.

Sullivan, along with other village staff, has been forming a rebuttal to Keil's letter. The village argues that although the individual quadrants of the project might not meet the blight and conservation aspects of TIF rules, their inclusion in the district does not jeopardize its legality.

THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT challenge is the second setback for the district in less than seven months. Last December, Cook County Circuit Court Judge Alexander P. White threw out condemnation suits filed by the village as part of the TIF plan, saying the district did not meet state criteria for blight. The property owners were from the northwest quadrant that the state is now challenging.

The village has appealed White's ruling to the Illinois Appellate Court. But now, outside of the upcoming battle before a panel of judges, the village must try to win its case in Springfield.

Attorney Mark La Mantia, who represents one of the property owners in the condemnation appeal, said the revenue department's initial findings support his contention that the northwest quadrant does not meet state guidelines.

"I find it somewhat interesting
(Continued on page 19)

TIF —

(Continued from page 5)

simply that not only did he (White) conclude that this did not comply using the same criteria, but the state said these blocks do not comply," La Mantia said. He said he intends to bring the revenue department's ruling into the appeal process.

The village established its TIF district in 1985, targeting an area along Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road for redevelopment with the hope of improving the economic climate and aesthetics of the area. With the district, the village freezes property and sales tax revenue in the district and readies the area for development by acquiring land and improving streets.

After the land is redeveloped, increases in property taxes and sales taxes are used to pay for the village-sponsored public improvements.

UNDER THE PLAN initially outlined in 1985, the village has selected Vantage Companies to build the \$10 million Crossroads shopping center on a 13.5 acre tract of land northwest of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road. The village has already sold \$4.36 million in bonds for land acquisition and public improvements.

But that plan could be jeopardized if Keil's "initial thoughts" become the official findings of the revenue department. Although the letter only addresses the sales tax aspect of the plan, it could affect the entire project because it would challenge the district's legitimacy.

The revenue department letter came as part of a recent review of TIF districts called for by the General Assembly. Legislators questioned the sales tax TIF districts when cities like Highland Park were getting millions of dollars in state aid, money some felt the communities didn't deserve. Last year, Wheeling's \$206,000 in sales tax revenue came from the state's \$9.7 million TIF fund.

"They look at it as a revenue loss for the state and they want to minimize that loss," Sullivan said. But, he added, "If

they take out that northwest quadrant, that really knocks us out."

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY called on the revenue department to study TIF districts statewide to see if they met newly-defined criteria. Until state legislators adopted the new law last year, TIFs were not certified or regulated by the state. Only court challenges by property owners, taxpayers or taxing bodies would force the districts' review.

The revenue department called for an initial review of Wheeling's TIF district last December, saying sales tax growth in the district was near 25 percent, when 15 percent was the cap. In 1986 and 1987, in order to jump-start some TIF districts, the General Assembly allowed municipalities to add sales tax revenue to the property tax revenues of the districts.

"We're a victim of the state looking down and seeing what they did and saying 'that's bad,'" Rogers said. He said the village's TIF should be allowed under a grandfather clause. "I think the state should make up its mind on what the hell it wants to do."

Rogers and Village President Sheila Schultz said the state must make sure that it looks at Milwaukee Avenue as it was in 1985 when the TIF district was first established. Since then, they say, the village has torn down several buildings and the area in general has improved.

"YOU DON'T deprive someone the right to do something when they began to do it prior to the change in the law," Rogers said.

For now, Wheeling will submit its latest proposal and hope the state agrees.

"We know the part about not compromising the integrity are not true," Sullivan said. "But we don't know what they'll (the revenue department) do. We certainly hope they'll get along with our arguments."

Wheeling property tax rates (Per \$100 assessed valuation)

TAXING BODY	1988	1987	% CHANGE
Cook County	1.128	.913	+24%
Forest Preserve	.101	.102	-1%
Village of Wheeling	1.506	1.281	+17.56%
Wheeling Park Dist.	.503	.522	-3.64%
H.S. District 214	2.238	2.196	+1.91%
School District 21	2.94	2.56	+14.9%
Indian Tr. Library	.279	.333	-16.2%

Overall Tax Rate 9.671 8.867 +9.07%

(The above tax rates came from Cook County Clerk Stanley Kasper's office. Note: Not all taxing bodies are listed in chart. Overall tax rate refers to residents in the Wheeling Park District portion of the village and in the Indian Trails Library District.)

Wheeling area tax rates increase by 9 percent in '88

Due largely to a 15 percent tax rate increase in Community Consolidated District 21, Wheeling residents can expect to dig a little deeper this year when paying their property tax bills.

The school district's hefty tax rate increase, which is a direct result of a tax rate hike referendum voters approved last spring, is one of the main contributing factors to a 9 percent boost Wheeling residents will see in their overall property tax rates.

Tax bills are in the mail and the first installment on property taxes is due by Aug. 7.

With the referendum approval last April, District 21's tax rate will jump from \$2.56 to \$2.94 per \$100 assessed valuation. For the owner of a home with a market value of \$100,000, that translates to about a \$117 increase over last year that would be paid to the district.

District 21 officials say the additional revenue will go to offset fund deficits that were accumulating in the education fund.

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT is being joined by the Village of Wheeling in trying to reverse a spiraling financial trend.

Wheeling's municipal tax rate jumped from \$1.28 to \$1.51 per \$100 assessed valuation, a 17.6 percent increase. Again using the example of a home with a market value of \$100,000, the effect on the tax bill would be about \$71.

Much of that increase can be traced to a 25 percent increase in the village's tax levy, a move designed to increase revenues to address dwindling fund balances.

With village coffers needing a boost to replenish dropping fund balances, Village Manager Craig Anderson said the tax rate increase will help accomplish that objective. Because of potential delays in sales tax and other revenue reaching the village, Anderson said there is a need for a fund balance.

BUT WITH THE general fund balance scheduled to fall below \$1 million, Anderson said the property tax increase was necessary. Personnel additions to the police force and the operations and maintenance department, along with state-mandated increases in employee pension contributions, also necessitated the tax increase, Anderson said.

While the village and the school districts are seeing increases in their tax rates, residents in the Wheeling Park District boundaries will see a modest drop in the tax rate paid to that body. The rate dropped from \$5.22 per \$100 assessed valuation to \$5.03, a 4 percent decrease.

Park district officials attribute the rate drop to increased property values throughout the district.

Taxpayers will also get a break from the Indian Trails Public Library District, where the tax rate dropped 16 percent from 33 cents per \$100 assessed valuation to 22 cents. With the library district only accounting for a small fraction of a home's tax bill, that savings won't go far.

IN FACT, MOST of it could be passed on to High School District 214. That district's tax rate increased a modest 1.9 percent to \$2.24 per \$100 assessed valuation from \$2.20.

Depending upon the overall growth of property values in the area, District 214 Assistant Supt. of Finance Jack Swanson said homeowners will likely see no more than a 3.5 percent to 4 percent increase in the amount of taxes they pay to the district.

That revenue increase, Swanson said, will go to cover salary increases for employees that averaged nearly 7 percent as well as to address rising costs for employee medical benefits and retirement fund contributions the district makes.

Law firm pays for flag honoring veterans

Mon. July 10, 1989
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

An Arlington Heights law firm has agreed to pick up the tab for two years to hang a war veteran flag in front of the Wheeling village hall.

The North Suburban Chapter of VietNow in Evanston has donated a flag and one replacement flag to Wheeling to hang at village hall in honor of war veterans.

After those two flags become worn out, replacement flags will be paid for by the Kovitz, Shifrin & Waizman law firm in Arlington Heights.

"I just thought that it was something that needed to be done — call it civic-mindedness," said

erpe cleared up both the errors that were blamed on a paperwork snafu.

Toerpe also convinced Wheeling trustees to fly a POW-MIA flag next to the village and American flags at village hall. The flag was flown for about one year until it became tattered.

The flag has not been replaced since it was removed because the Wheeling American Legion, which donated only the original flag, is defunct.

The flags — purchased through VietNow — cost \$27 each and must be replaced every three to four months, said Cathy Verscheiden of VietNow. The veterans organization cannot afford to pay for all of the replacement flags.

Gary Waizman, who wasn't in the war, but joined the reserves in the 1960s. "I guess if you've been involved in the military in any way, shape or form, you could be moved by this."

The move to hang the flag started in 1987, after the family of Michael Blanchfield of Wheeling received a Congressional Medal of Honor for Blanchfield's heroic effort in Vietnam 20 years ago.

On July 3, 1969, Blanchfield, 19, threw himself on a live grenade to shield at least four of his friends and some civilians from death.

Two years ago, Terry Toerpe, a childhood friend of Blanchfield's, realized the family had not received the award nor been reimbursed for funeral expenses. To-

Wheeling fills in gaps on police force

7-8-89 (Sat.)
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Five Wheeling police officers were sworn in Friday to fill vacancies in the department and to address the village's growing population.

The new additions — Michael Korzeniowski, 28; Stephen Truver, 22; Mark Weber, 25; Terrance Glynn, 23; and Brian Jacobson, 30 — bring to 39 the number of police officers in the department.

Two of the openings were new positions added to the police department in an effort to keep up with an increase in the village's population, development and traffic. Deputy Police Chief Gary O'Rourke said, "Starting annual pay

for all five officers is \$27,117. "They'll be assigned as additional personnel on patrol units to meet the needs of the community," O'Rourke said.

Also on Friday, Officer John Stone, an 11-year department veteran, was promoted to sergeant. One of the five new officers will take Stone's place on patrol.

In his new position, Stone will supervise special operations, including tactical, canine and traffic units — duties he has been heading for the past year.

Stone's annual salary of \$36,552 as a patrol officer will increase to about \$42,000 with the promotion. Five police officers had applied for the new sergeant's post.

A fourth police officer vacancy

was created when officer William Hubner left the department to take a job with the Portland, Ore., police department.

The fifth vacancy was created in April when the village's fire and police commission fired officer Richard R. Imber, a 10-year department veteran, for gambling and battery.

Officers Glynn and Jacobson, who have served on the Bridgeview and Hazel Crest police departments, respectively, begin a 12-week field training session today with the Wheeling Police Department.

The other three officers will begin a 12-week police training program Monday with the Chicago Police Academy.

With residents' help, towns have recycling in the bag

BY ROBIN SMITH
Daily Herald Staff Writer

7-9-89

When the recycling trucks lumbered down Streamwood streets for the first time on Saturday, they marked a continuation of a growing trend.

The village's \$5.3 million curbside recycling program, implemented in Streamwood and neighboring Schaumburg by Laidlaw Waste System, is being heralded as the largest recycling program in the state, serving more than 25,000 households.

"We're really excited," Streamwood Village Manager Patrick C. Scheidel said of the program. "We're thrilled about it."

Once a curiosity, recycling programs are growing by leaps in bounds in the Northwest suburbs. Now, nearly every town has at least a pilot program for which glass, tin cans, bottles and other recyclables are picked up at the curb in a few neighborhoods. And, in many towns, the programs are being expanded.

Generally, refuse haulers provide the recycling service and a monthly fee is tacked onto residents' garbage bills.

In the towns that aren't recycling, the issue is at least under discussion.

The interest in recycling is the product of local officials' growing awareness of decreasing landfill space and the increasing amount of garbage being generated by the ever-booming suburbs. And residents apparently share that awareness, as evidenced by their willingness to participate in local programs.

"It looks like there are a lot of people participating," said Robert R. Kiely, city administrator in Prospect Heights, which started a program among 2,500 households. Residents are charged \$1 a month for the service.

Officials in Barrington pride themselves on being at the forefront of recycling efforts. A year ago, the village set up collection of newspapers, glass, aluminum and lawn wastes, becoming the first community in the state to include composting in its recycling program. Now, Barrington is beginning to recycle plastics by having residents drop off the items at its recycling center.

Trustee William M. Lee Jr., head of the recycling committee, said one study indicated 92 percent of village's households participated at least once in the program.

"How many participate on a regular basis, say at least once a month, nobody knows for sure," he said. "I would estimate it's in the 75 percent plus range."

In nearby Hoffman Estates, the recycling wheels are moving more slowly. For more than a year, the village has been looking at its options, Assistant Village Manager Shirley Wells-English said.

First, they formed the Sorting Out

Recyclable Trash (SORT) committee to study options, including curbside recycling. Two months ago, trustees decided a second committee of residents was needed to study the issue.

As to why it has taken the village so long to devise a program, Wells-English says, "We're just going to make sure we have the best program and meet the state mandates."

It's generally in the smaller suburbs, such as Inverness nor Barrington Hills, where recycling programs have not been discussed.

Here is a look at what is going on in other communities:

Arlington Heights runs a recycling program, which includes plastic collections, among 2,200 homes. The village estimates its participation level at 68 percent.

Bartlett began recycling in April. Village Administrator Valerie Salmons says the program has been very successful, with an average monthly participation rate of 80 percent. In the first month, the village collected 57.5 tons of newsprint, 1.3 tons of aluminum, 16.6 tons of glass and 2 tons of tin.

Buffalo Grove began its curbside recycling program last August. Residents pay \$1 a month to have Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal/Waste Management come to their homes and pick up newspapers, tin and glass. Like other communities, the curbside recycling program is a one-container operation, into which residents will place newspapers loosely in the bottom of the containers. Aluminum cans and glass bottles will then be placed on top, in paper bags.

Des Plaines began a program this month, charging residents \$1.45 a month for curbside recycling.

Elk Grove Village charges residents \$1.40 a month for recycling aluminum, tin, glass, newspapers and plastic milk jugs and estimates that 80 percent of the residents participate in the program.

Hanover Park will initiate curbside recycling and a 20 percent increase in monthly garbage bills next month. Plastic containers also will be recycled as in Barrington.

Mount Prospect began a pilot program in certain neighborhoods in January, expanding it last month. The village expects the program to be in full force, serving 12,000 houses, by Aug. 4.

Rolling Meadows began a curbside recycling program for newspapers, free of charge. In March, aldermen expanded the program to include collecting cans and glass.

Wheeling began recycling on May 2. All homeowners who have curbside pickup and subdivision residents who have the approval of their homeowners association are eligible to participate in the program. Recyclables include newspapers and inserts, colored and clear glass, aluminum and tin.

Wheeling cop on the carpet for upending the village flag

By Gary Wisby

The U.S. Supreme Court says it's permissible to burn the American flag, but it hasn't said anything about abusing the village flag of Wheeling.

So the north suburb's board of fire and police commissioners is on its own when it comes to dealing with Sgt. Michael J. Staufenbiel.

The sergeant, an 18-year veteran of the police department, turned the village flag upside down at a meeting of the board, apparently to protest the firing of a fellow officer.

Staufenbiel, 39, will appear before the commissioners July 20 on charges of "bringing the department into disrespect or reflecting discredit on [himself] as a member of the department."

If found guilty, he could be demoted to patrol officer.

Staufenbiel could not be

reached for comment.

"The flag symbolizes pride in the community and respect for the community," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said Tuesday.

Staufenbiel upended the village flag at the end of a seven-hour disciplinary hearing April 6 for Patrol Officer Richard R. Imber. He had testified as a character witness for Imber, who was charged with gambling in the bar of a Wheeling restaurant while off duty.

The commissioners found Imber guilty of that offense, and also of battery for scuffling with a Cook County vice officer. Imber was fired.

After the heated meeting ended at 2 a.m., witnesses said, Staufenbiel took the village flag out of its standard, turned it upside down and leaned it against a wall, with the flag trailing on the floor. He then walked out.

7-12-89

Chicago Sun-Times

Wheeling to vote on 911 in November

BY TODD NATENBERG
and TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writers

7-14-89

that dispatches calls to the appropriate public safety agency.

Based on Illinois Bell estimates, Wheeling officials say the 75-cent monthly tax will generate an additional \$283,500 over 18 months for the village. The money would cover the cost of system start up.

Installation and equipment would cost about \$157,000, and monthly maintenance would run about \$3,500, Anderson said.

But, if costs turn out to be lower than estimated, the village would reduce the surcharge, Anderson said.

Some board members and village President Sheila H. Schultz say they want to be sure residents are well informed on the issue by November.

"I think this is important enough to make sure things are clear," Schultz said. "We have to be careful not to just throw it out there (to the residents) and have any lack of understanding."

Wheeling Deputy Police Chief Gary D. O'Rourke suggested village businesses help spread the word about the ballot question. He said restaurants in other towns have attached flyers to pizza boxes explaining the question to customers.

Unlike Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove Village and Mount Prospect, Wheeling waited for the November election rather than putting the question on the April 4 ballot. Wheeling wanted time to inform voters and work out details.

Wheeling residents will be asked in November to pay 75 cents a month for a 911 emergency telephone system.

Village trustees have unanimously agreed to place the question on the November election ballot. If approved by voters, the system would be available to residents in 18 to 24 months. They would begin paying for the system the following May, Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

The enhanced 911 system, which includes the familiar, nationwide three-digit number, 911, allows callers to dial a central location

New offensive mounted in balefill 'war'

July 12, 1989

BY DIANE DUNGEY
and LARRY SMITH
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Mary Catelain says she doesn't trust assurances that a garbage transfer station planned near her

Palatine home won't pollute the air, draw rats and create traffic jams.

"The more I find out, the more upset I get," Catelain said.

But the regional agency that wants to build the transfer sta-

tion says some opponents are unfairly inflaming the public by passing out pamphlets that greatly exaggerate the number of trucks and amount of garbage that would be taken into the neighborhood.

"If we can get back to the facts, at least we can make a reasonable decision," said William Abolt, who heads the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County.

With those opening shots, a second front has opened in the four-year-old battle over a proposed landfill near Bartlett.

This time, the controversy surrounds a garbage transfer station planned for Rolling Meadows, where 14 towns would haul their trash. At that central location, the garbage would be compacted into bales, then shipped to the Bartlett "balefill."

The balefill, Rolling Meadows transfer station and another transfer station to be located on the North Shore would be built by the solid waste agency.

Carrying signs reading "Dump the Dump" and calling themselves RATS, for Residents Against Transfer Site, as many as 250 opponents of the garbage transfer station have stormed Rolling Meadows and Palatine board meetings and picketed outside municipal offices.

"I'm not going to let (them) continue to lead people to believe it's as safe and organized as they say it is," said Catelain, who lives across Northwest Highway from the proposed transfer station.

"There are a lot of people in Palatine and Rolling Meadows upset about it. Let's have a referendum," said Daniel Kairis of

The garbage transfer station

What: One of 2 plants where garbage from 14 suburbs would be baled before being trucked to the proposed balefill near Bartlett. (The other site is on the North Shore.)

Where: West end of Berdnick Street in an industrial section of Rolling Meadows.

Cost: \$12 million.

Garbage: 900-1,300 tons per day.

Traffic: 198-231 truckloads per day.

When: Construction is expected late next year or early 1991.

Source: Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County



Mary Catelain of Palatine opposes a plan to build a transfer station in Rolling Meadows, where garbage from 14 towns would be collected.

Daily Herald Photo/Rich Chapman

South Elgin, president of Citizens Against the Balefill and a leader in the new battle against the transfer station.

The transfer station is a key part of the plan for the balefill, said Abolt. Without approval for the transfer station, zoning for the balefill near Gifford and West Bartlett roads in Hanover Township could be revoked.

And without the balefill, 33 towns that are members of the agency would have to search harder for space to dump garbage as existing landfills fill up, Abolt said, and residents would end up paying more to have their garbage hauled away.

"With solid waste, you don't expect to win any public rela-

See GARBAGE on Page 4

Continued from Page 1

tions battles," he said. "I certainly hope it doesn't snowball and (let) the misinformation get in the way of approval of the project."

At the transfer station, which is planned for 3851 Berdnick Street in a Rolling Meadows industrial park, garbage trucks from most Northwest suburbs would unload trash.

An estimated 900 to 1,300 tons of garbage would be taken each day to the \$12 million station, which would be built where a small transfer station now operates solely for Rolling Meadows. The station would be emptied of garbage and washed at the end of each day to keep it free of odors and rodents, Abolt said.

Abolt said no more than 231 trucks a day would come to the transfer station — far fewer than the numbers he says he's seen on pamphlets passed out by opponents.

The Rolling Meadows transfer station would be among the largest in the state, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency spokesman Bob Casteel said.

Abolt and others say Citizens

Against the Balefill targeted the transfer station and recruited residents solely as an attempt to bolster its own efforts against the balefill. At two public hearings in May, fewer than 50 people showed up to question plans for the transfer station.

"The issues of the Bale Busters are far afield from the interests of Palatine and Rolling Meadows and their citizens," Abolt said.

"No doubt about it, they're stirring the pot," said William D. Ahrens, mayor of Rolling Meadows, which must decide on the transfer station by Aug. 15. "We've had a transfer station there for 10 years. We've created no rodents, no smell."

"Of course, that's why we got involved," said balefill opponent Kairis, who held a meeting in June with residents and business owners near the transfer station. "Obviously, if we kill the balefill, they don't have to worry about the transfer station. This is my pet issue, and the people are the last ones to be informed about it."

Carl Piacenza, whose welding company is next door to the proposed transfer station, believes the



Daily Herald Map

balefill is needed. But he doesn't want to see the transfer station near his business.

"We have a problem with garbage. It has to be put somewhere. But how would you like it next door to you?" asked Piacenza, who fears the added traffic will "cripple" other businesses on the street.

"The location is pretty bad," said Piacenza, who rejected an offer from the solid waste agency to buy his land.

Group asks EPA again for permit to build balefill

BY DIANE DUNGEY
Daily Herald Staff Writer

An agency representing a coalition of suburbs has asked the state a second time for permission to build a controversial balefill near Bartlett.

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County submitted a new application last week to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, said William Abolt, who heads the solid waste group. In May, the Illinois EPA denied a permit for the 142-acre landfill at Gifford and West Bartlett roads in Hanover Township, pointing to 25 flaws in the proposal.

Opponents called the Illinois EPA's rejection of the plan a major victory, but Abolt said it was only a "minor setback." In the new proposal, the landfill's designers improved plans for monitoring groundwater to make sure contaminants do not seep out of the landfill.

The EPA also required that a system for collecting water and other by-products of the decomposing garbage be redesigned. Now, the EPA has six months to decide whether to give a permit for the landfill, EPA spokesman Bill Casteel said.

The landfill, called a balefill because garbage is buried in compacted bales, would serve 33 towns.

Abolt said he is confident a permit will be granted. "We believe we're on the right track," he said.

But an opponent of the balefill predicted the new plan also will be rejected.

"There is no way SWANCC could have adequately addressed even a portion of those issues during the month-and-a-half time span that has elapsed since the EPA's denial," Bartlett Village President John A. Stark said. "It's still a faulty site."

Transfer station envisioned as 'model'

BY LARRY SMITH
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The garbage transfer station envisioned for Rolling Meadows would be a "state of the art model" designed to protect against environmental problems, proponents say.

It would have three balers in a 79,000-square-foot building, about the size of a large supermarket. Eventually, the building could be expanded to 96,000 square feet to make room for a fourth baler.

When garbage trucks drive into the station, they would be directed to floors where they would dump garbage. That garbage would be

checked for industrial waste and other types of refuse not accepted at the station. The trucks would have computer codes, making it possible for officials to trace them if they dumped outlawed garbage, said William F. Abolt, executive director of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County.

The balers are to compact the garbage into 42-by-60-inch bales. Those would be loaded onto enclosed aluminum trailers by an automatic machine that also would collect dust into a filter system before it could be released into the air, according to the plan.

To prevent odor outside the station, proponents say, an elaborate charcoal air filter system has been designed that would clean smells and particles from the air.

"There is no way odor can come out of that building," said Devin Moose of Patrick Engineering, project engineer.

Moose said the design of the building would create a "negative air flow" that would draw air in from the outside through four doors that trucks would enter and leave through. The only way air would get out is through the filters at the top of the building, he said.

Panel pledges to improve fireworks

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

7-13-89
Volunteers for the Wheeling Fourth of July Festival Committee are planning early for next year's fireworks display to avoid a repeat of this year's show, which they say was a "dud."

The seven-member committee has been taking some heat since last week's show, which officials say was not one of the better displays the village has held.

Although some of the fireworks were duds, committee members could not afford to host a better

show, said Michael T. Lynch, vice president of the festival committee.

"We just didn't raise enough money to put on an \$8,000 fireworks display," Lynch said. "You don't just go out and dig up \$10,000."

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

Usually, the committee raises between \$8,000 and \$9,000 for the Fourth of July activities. The money is raised through donations and fundraisers, such as a spaghetti dinner

and a pancake breakfast.

In addition, village water bills from January through June include a line for donations. Typically, the committee collects about \$2,600 from those contributions.

However, because of a computer error this year, only the bills for January, May and June included the donation line. The committee collected \$997 this year from water bills.

For next year's festivities, the committee is planning to attract corporate or large businesses to sponsor the events. And an auction is in the

works for fall.

Starting in September, the committee will meet at 8 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at AMVETS Hall, 700 Old McHenry Road. Those interested in volunteering for the committee, which handles the July 4 fireworks display and parade, are encouraged to attend the meetings.

Donations may be mailed to P.O. Box 893F, Wheeling, Ill., 60090. For more information about contributing to the activities or about being a volunteer, call Judy Abruscato at 541-8783.

Liquor license granted to family restaurant

7-13-89
Wheeling trustees have issued a liquor license to a new family restaurant in the Lexington Commons Shopping Center.

Restaurant owner Strati Panagakos plans to open a new restaurant in the building of the former Hungry Fox restaurant, which has been out of business for the past seven months.

The former restaurant on Lake-Cook Road held a class B license when it was open and Panagakos also will hold the same license. The village now has 19 class B liquor licenses, which are commonly held by restaurants that offer full-bar service including wine, beer and mixed drinks.

The restaurant is expected to seat a maximum of 135 people. It will be open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Airport parking lot approved by board

Construction can begin on the new parking lot at Palwaukee Municipal Airport now that the plans for the

project have been approved by the airport's owners — Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

The new parking lot, which would be north of the airport manager's offices at hangar No.1, includes 127 parking spaces.

Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners recommended approval of the plans, which also include lighting, fences, landscaping and sidewalks around the parking lot.

Approval from Wheeling trustees and Prospect Heights aldermen is necessary because the airport, which remains self-sufficient, is jointly owned by the two communities. The Prospect Heights city council approved the plans last week.

Stephen W. Moulton, the airport's consulting engineer, said the new lot would cost about \$370,000, which includes the cost for engineering and construction. The cost also includes federal safety standards, such as removing unusable soil, installing a drainage system and using a thicker paving for the lot.

In addition to the need for parking for airport administrators, the new parking lot would provide space for cars that were displaced when a fence was installed around the air-

port last spring.

58% participate in recycling program

More than half of Wheeling residents participated in the village's two-month old curbside recycling program, said David R. Kowal, assistant to Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson.

In any one week, 58 percent of the households included in the program participate, he said. Wheeling residents recycled 179,347 pounds of paper, glass, tin and aluminum during May, Kowal said. That averages out to about 40 pounds of recyclables per home per month.

The recycling program, which costs residents \$1 a month, serves as an attempt to reduce the amount of trash hauled to landfills.

All homeowners who have curbside garbage pickup and residents of subdivisions who have the approval of their homeowners association are eligible to participate in the program. Apartment dwellers and others not included in the program may drop off recyclables at a bin behind the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Wheeling site eyed for bowling center

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

7-13-89
With Striker Lanes in Buffalo Grove up for sale, a Wheeling developer is anticipating proposing a new, 40-lane bowling alley on Milwaukee Avenue between Dundee and Wolf roads.

Even though no plans have appeared at Wheeling Village Hall, a national official of AMF Bowling Company Inc. said the company is working on final details for a 40-lane bowling center complete with computerized scoring.

"We are negotiating ... to put together a package to put a bowling center there," said Carl Barbour, a regional vice president of operations for AMF. "It will be a really up-to-date, full-fledged bowling center."

Barbour said more details would be forthcoming in the next week. He said land acquisition and other "loose ends" must be tied together before a formal proposal is put together.

BRIAN GORDON, a development associate with Joseph Freed and Associates, said the Freed organization will consider proposing a bowling alley along Milwaukee Avenue if the Striker Lanes property is sold. Prospective buyers were studying the site Friday.

After initially buying Striker Lanes last December, Freed is now looking to

sell the 24-lane bowling alley on Dundee Road, just west of Buffalo Grove Road.

Gordon said the existing 28,000-square-foot Striker Lanes building, along with its surrounding land, would probably be turned into retail space. The neighboring shopping mall to the east and north has recently been refurbished, with the name changing from Ranch Mart to Plaza at Buffalo Grove.

Along with Striker Lanes, three other establishments are housed in the building, a restaurant, a pro shop and a discount retail clothes store. All are leased from Freed, Gordon said.

GORDON CONFIRMED THAT Freed would consider a bowling alley on Milwaukee Avenue if the sale of the Buffalo Grove site is consummated.

"If we do sell the bowling alley, we will be considering putting a bowling alley on Milwaukee (Avenue)," Gordon said.

Right now, only the eight-lane Jeffrey Lanes on Wolf Road offers bowling to Wheeling keglers. With the expected sale of Striker Lanes, Barbour said AMF found the Wheeling site an attractive one. AMF now operates 62 bowling centers in the United States, Barbour said.

"We think that with Striker Lanes going to close down, we think it would be a good area," Barbour said, "and we are

working very hard to get this together."

DEPENDING ON WHETHER the company receives village approval this year, Barbour said the bowling center could be operating by next summer. Although the final details aren't complete, Barbour said he was confident the center would win village approval.

"There've been preliminary discussions concerning the site," Community Development Director Mike Klitzke said Wednesday. He said the developers have shown preliminary plans to the village. "I'm expecting applications soon."

In order to build on the site, AMF and Freed would have to rezone some property and seek a special use permit from the village, Klitzke said. Although sources interviewed declined to reveal the location of the proposed site, Klitzke said at least part of the property is now developed.

Business owners along Milwaukee Avenue said a bowling alley has been rumored for years. But with Gordon admitting that Freed — a major developer of commercial and industrial properties — would consider a bowling alley on Milwaukee Avenue, those rumors could turn into fact.

"WE'RE CERTAINLY looking forward to pulling this off," Barbour said.

State seeking to speed Palwaukee work

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Countryside
In 1987, the Illinois aviation industry was responsible for generating \$12.8 billion for the local economies surrounding the state's 130 airports, including Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Among other things, the Illinois Department of Transportation's aeronautics division will use that information to try to convince Wheeling and Prospect Heights to speed up the pace of approving improvements to Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Using the results from a new economic impact study, expected to be released later this month, Chief of Aviation Safety Dick Ware said IDOT will try to educate the public — and sponsors of airports such as Palwaukee — of the importance of aviation in Illinois.

"It's an important part of our economy and unfortunately a number of people don't understand the ramifications," Ware said.

WARE SAID IMPROVEMENTS scheduled for Palwaukee, including a larger, federally-mandated clear zone at the end of the longest runway, must move along in order to make it a viable reliever airport.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights, joint owners of the airport, have been struggling with a solution that would relocate Wolf and Hintz roads in order to create that clear zone. Unless the roads are moved, the runway could be effectively shortened to the point that a majority of the corporate aircraft at the airport could not use the facility, according to aviation officials.

7-14-89
The corporate aircraft are considered the lifeblood of the airport, which is home to more than 400 aircraft.

Local hotels, restaurants and gas stations get direct cash from visitors flying into airports, Ware said. And municipalities with nearby airports are often considered more attractive to companies who have constant out-of-town visitors, Ware said. Those companies generate property taxes and employ people who spend portions of their paychecks in the local community.

BUT WHILE O'HARE International Airport generated \$9 billion of the \$12.8 billion in 1987, Ware said it is the reliever airports like Palwaukee that make the entire system successful.

Palwaukee and airports like the ones in Kenosha, Wis., and Waukegan, allow the O'Hares and the Midways to handle more commercial traffic by taking away general aviation aircraft traffic. There are 200,000 general aviation aircraft nationwide compared to 5,000 for commercial air travel, Ware said.

If more general aviation airports are created or expanded or improved, delays at other airports could be relieved, Ware said. If Palwaukee failed to get its larger clear zone, the aircraft from there would have to find other airports, he said.

"We need more Palweekes. We need more reliever airports in the Chicago area," Ware said. "We don't need every airport to have 5,000 feet. But we need that at Palwaukee to serve the aircraft that operate there."

BUT VILLAGE PRESIDENT Sheila Schultz said the village already knows the airport improvements are necessary. Using an economic impact study, she said, will not further prove the

importance of Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

"It's really something we already know," Schultz said, "in terms of recognizing the financial benefit ... that really doesn't affect the concerns we are dealing with now."

Schultz said those concerns include limiting expansion of the airport to those properties targeted when the facility was purchased while making room for future development at the airport, including the construction of additional hangars and airport business. Trustees are now grappling with issues that will ensure the road relocation is completed, but on terms amenable to village taxpayers.

"I think we're kind of beyond the point where the economic impact study would have a direct impact on us," Schultz said.

VILLAGE MANAGER CRAIG Anderson was a little more skeptical about the report. Although he said he was looking forward to its release, he has reservations about the direct positive impact the airport has on the village economy and village tax coffers.

"The fact of having Palwaukee there, I'm not sure it's helped the village in terms of positive economic impact," Anderson said.

Looking at the scheduled improvements that the FAA and IDOT are supporting, Anderson said he wasn't sure the timely completion of the projects would have a corresponding economic impact at village cash registers and in village banks.

"I don't know if it's going to have a negative impact if we don't act properly or a positive impact if we do," Anderson said.

Officials eye charging driver in fatal crash

The Cook County State's Attorney's office is expected to file charges against a Des Plaines man who was the driver of a motorcycle involved in a fatal accident June 30.

Wheeling police Deputy Chief Michael Hermes said Wednesday that the state's attorney's office will file charges against Charles Dalenberg, 23, of 2072 Plainfield Drive.

Lisa M. Urban, of 851 Belmar Lane, Buffalo Grove, was killed when the motorcycle Dalenberg was allegedly driving ran a red light at Palatine Frontage Road at Wolf Road, striking a car broadside and sending it 75 feet.

Dalenberg was initially taken to Glenbrook Hospital in Glenview. He was later transported to Evanston Hospital.

LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE initially began the chase at 12:41 a.m. after police there observed Dalenberg's motorcycle speeding down Milwaukee Avenue. According to statements from police, Lincolnshire police took the chase into Wheeling but lost sight of Dalenberg at Palatine Road. Moments later, the same officer discovered the accident at Wolf Road.

The Wheeling Police Department responded to the accident scene but did not participate in the chase, Hermes said.

Police department to add commanders

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Countryside
Partially in response to a number of discipline charges brought against Wheeling police in the past six months, village trustees Monday created another level of supervisors to fill in some of the "gaps" in the department's administration.

With the unanimous approval of the village board, the police department will begin accepting applications and conducting interviews for two new commander positions in August. The two commanders, expected to earn \$47,333 each annually, are set to start next March.

The positions will be open to both current department personnel and those outside the department.

Earlier this year, Village Manager Craig Anderson denied a request by Police Chief Michael Haeger to create the positions this year, claiming they would make the department "top heavy." But subsequent discussions with Haeger and village trustees in closed sessions altered Anderson's position, he said.

"MY BASIC concern initially was I don't want to be top heavy, top of the pyramid, with administrative personnel," Anderson said. But after Haeger brought charges against two officers and one sergeant since January, Anderson said he saw a need for more administrators.

"I perhaps began to see a gap there that needs to be filled with supervisory personnel," Anderson said.

The two commanders are expected to relieve the pressure on deputy chiefs Gary O'Rourke and Michael Hermes, allowing them to concentrate more on

administration than supervision. Without a level of supervisors between sergeant and deputy chiefs, all major decisions that occur at night or on weekends require contact with the deputy chiefs or Haeger.

O'Rourke, now acting chief while Haeger is in the hospital for back surgery, said adding the positions is a necessary response to the department's and village's growth.

"AS THE department has grown over the last few years, the demand on the management staff and the administrative staff has increased," O'Rourke said. "It's almost impossible to fulfill all the administrative functions and all of the supervisory functions with the two deputy chiefs."

After Haeger was hired, the department reorganized in 1983, and deputy chiefs replaced lieutenants. At that time, provisions were made to create the commanders positions in the future. It has been discussed several times since then, O'Rourke said, with it finally winning village approval Monday night.

Police personnel from both inside and outside the department will be allowed to apply for the positions. Unlike sergeants and patrol officers, the board of fire and police commissioners will not conduct the interviews and determine who is hired. Instead, Anderson will make the final determination after a battery of interviews by a selection panel, police department staff and Anderson.

Since he took over for demoted police chief Ted Bracke in 1982, Haeger has brought more than a half dozen officers before the board of fire and police commissioners asking for suspensions, demotions and firings.

IN THE PAST year, the Haeger has brought charges against the following department personnel:

- Officer Adrian Russell. Last August, the board of fire and police commissioners gave Russell a 10-day suspension for missing his seventh court date since 1984. The missed court appearance cost Russell \$1,300 in salary and earned him his fifth suspension in nine years on the force.

- Officer Richard Imber. Police and fire commissioners fired Imber April 7 after finding him guilty of gambling and battery. The board found him guilty of breaking department rules that call for officers to obey and to enforce village, state and federal laws.

- Officer Michael Rompala. In June, Rompala and Haeger agreed to two concurrent five-day suspensions for the officer. He had been charged with breaking department rules regulating car chases.

- SGT. MICHAEL Staufenbiel. Haeger has charged that Staufenbiel broke department rules when he allegedly turned the village flag upside down following the Imber hearing. The chief is asking that the board of fire and police commissioners demote Staufenbiel. A July 20 hearing has been scheduled.

Haeger has also announced that the department will be conducting a series of supplementary classes for officers regarding police ethics, department rules and regulations and department disciplinary procedures.

With the approval of the commanders' positions, the 1989-90 police department budget was altered to allow for the \$19,400 in salary and fringe benefits for the two months they could be employed.

Municipal panel chief steps down after 10 years

By Juliann R. Anderson
Staff Writer

COUNTRYSIDE 7-14-89
Northwest Municipal Conference Executive Director William G. Grams' resignation last week marks the end of an era in the Northwest suburbs, local officials observed.

Grams, who has held the top position at the NWMC for the past decade, will leave the conference Aug. 15 to become head of the Homebuilders Association of Greater Chicago, an organization of about 1,400 developers and property managers.

The NWMC, a group of 33 area municipalities, including Barrington, Buffalo Grove, Inverness, Palatine and Wheeling, that works to solve common problems, will form a committee to search for Grams' replacement.

The director will not be an easy person to replace, according to local municipal officials.

"BILL GRAMS took the Northwest Municipal Conference and changed it from an organization looking for a role and helped it find its mission," said Don Klein, executive director of the Barrington Area Council of Governments. "He knows how municipal governments operate and how the legislative process works. He's someone who knows how to pull everyone and everything together and make progress."

Grams was a catalyst for the conference, according to Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz, a former conference president. "Bill helped make all of us mayors and presidents become more aware of the importance of working together and looking for joint solutions to common problems that effect all our communities."

NWMC members benefit from programs such as the joint testing of police candidates and large purchases of municipal equipment, like police vehicles, Schultz said.

Grams also was instrumental in the establishment of the Northwest Municipal Cable Council and the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County.

Dealing with such a diverse groups is what made his job interesting, Grams said Monday.

"THE DIVERSITY of its members forces the conference to be creative in solving its problems. You have to be innovative and not just take the most common course of action but to come up with solutions that work for everyone," Grams said.

Since first joining the NWMC in 1977, Grams said he always tried to get a consensus from members of what the best solutions were to common problems.

"I was fortunate that the municipal presidents and mayors on the conference's board have a strong commitment to working together," he said.

In looking for his replacement, Grams will urge the search committee to take a close look the conference's staff. He said Conference Assistant Director Rita Athas is well-qualified to take over his position. Athas has already been named acting director until a permanent executive director is found.

"RITA IS probably the one person who knows more about how the conference operates than I do," Grams said. Athas is also well-versed in working with state legislators, he said.

Sump pump inspections leave village all wet

By Mike Wilkinson 7-14-89
Staff Writer

COUNTRYSIDE
Uncooperative Wheeling residents could cost the village an additional \$70,000 as officials try to locate illegal hookups to the village sanitary sewer system.

After already allocating \$150,000 for the inspections earlier this year, trustees agreed Monday to spend the additional funds to find more illegal connections that are causing the village to violate regulations set by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC).

A recent engineering study has found that the village now far exceeds the limits set by the MWRDGC. The village must prove by Sept. 1 that it can solve the problem if it locates enough homes with problem hookups.

But with a number of homeowners not allowing inspectors to check their sump pump connections, Director of Operations and Maintenance Bob Gray said the village must immediately inspect an additional 1,750 homes to generate enough data to prove they can meet MWRDGC guidelines.

AFTER SPENDING \$4.8 million on improvements to sewers and manholes in trying to limit storm water infiltration, the village thought it had met MWRDGC guidelines. But after the construction projects were finished, the village discovered it was still nearly 50 percent over the limit.

"We thought we were in line," Gray said. "Obviously, we were not."

And since most of the private sector improvements had been made, the village concluded the remaining problems lay in the basements and down spouts that are illegally hooked to the sanitary sewer system, prompting the current studies.

As an outcome of the 1973 Clean Water Act, the MWRDGC ordered its tributary municipalities to limit sewer flows to 150 gallons per capita per day. The federal government said it would not fund sewage plant expansion when unnecessary storm water was infiltrating the treatment plants.

STORM WATER ENTERING the system through leaks, cracks and illegal hookups has overburdened many sanitary sewer systems, making it difficult and more costly to process the sewage.

Based on initial studies, Gray said the blame was quickly placed on the illegal hookups of sump pumps and down spouts to the sanitary sewer system.

Once RJN Environmental Associates, Inc. completes its inspections and identifies what buildings are contributing to the problem, Gray said the firm hired by the village will tell the MWRDGC how changes by property owners will alleviate the problems.

"Anything that we can remove from the system that's economical to remove, we're going to do to the system," Gray said.

GRAY SAID INDIVIDUAL building owners will have to pay for their own repairs to sump pumps and down spouts to make sure they drain into ditches and yards and not sanitary sewers.

RJN inspectors have already inspected 1,012 buildings. Of the 348 already analyzed, Gray said 166 had some potential for illegal storm water inflow, ranging from down spouts running into the ground to combined sanitary/storm

(Continued on next page)

Sump pump —

(Continued from previous page)

water sump pumps.

The additional inspections were requested after another 878 building owners rejected requests for inspections. The extra 1,750 inspections will likely generate the necessary figures to locate the water problems, Gray said. RJN will receive \$40 for each inspection for a total of \$70,000. But if enough data is generated without doing all of the 1,750 inspections, Gray said the money won't be spent.

But while more inspections are being requested, Gray said all homes already contacted will be inspected in the future. More letters will be sent and, if necessary, legal action will be taken to get into homes, Gray said.

ON MONDAY, VILLAGE trustees said they would back a move to force inspections. Once problems are detailed, Village Manager Craig Anderson said village ordinances call for a fine of up to \$500 a day for not repair the connection.

Although many homeowners will resist changing illegal connections, Gray said they can either pay now or later — as sewage treatment costs go up.

"If they eliminate all that water from going to the treatment plant, they'll reduce that cost," Gray said. "In the long run, if you remove the clear water sources, the treatment costs should stop escalating."

Board hopes to make clear connection on 911 emergency dispatch referendum

COUNTRYSIDE 7-14-89
Wheeling voters will go to the polls Nov. 7 to decide whether to tax themselves for a new emergency dispatch system that law enforcement officials and village trustees strongly support.

After taking a pass during the April elections to avoid a crowded ballot, village trustees approved placing the issue before voters this fall. Similar proposals won wide-spread support in neighboring communities.

If approved, money from the phone surcharge would create an "enhanced" 911 system where residents could dial 9-1-1 in emergencies. Automatically, police dispatch equipment would identify the phone number and address of the call, even if the caller hung up.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger and Fire Chief Bernhardt Koeppen have both supported the new system, which would

be in place between 18 and 24 months after successful passage of the referendum.

UNDER THE PROPOSAL, the village would assess a 75-cent monthly surcharge for each phone number in the village. The money would go toward the start-up costs of the project. After on-line, the surcharge rate could be lowered to meet only operation costs.

"I think it's a terrific enhancement," Village President Sheila Schultz said. "Because in times of emergency, people can be incoherent or have difficulty giving information." The 911 system would still make sure that the caller is contacted by police.

Schultz said she is confident village voters will approve the measure. In April, Buffalo Grove voters approved the surcharge by an overwhelming 5,212 to 618 margin.

Vandals damage eight municipal cars in lot behind Wheeling Village Hall

COUNTRYSIDE 7-14-89
Vandals employing a tire iron are being blamed for smashing the windshields of eight municipal cars that were damaged last week during Familyfest as they sat behind the Village Hall.

According to police reports, the cars — several of them police cars — were damaged after vandals entered the police impound lot and a fenced parking area behind the operations and maintenance building and broke the windshields. The words "Family Fest" were scrawled in the dust of one car, police

reports state.
Operations and Maintenance Director Bob Gray said the vehicles had been put in the lots to protect them and to create additional space in the rest of the municipal parking lot for Familyfest goers.

But police reports said the lock on the lot behind the operations and maintenance building was missing. Gray said it had been there when village personnel checked June 30 as Familyfest was beginning.

Fizzled fireworks spark flap among Wheeling officials

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Fireworks of the vocal kind were lit last week as Wheeling Park District board members tried to deflect criticism over the "disappointing" Fourth of July fireworks.

As park board members complained about the fireworks, or rather the lack of them, they said problems with the explosives were unfairly directed at the park district.

"They ordered at the last minute and that's why they got garbage," park board member Don Lark said as he commented on the fireworks arranged by the Fourth of July Festival committee. Confusion at the fireworks, he said, caused some residents to blame the park district. "That's totally the Fourth of July committee's blame and it should all go back on them."

Lark, board member Ed Klocke and even organizer Mike Lynch agreed the fireworks didn't match the previous year's pizzazz. "They absolutely stunk. They were a disaster," Klocke said.

But Lynch said the committee only had \$5,000 to work with, far below the \$8,000 spent in 1988. Hopefully, the fireworks will be better next year, Lynch said. But he dismissed the complaints by the park board. "In my opinion, it was overreacting on the part of the park board," Lynch said.

What disturbed several park board members was the situation somehow got turned around on them when the district only agrees to allow the fireworks to take place in the back of Heritage Park. Park board president Tom Webber said he denied a request for help to dig a hole for the fireworks because the park district hadn't been told help was needed.

Board member Greg Klatecki said the entire episode was the result of poor communication between the fireworks committee, Familyfest organizers, the village and the park district.

Next year, Klatecki said the park district must know what's involved in getting the fireworks off without incident. But Klocke said, and Lynch confirmed, the fireworks committee had sent the park district a letter asking them for use of a reviewing stand for the parade and for use of Heritage Park.

Klocke said park district staff, including Director Karop Bavougian, should have been more prepared for the fireworks.

Next year, Klatecki said the park district should contact the other interested parties before the fireworks display to determine how the park district can help.

As for additional financial help to ensure a bigger aerial display in 1990, Village President Sheila Schultz said the village will consider helping with direct funding for the fireworks. The village now allows residents to make donations when they send in their water bills.

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheaton engineering company will inspect more than 2,600 Wheeling houses to determine why Wheeling's sanitary sewers are overloaded.

The company, RJN Environmental Associates, Inc., has been inspecting village manholes, sewers and buildings since February to identify where storm and ground water is leaking into the village's sanitary sewers.

Wheeling is exceeding the sewage flow standards set by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago by 72 gallons per capita per day.

When water other than domestic

waste overloads sanitary sewers, it causes the water treatment plant to work harder, placing additional pressure on the system. That results in sewer back-ups and additional costs for upgrading the sanitary treatment plant.

Village trustees had budgeted \$150,000 to inspect as many as 2,000 buildings, including houses and businesses. They have agreed to spend an additional \$70,000 to inspect 1,750 more buildings for violations.

Engineers first inspected village manholes for leaks and 1,012 buildings on the east side of town for illegal hook-ups. The inspectors found that 348 buildings have some type of illegal connection to the sanitary sewers and some sec-

tions of town have higher flows of sewage to the sewers.

A common illegal hook-up occurs when residents, knowingly or not, run their sump pumps directly to sanitary sewers rather than leave them outside the house to allow storm water to run off.

Although engineers still have 878 buildings left to inspect, they will begin the second phase of the project, which includes inspections in sections of town where high flows of sewage were found. Those sections include 1,750 houses in the Dunhurst, Poplar Grove and Holly-wood Ridge subdivisions.

Of the 1,012 households already inspected, six residents refused to allow engineers inside their homes.

Lack of funding may put brakes on commuter plan

By KRIS KOPP
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Lack of available funds may be holding up plans to implement commuter service along the Wisconsin Central Rwy., but area municipalities are moving along with plans to build depots.

Buffalo Grove transportation officials — who are at the forefront of the fight for the commuter railway — recently toured proposed station sites in communities that would benefit from the long-awaited railroad service.

"The sites are starting to fall in place," Earl Sabes, chairman of the Buffalo Grove Transportation Commission, said. "I think the villages have places and sites where they want to put the stations along the line."

Plans to bring commuter service to the old Soo Line tracks have been in the works for more than 10 years.

Officials from Metra, the commuter rail arm of the Regional Transportation Authority, estimate the project would cost about \$42 million. The cost would include the purchase of locomotives and prepara-

tion of the rail for commuter service.

More than likely, local municipalities would be asked to pay for land acquisition and construction of their own train stations.

If approved, the commuter service on the Wisconsin Central Rwy. would run from Mundelein south to Des Plaines, making stops in Vernon Hills, Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

Officials from those villages have agreed to pinpoint possible depot sites in their towns so that land would be available should the project proceed.

In Buffalo Grove, trustees have had land set aside in the Corporate Grove, on the east side of town, for several years.

Officials from Pace, one of three operating arms of the Regional Transportation Authority, have purchased that land. They plan to build a park-and-ride bus station, which the village would expand into a train depot if the commuter service was implemented.

The property is located along Busch Parkway at Commerce Court.

Panel to discuss charges against sergeant

Wheeling fire and police commissioners will hold a hearing this week for a Wheeling police sergeant accused of showing disrespect to the village.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger is seeking to demote Sgt. Michael J. Staufenbiel, an 18-year department veteran.

Haeger charges that Staufenbiel turned the village flag upside down and left the flag portion on the floor of the council room chambers in protest of the firing of a fellow police

officer. Herald 7-16-89
The charges against Staufenbiel stem from a village fire and police commission hearing on April 6 at which Staufenbiel was a character witness for police officer Richard R. Imber, who later was fired for gambling.

Following the hearing, Staufenbiel, who was off-duty but wearing his police uniform, walked up to the village flag and upended it, balancing the pole against the back wall, Haeger charges.

Several police officers and a supervising officer were in the council room at the time of the incident, Haeger said.

The action "brought the department into disrepute and reflected discredit upon (Staufenbiel)... and will impair his efficiency as an officer and a supervisor," the charges state.

Staufenbiel said that prior to Haeger filing the formal charges, the police chief suggested Staufenbiel resign to save himself public

The top meeting

Who: Wheeling Fire and Police Commission

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

When: 7 p.m. Thursday

embarrassment. But Staufenbiel refused and will defend himself without an attorney before the commission.

Wheeling to get first full-service community

By Brenda Warner Rotzoll

Wheeling will be the site of the first of 44 full-service retirement developments to be built in the United States, Canada and Mexico by Leisure Technology and a Japanese steel company.

Another project is slated for Homewood in the south suburbs.

The development in northwest suburban Wheeling will have 200 rental apartments in a six-story building, and an attached one-story nursing home with 50 beds, said Jerry Falcon, senior vice president of Leisure Technology.

Groundbreaking is planned for fall, with first occupancy expected in spring of 1991.

The Homewood project, with groundbreaking slated next year, will have 240 units for congregate living and will not have a nursing home, Falcon said. It will be on South Halsted Street, a quarter-mile south of Interstate 80.

Leisure Technology, now in its 31st year, is the largest nationwide builder of housing developments for active adults. It undertook a 15-year joint venture in June with Nisshin International Finance, a wholly owned subsidiary of Nisshin Steel Co., one of Japan's largest steelmakers.

"If all 44 communities are developed as planned, the estimated total development cost is projected to exceed \$1 billion," said Michael L. Tenzer, chairman and chief executive officer of Leisure Technology.

Falcon said Leisure Technology felt there was more demand for straight rental of retirement apartments, rather than requiring purchase of an endowment.

The Wheeling project will be on eight acres of land that includes two ponds, covering about 3 1/2 acres. Between the apartment building and nursing home will be a one-story, 24,000-square-foot social and recreational center.

Falcon said past experience indicates about 70 percent of occupants will be women, 15 percent will be couples, and most people entering will be 75 or older.

There will be studio apartments with about 450 square feet of space, including a walk-in closet, and one-bedroom units with about 600 square feet of space. Monthly rents will be \$1,200 for a studio or \$1,600 for a one-bedroom unit, including two meals a day for one person. For a second person, there is an additional \$400 service charge per month.

The fee includes weekly housekeeping and linen service, and social and recreational programs including bus service to shopping and cultural events.

The project will be off First Street, three blocks north of Dundee Road and one block west of Milwaukee Avenue.

For information, call 272-7580.

When the land was sold, the Wheeling fire department and the Prospect Heights fire district differed on who should cover the area for the Wheeling fire district.

"We are paying twice on the properties, but we weren't double-taxing them," the consultant said.

The Wheeling Township fire district, which does not have men or equipment, contracts with local fire departments for service. While two-thirds of the district is in Prospect Heights, the lion's share is protected by the village of Wheeling.

The Shires subdivision, which is southeast of the church, had been off the tax rolls up until the land was sold to a developer by Northwest Suburban High School District 214. School districts are exempt from paying property taxes.

Providing fire and ambulance service to the Lake Claire Estates and Shires subdivisions is the responsibility of the Wheeling fire district. The fire district board voted in April to include the subdivisions in the contract it has with the Wheeling Fire Department.

The Prospect Heights fire district had been serving Lake Claire Estates, which is directly south of St. Alphonsus Church, because it was thought the fire district was within its boundaries.

In checking their boundaries with the Cook County Clerk's office, Wheeling fire district officials discovered the area is actually within their jurisdiction. Both fire departments continued to cover the area until the Wheeling fire district fully resolved the matter with the county and then settled on one department.

"It was not until we started checking the map that we discovered the discrepancy," said Dave Willise, a consultant for the Wheeling fire district.

The one-time payment resolves a matter that pitted the Prospect Heights fire district against the village of Wheeling.

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WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES 7-19-89 Parking lot contract approved

Wheeling trustees have approved a contract for a Wauconda excavator to construct a new parking lot at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

The lowest of two bidders was Berger Excavating Contractors Inc. of Wauconda, which quoted \$308,179 for the project. The other bidder, Palumbo Bros. Inc., of Hillside, quoted \$315,096.

Both contractor quotes exceeded the airport engineer's estimate of \$295,025 for the work. But both companies stayed below the estimate by more than 10 percent, which was a requirement of the airport commission.

The project is expected to cost about \$400,000, including engineering expenses included.

Located north of the airport manager's offices at Hangar No. 1, the new lot would provide parking for airport administrators and for cars that were displaced when a security fence was installed around the airport this past spring. The lot also would be used by pilots who no longer drive their cars out to the airfield and park them near airplane storage spaces.

The lot, which would include 127 parking spaces, would be lighted, fenced, landscaped and lined with sidewalks.

Aldermen in Prospect Heights, which jointly owns the airport with Wheeling, also have approved the contract.

Tahoe Shopping Center will be home to a new ice cream store now that trustees have given unanimous approval to the proposal.

Arthur and Sushil Gulati of Wheeling plan to open the ice cream shop at 1788 W. Hintz Road. Besides ice cream, the

owners plan to sell donuts, candy, soft drinks and coffee at the store, which now is used as a bookstore.

The maximum number of customers per hour is estimated at 30, with seating inside the shop limited to 12.

There will be four parking spaces available at the store.

Trustees approve equipment purchase

Village trustees have approved a nearly \$3,000 equipment purchase which will aid the fire department and the operations and maintenance department.

The maintenance department will have a new base radio to replace a 10-year-old unreliable unit. The radio is used for day-to-day communication between employees for operations and maintenance, the fire department and sometimes the police department.

Protective clothing bid approved

Trustees have approved the only bid they received for new protective clothing for village firefighters.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said it is not unusual to receive only one bid because the village is requesting that the clothing be fitted for employees.

The 17 complete fire protective clothing ensembles are expected to cost \$9,622 from Great Lakes Fire & Safety Equipment in Barrington.

Ice cream store to join center

Trustees have approved the only bid they received for new protective clothing for village firefighters.

Church seeks site near AMVETS

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Members of a Des Plaines Presbyterian Church want to build a church next to the Wheeling AMVETS Hall, which serves liquor.

Village codes prohibit a liquor establishment from locating within 100 feet of a church, school, hospital, retirement home, public park or military station.

However, Thomas E. McClellan, an attorney representing members

of the Calvary Presbyterian Church in Des Plaines, said the owners do not mind the AMVETS Hall being located directly east of the proposed church.

The church would be constructed on 3.7 acres south on McHenry Road, just west of Elmhurst Road. A small house on the land would be demolished for the project, Wheeling Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said.

McClellan said members of the church, located at 1575 S. Wolf Road

in Des Plaines, have outgrown the building there. Many of the 200 families that belong to the Presbyterian church come from the Buffalo Grove/Wheeling area and new members also are coming from the area, McClellan added.

Although village trustees unanimously approved the proposal, they were concerned about future uses for both the AMVETS and the church property.

If the AMVETS sells its property and the new owners want to continue



selling liquor in the building, they must apply to the village for a liquor license.

Rail service a possibility for Wheeling

7-19-89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling may build a depot for commuter service along the Wisconsin Central Railway on seven acres of park district property near the village hall.

The undeveloped piece of land on the northwest corner of Heritage Park may be used as a parking area for about 1,000 cars, said Robert M. Gerhold, Wheeling's representative for the North Suburban Mass Transit District.

A rail station may be built directly east of the proposed parking lot, located just south of Wicks Furniture store on Dundee Road and east of Wheeling Road.

Plans to bring commuter ser-

vice to the Wisconsin Central Railway — formerly known as the Soo Line — have been in the works for the past 10 years. Officials from area municipalities are studying sites along the line that may be acceptable for rail stations.

Under a proposal by Metra, the suburban rail arm of the Regional Transportation Authority, commuter service on the freight line would run from Mundelein to Des Plaines.

There, it would link with the tracks of the Chicago & North Western transportation system and run to downtown Chicago. Commuter stops would be located in Vernon Hills, Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Prospect Heights.

"I think it is a perfect solution to

a situation we're all faced with — getting more commuters downtown," Wheeling Park District board President Thomas R. Webber said.

Park district and village officials are discussing details of the proposal, including who would profit from meters at the parking lot and who would own and maintain the land, Webber said.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said the village may consider building another east/west street from Wheeling Road to Boehmer Avenue between Dundee and Hintz roads to reduce traffic on Wheeling Road.

In addition, two other sites in that area be used for future alternate parking lots.

Trustees deliver another refusal to pizzeria

7/18/89
 BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday refused to listen to developers' second request to open a carry-out pizza restaurant in a developing shopping center at the corner of a traffic-congested village intersection.

Trustees on June 5 rejected in a 4-1 vote plans for Little Caesar's Pizza to open at 12 W. Dundee Road in the Center Plaza Shopping Center.

Village officials said the center could not provide adequate parking for customers during peak business hours and, traffic in the busy intersection at Dundee and Wolf roads would increase with

the restaurant.

Michael Pollak, an attorney representing Little Caesar's, requested Monday that trustees suspend village rules that require a request for reconsideration of a board decision to be made no later than the next board meeting. Because Little Caesar's representatives did not make the request at the June 19 board meeting, reconsideration requires approval by at least four trustees.

Trustees Judy Abruscato, Joseph W. Ratajczak and James R. Whittington voted for further discussion of the proposal while trustees Anthony Altieri, Jr., Elizabeth L. Hartman and William A. Rogers rejected the request.

"They twice failed to have an at-



Daily Herald Map

torney, and when we had the next meeting, they didn't come back," Hartman said.

Police force beefed up on weekends

7-20-89
 BY TODD NATENBERG
 and TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
 Daily Herald Staff Writers

The addition of two new supervisors in the Wheeling Police Department is expected to improve police service on weekends.

Village trustees unanimously have approved the addition of two exempt rank police commanders to supervise the department on weekends because "the majority of the department activity occurs outside normal Monday through Friday business hours" Police Chief Michael F. Haeger stated in a memo to village

officials.

The exempt rank differs from a basic rank in that the village board oversees exempt rank commanders, whereas the police department oversees other ranks, Deputy Police Chief Gary O'Rourke said.

"When this transpires, it will give us a complete force on Saturdays and Sundays," Trustee Elizabeth Hartman said.

Although the rank was added to the department in 1983, the position had not been filled, O'Rourke said.

"The attitude at that time was if growth of the (fire and police) commission and department continued,

there would be a need for the position," O'Rourke said. "It was anticipated as a future need. The future is now."

Initially, one of the commanders will oversee the special operations and investigations units and the other commander will be assigned to manage the patrol units and oversee the day-to-day operations of the three patrol shifts, Haeger said. The commanders also will oversee at least two other supervisors, he added.

"The commander position is proposed as a first level management position between the deputy chiefs

and sergeants," Haeger added. "The commander will provide administrative staff support to the division while directly supervising the units of the division to which the commander is assigned."

Annual salary for the commanders is set at \$45,079, in between a sergeant's maximum annual salary of \$43,567 and a deputy chief's of \$52,614 a year.

Applications for the jobs will be accepted until September with interviews starting in December. The new commanders will start working for the department by March 1, 1990.

Funds delayed until airport lands decision

7-20-89
 BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners must determine where to relocate the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads before the airport can receive the \$4.5 million the Federal Aviation Administration has allocated for the project.

As a block grant recipient, Palwaukee Airport may receive \$4.5 million from the FAA and \$250,000 from the Illinois Department of Transportation as part of the Federal Airport Improvement Program.

The airport also would contribute \$250,000 as part of the program to acquire land and construct bridges for the road relocation.

Hintz and Wolf roads must be moved to create a "clear zone" at the north end of the main runway, which ends too close to the intersection.

Under FAA regulations, airplanes must clear the roads by at least 15 feet. Planes now clear it by less than 10 feet.

For years, Prospect Heights and Wheeling officials have been at odds over where the intersection should be moved to.

Under some of the proposed plans, Wheeling stands to lose prime commercial property that would be acquired by the airport for the realignment of the roads.

However, now airport officials

are under pressure by the FAA and IDOT to reach a decision or chance losing future funding. According to a schedule for the improvements, officials must submit by Aug. 18 a detailed description and cost estimates for the construction of bridges for the relocation.

"It would be a miracle if we meet this schedule," airport commission Chairman Carey L. Chickerno said.

He added that IDOT may grant extensions for the projects if the commission appears to be making progress.

Also under the plan, appraisals for the land acquisition must be made by Aug. 29 in order to purchase the land by Jan. 30, 1990.

Wheeling welcomes subdivision

7-20-89
 BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling village officials are pleased with a developer's proposal to build two-story houses in a new subdivision along Buffalo Grove Road.

The subdivision, called Ashford Heights, would be built on nearly three acres east of Buffalo Grove Road and north of Tahoe Village townhouse complex. The other three sides of the property are surrounded by houses in Buffalo Grove.

Developer Raymond Franczak, president of R. Franczak & Associates in Des Plaines, plans to build 10 two-story Colonial and Victorian houses on the property.

The houses, which will vary in size from 21,000 square feet to 26,000 square feet around a cul-de-sac, will cost between \$219,000 and \$259,000, Franczak said.

"It's nice to have that type of residential (housing) going in that area," Village President Sheila H. Schultz



Daily Herald Map

said. "We look forward to having it."

Village trustees recently unanimously approved the request to re-zone the property for houses.

Franczak said he plans to begin construction on the project in October. Residents may move in by next spring, he added.

Franczak's company has been building houses in the Chicago area for more than 22 years. The company will complete a 96-unit condominium complex, called the River Walk, on River Road in Des Plaines, this month.

The company also is building an 80-unit condominium complex, called Jefferson Square, behind the Des Plaines City Hall. That project should be finished Dec. 1.

Trustees consider adding plastics to recycling program in Wheeling

7-20-89
 After just more than two months in a village-wide recycling program, Wheeling officials are considering adding plastic to the glass, paper and aluminum now being picked up at village curbs.

Trustee Joseph Ratajczak made the suggestion Monday night after reading about similar programs offered by Waste Management, Inc., the company that handles both the normal scavenger pick-up and the recycling pick up in the village.

But Ratajczak said the additional plastic would also increase the monthly cost to homeowners by 50 cents, bringing the total to \$1.50. Trustees directed the village staff to study the proposal and bring more information back to the board.

The village began a recycling

program May 1. Each week, workers from Wheeling/Bufalo Grove Disposal, a subsidiary of Waste Management, pick up glass, aluminum and newsprint left by residents on the curb in plastic bins. More than 4,300 single-family homes and multi-family housing units are now serviced.

Residents now pay \$1 extra a month for the recycling to cover costs borne by the disposal company. After those costs are covered, proceeds from the resale of recycled materials go into the village's general fund.

According to a Waste Management report, 58 percent of the homes serviced set out recyclables in the first month of the program. After paying for labor, maintenance and other costs, the village was given a check for \$1,610.

Tax hike revenues to bring local benefits

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

7-20-89
Countyside
As the state income tax hike starts to chip away at your paycheck and as the price of driving to work increases, Wheeling residents will see some of that money reappear locally in the form of traffic signals and lower property taxes.

With the village now knowing how much revenue it will receive as part of the tax hikes approved by the General Assembly, the process of finding places to spend that money begins.

Trustee Bill Rogers said the money could be used to bolster depleted village cash reserves or for paying off past debts. Village President Sheila Schultz said the village may decide to spend the money on traffic signalization or on additional funding for social service agencies.

But with a built-in "sunset" to the funds, village trustees and officials are wary to proscribe bold new programs, instead opting for conservative uses to the unexpected money.

SCHULTZ SAID TRUSTEES and residents should not consider the money a "windfall" that will allow the village to do "outrageous things." The additional money, Schultz said, comes years after the state and federal governments decided to heap additional financial responsibilities on municipalities.

"This is filling a void, not frosting on the cake," Schultz said.

For Wheeling, the income tax increase will more than double the annual state income tax allocation. Trustees approved a budget that anticipated \$680,000 in state income tax

dollars, Finance Director Bob Fialkowski said. Passage of the income tax hike June 30 meant the village would receive an additional \$765,000 the first year and \$822,000 the second year, Fialkowski said.

As a by-product of the six-cent raise per gallon in gas taxes, the village would receive \$104,000 to go with the \$460,000 the village anticipates. Combined, the additional monies add considerable wallop to village coffers.

FOR TRUSTEES, SPENDING the additional money will be part of a continuing re-evaluation of the existing budget, adopted months before Democrats and a handful of Republicans pushed passage of the various tax hikes in the General Assembly.

As they go through that process, trustees will always be aware of the two-year preliminary limit to the income tax increase. Rogers said that should cause the village board to consider conservative fiscal measures.

"We shouldn't go out and buy something that doesn't have a real priority ... we ought to look at maybe paying off an existing debt," Rogers said. Or, "I think we ought to look at building up our reserves again," Rogers said.

Because those reserves fell below levels the village considered healthy, Wheeling residents saw an increase in their municipal property taxes. Using that money to build reserves could lower the amount needed through property taxes, Rogers said.

OTHER PROPOSALS COULD include setting aside money for land

acquisition for the diversionary channel that is expected to relieve flooding along the Wheeling Drainage Ditch.

In first announcing how the village might spend the additional dollars while the tax proposal was still before the General Assembly, Schultz said the village would consider traffic signalization and increased spending on social services.

The village has contracted for an engineering firm to study several intersections throughout the village to suggest traffic signals that could alleviate congestion on village roads. Social service agencies have also increased their requests of the village during annual proposals.

Unlike the village, local schools aren't expected to benefit as much from the income tax increase, although it was adopted to fund both education and municipalities.

COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED District 21 Supt. Lloyd "Bud" DesCarpentrie said his district was earlier told it would receive between \$100,000 and \$200,000 in additional revenue from the state. Larger amounts will be funneled off to areas of the state where property assessments are lower than in the northwest suburbs.

Whereas the district once received \$4.6 million in general state aid, that figure has fallen to \$1.1 to \$1.2 million a year, DesCarpentrie said.

"We're not going to come anywhere close to the days when the state supplied significant dollars," DesCarpentrie said. "(We'll) certainly spend it wisely, but it won't change our budgeting process."

Officer's hearing won't be slated until after Aug. 1

A meeting of the Wheeling Board of Fire and Police Commissioners scheduled to hear charges tonight (Thursday) against Sgt. Michael Staufenbiel has been canceled. A new meeting date won't be set until Aug. 1, said Dave Kowal, assistant to the village manager.

Because Police Chief Michael F. Haeger is recovering from recent back surgery, he would be unable to attend the meeting, Kowal said.

In his charges, Haeger is recommending Staufenbiel be demoted to patrol officer.

Haeger has charged that Staufenbiel upended the village flag following an April 6 meeting that resulted in officer Richard Imber's firing. The chief contends Staufenbiel's action brought the department "into disrepute and reflected discredit upon Sergeant Staufenbiel as a member of the department and will impair his efficiency as an officer and a supervisor."

At a June 19 hearing, Staufenbiel said he would defend himself in the case, only questioning the motives of those police officers who testify against him.

Imber was fired after the board found him guilty of two counts of gambling and one count of battery stemming from three separate incidents at Vivian Lee's restaurant on Milwaukee Avenue dating to May, 1988.

EDITORIALS

Countyside Remember the family 7-20-89

As Wheeling officials once again prepare to sit down with St. Joseph the Worker parish officials to conduct the annual post-Familyfest review, it is time to take a sobering look at several issues to improve the festival and to assure that it better reflects its namesake.

What started off as a parish celebration back in 1982 has turned into regional bash that has lost some of its original charm while admittedly providing the Village of Wheeling and its businesses and service groups with a valuable opportunity to showcase their wares and talents.

The growth of the festival itself is not the problem, however. More precisely, problems with the festival seem to center around three primary areas, which if they continue to go unchecked could threaten the family atmosphere of this worthwhile fair.

First and foremost among the topics that should be covered is the liquor sales policy, or more specifically, the lack of one.

While the security staff by all accounts apparently does an adequate job of checking identification of those who purchase beer, the ongoing policy of allowing beer to be consumed throughout the festival grounds should be changed. Liquor sales should be confined to a specific area to ensure that liquor doesn't end up in the hands of minors and to allow liquor servers to get a better handle on those who may surpass their limit.

Second, the weekend hours of the festival need to be re-examined. With the Saturday night Bachman-Turner Overdrive concert drawing more than 15,000 people and running past midnight, one has to wonder just how many "families" were around to hear the final chords and how many families in the immediate area were able to sleep at that hour.

Curtailling the hours of operation might cost the festival a number of night owl rock-and-rollers, but it might also bring in more families who will spend money and time getting a flavor of the community.

Last but not least, an evaluation of the main stage talent is in order. While the festival has successfully drawn top-name acts from a wide spectrum of the entertainment world, these acts are drawing huge crowds that require the village and the parish to take extraordinary traffic and crowd control measures.

In short, all parties with a stake in this wildly successful event need to decide if bigger necessarily translates to better for the families and taxpayers of Wheeling.

One plan, two rejections for Little Caesar's proposal

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

7-20-89
Countyside
For the second time in little more than a month, Wheeling trustees shot down a request to put a carry-out pizza store in a new shopping mall at the northeast corner of Wolf and Dundee roads.

Trustees Monday decided not to reconsider their June 5 denial of a Little Caesar's Restaurant in the new Center Plaza shopping center.

In June, the board voted against allowing the restaurant in the shopping center, claiming it would generate too much traffic and would exacerbate competition with a number of pizza restaurants in the area.

Michael Pollak, the restaurant's attorney, said Monday his client would decide what direction to take, whether it be legal action against the village or consideration of other sites within Wheeling.

"I THINK that's up to us to decide at this point," Pollak said. "Little Caesar's will be back looking for places on the North Shore, including Wheeling."

Following the June defeat, Pollak asked Monday for the board to reopen the case to allow Little Caesar's to provide more evidence in favor of placing the restaurant in the shopping center. Pollak asked that the matter either be sent back to the plan

commission, which recommended the restaurant be approved, or that another hearing be held before trustees.

Pollak said questions regarding traffic, parking and competition were not fully answered at the June 5 meeting.

But trustees defeated a motion 3-3 to suspend village rules in order to begin the parliamentary process necessary to reopen the case. The measure needed to secure a two-thirds majority of the board.

TRUSTEES JAMES Whittington, Joseph Ratajczak and Judy Abruscato voted in favor of suspending the rules. Trustees Elizabeth Hartman, Tony Altieri and Bill Rogers voted against.

Altieri said the restaurant's owners were given two meetings to present their evidence and that they didn't have to wait until Monday to ask for reconsideration.

"Frankly, in my whole tenure on the board, I don't recall ever having to suspend the rules for anybody," Altieri said. "And they were certainly given ample opportunity. They were given a continuance; I don't know what else we could have done."

Whittington, the lone trustee to vote June 5 in favor of granting the restaurant a special use permit, said Monday he wanted to give Little Caesar's officials another chance to present their case.

Survey finds conflicting views on issues in BG, Wheeling

By Michael Ulreich
Staff Writer

Community leaders in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove and local citizens agree on the need for more public transportation in the villages, but they differ sharply in their rankings of other problems such as the shortage of quality day care and affordable housing.

Results of a "needs assessment" survey commissioned by the Wheeling/Buffalo Grove United Way reflect the disparity of views among political and religious leaders and residents, although United Way officials caution against reading too much into results of the unscientific survey.

The project was intended to give the agency a better understanding of the "needs" of the two communities.

"We wanted to make sure we weren't underestimating a need that the community felt strongly about and that we were keeping up with a rapidly growing community," said Wendy Rosenstock, chairperson of the United Way needs assessment committee.

THE COMMITTEE RANDOMLY selected 600 community residents out of a telephone book and sent them household surveys. The committee also sent surveys to what it calls, "key informants," including village managers, police chiefs, and clergy.

"Unfortunately," Rosenstock said, "many of them were not responsive."

From the 134 household surveys that were returned, the committee found that the top neighborhood issue seemed to be inadequate public transportation.

Following transportation in order of the number of residents who tabbed them a "major" concern were drugs, the shortage of affordable housing, lack of affordable medical care, crime, and the lack of affordable legal services.

THE COMMITTEE NOTED that only 35 percent of the respondents felt that transportation was a major problem. On the same subject, 11 percent of the respondents said they "didn't know" if transportation was a major problem. And although 31 percent of the respondents felt that drugs were a major problem in the community, 29.5 percent also answered that they didn't know if drugs were a major problem in their community.

One of the problems with the survey, Rosenstock said, was that the results of the key informants didn't match those of the household surveys.

It was also felt, Rosenstock said, that other possible problems in the community weren't covered by the survey because the household respondents tended to be those in the upper income levels. The area's low-income population, which includes the elderly and Hispanic residents, were not fully represented by the survey, Rosenstock said.

"We got very little information from our residents, which was kind of disappointing because they are the ones who can make use of this survey," Rosenstock said. "The United Way in each community funds those organizations and projects that specifically fit the needs of that community. The purpose of the needs assessment survey is to find out what the community itself sees as their needs. But we just ended up with a real lopsided sample that we felt wasn't realistic."

THE TOP CONCERN of area

officials, according to the survey, was child care, mentioned by 74 percent of the respondents as being one of the area's major problems. Following child care in the order of the number of respondents who labeled them as a "major" concern were domestic violence and neglect, substance abuse, delinquency prevention, basic material needs, mental health services, transportation, care for the mentally disabled, and care for the physically disabled.

The most serious "unmet" needs, according to the key informants, was substance abuse, followed by housing and child care.

The survey also asked village officials what they perceived as the primary barriers to obtaining services. The top barrier, the survey found, was service costs, followed by lack of available information, lack of child care, language barriers and the "perception" of excessive costs.

The two groups did have some major issues in common, according to the report, including drug and alcohol abuse, transportation and mental health.

"HOWEVER, SOME of the major concerns of the community leaders did not rank at all with those who responded to the household survey," the report said. "Child care has always been considered to be a major issue in our community, and accordingly was ranked number one by the key informants. This was not even in the top 10 from household respondents."

The report also noted that delinquency prevention was ranked high by community leaders but was not an issue among household respondents.

"It's possible that community leaders are able to see this global issue, while those in the middle of other problems that helps lead to delinquency can't see beyond immediate basic problems," the report said.

Rosenstock said United Way also thinks it needs more information on the area's growing senior citizen and Hispanic populations. She said the organization may ask the agencies it helps fund to help United Way get a "better handle" on the needs of the area's seniors and Hispanics.

"I THINK that a lot of the people in the community don't really understand what the United Way does," Rosenstock said. "Now we've got to get some kind of feel for the problems of the elderly and Hispanic populations. We know those people are out there, we just have no feel for them. What we're really trying to do is help fund those agencies that can help them."

Village officials expected to air concerns about fest

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Joe Mastro sold 18,000 slices of pizza, Skokie Valley Beverage delivered thousands of gallons of beer, more than 200,000 people showed up and St. Joseph the Worker Church again felt its purse strings get heavier after a successful Familyfest.

But just weeks after the final musical notes were sounded and the last snow cone was sold, residents and village officials are quietly calling for changes in the five-day festival.

Village officials and police are now comparing notes on the early July celebration and are expected soon to take their annual concerns and suggestions to the church, the sponsor of the event. Traffic, crowd control, noise, alcohol sales, ticket and food prices will be discussed as the village tries to find out if the family is getting lost in the 'fest.

"I guess what we need to do is look at it again," Trustee Bill Rogers said. "It's gotten so big. Maybe we need to make some refinements."

IN REQUESTING THE meeting at their July 10 board meeting, village trustees publicly said they were waiting to discuss the festival with village staff before listing specific concerns.

But privately, several village officials have questioned a number of aspects of the festival, which features carnival rides, food from area restaurants, youth entertainment and major music acts over five days.

Of primary concern to local officials is the size of the crowd that packed the

(Continued from page 5)

drained that night, the equivalent of 27,000 glasses of beer.

WHILE THE CONCERT was taking place, a group of youths were involved in a gang-related incident in which a Des Plaines man allegedly pulled a gun on a Prospect Heights youth. Timothy Hollins, 20, has been charged with aggravated assault in connection with that incident, Deputy Chief Gary O'Rourke said. Police also arrested other people for public drunkenness, O'Rourke said.

All told, police responded to 35 other incidents at the festival, O'Rourke said, ranging from assisting citizens with locked cars to making arrests for cannabis possession. Also, vandals smashed the windshields of eight municipal cars parked behind the Village Hall and the operations and maintenance garage.

O'Rourke said his department, like the village manager's office, is developing suggestions on handling the event.

"It's something we're looking into to perhaps make recommendations in the future," O'Rourke said.

THE CHURCH PAYS for some security costs at the event while other on-duty officers are added to control traffic surrounding the event, O'Rourke said. To complement Wheeling resources, the village also paid the Village of Buffalo Grove \$592 for additional traffic personnel for the festival.

In reassessing how the fest is handled, local officials are interested in evaluating the impact future festivals will have on the community.

Village officials said they want to ensure that the village does not get the



"I guess what we need to do is look at (Familyfest) again. It's gotten so big. Maybe we need to make some refinements."

**— William Rogers
Wheeling Trustee**

festival grounds behind the church on Saturday, July 1.

The Canadian-based rock band Bachman-Turner Overdrive provided the entertainment. Police estimate that more than 15,000 people attended the show that didn't conclude until after midnight. Several sources have said that more than 160 barrels of beer were

(Continued on page 19)

wrong type of publicity from the festival that brings the largest crowds into the village for any single event. Those officials say they will bring those concerns to church leaders when a meeting is held.

For the church, Familyfest is its largest fundraiser. Revenue from the event pays for 10 to 15 percent of budget needed to operate the church and the grammar school, the Rev. James O'Malley said. In five days, the festival generates more revenue than the annual take of the school's weekly bingo, O'Malley said.

"IT'S OUR principal fundraiser," O'Malley said. "We depend quite a bit on Familyfest."

But like many village officials, O'Malley said the church also had concerns regarding the crowd drawn by BTO. O'Malley said church officials did not know the band famous for "Takin' Care of Business" and "You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet" would draw an arena-sized crowd.

"It doesn't do us any good to have a massive crowd," O'Malley said. "Many in that crowd would violate the spirit of Familyfest; they don't do us any good."

But O'Malley said most of the crowd was well-behaved. As for the naysayers who complain that rock bands such as BTO don't cater to the family, O'Malley said other events, most in the daytime, provide entertainment for every age group.

ALTHOUGH HE SAID he hasn't been contacted, O'Malley said he would welcome a meeting with the village, which grants a liquor license for the event and provides parking and traffic help to the church.

TIF challenges won't stop plans for redevelopment

Regardless of challenges by property owners in the affected area and the Illinois Department of Revenue to Wheeling's redevelopment plans along Milwaukee Avenue, village officials say they will continue efforts to revitalize the business district.

Courtesy

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

7-20-89

Four years ago, Wheeling trustees looked at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road and decided to do something. A victim of run down buildings, vacant lots and unplanned, scattershot development, the area begged for change.

With a shortage of retail shopping facilities plaguing the village, and with Milwaukee Avenue a major thoroughfare rather than a sleepy two-lane cart path, trustees tried to take advantage of new state laws that allowed municipalities to become agents of change.

In 1985, trustees created a tax increment finance (TIF) district that would allow the village to buy and consolidate land in the district in order to attract retailers. Hundreds of municipalities in the state did the same.

For several years, all went well. Village help led to drastic changes in the former Wildwood apartments that had been a problem for police and the health department. And the village was slowly acquiring property northwest of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road as it readied a 130,000-square-foot shopping center that is labeled the centerpiece to the district.

BUT THE WHEELS started coming off last December when a Cook County Circuit Court judge ruled that the TIF district did not meet state standards and threw out condemnation cases against six property owners.

And in June, the village learned that the Illinois Department of Revenue was making a preliminary request that the village delete the shopping center area from the sales tax TIF boundaries because it did not meet

recently-developed criteria. Village officials agree that, if successful, the revenue department challenge could derail the district.

In the face of the challenges, village trustees have remained resolute. They are appealing Judge Alexander P. White's ruling and are confident they will convince the revenue department that the district, including the shopping center, meets the criteria in effect when the district was adopted in 1985.

"I think that area has to be redeveloped and I hope it can be done with cooperation," Trustee James Whittington said.

BUT IF THE actions by the state or the courts could overturn or drastically modify the TIF district, village officials say they would get behind other schemes to revive the area seen as the "front door" to the village.

"If we lost, we would look at the whole area again," Village President Sheila Schultz said. "Losing the area would change the response, but it would not change the need."

As owner to a number of parcels of land in the area slated for the shopping

development, the village would have to work in partnership with the other property owners to complete the project. Successful challenges would eliminate the village's ability to consolidate property through condemnation.

Schultz said that could lead to private-public cooperation to complete the project. "In terms of encouraging development, that can be done other ways also," she said. "We'd have to go back to the drawing board and see what kind of package we could come up with."

BUT WITHOUT THE powers of the TIF district behind it, the village would give up some of the control over the design it now has. After soliciting proposals from 80 developers, the village interviewed six before selecting Arlington Heights-based Vantage Companies to build the center.

Throughout the process, the village was able to help draw up the plans. Without the TIF district, those plans would still have to gain village approval. But they would no longer have the ability to control all the details, Village Planner

(Continued on page 14)

Wheeling revises ordinance, okays plans for church

Wheeling trustees altered the village liquor ordinances Monday and agreed to allow a Des Plaines-based church to begin construction of a church, school and gymnasium on land next to the AMVETS post on McHenry Road.

In granting site plan approval to the Calvary Presbyterian Church, trustees agreed to change village laws to allow the church to move next to a liquor license-holding establishment.

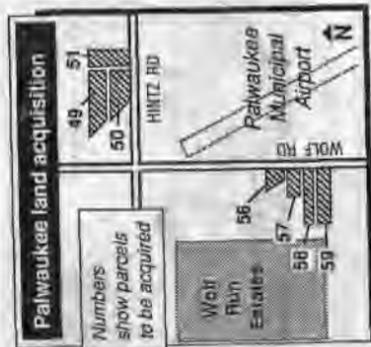
Because village ordinances prohibit the establishment of liquor-selling establishments near churches, schools, hospitals and other public-oriented facilities, trustees had to change the ordinance.

"The ordinance was created in order to keep a liquor store from moving next to a church and in this case the church wants to move next to the liquor store," attorney Thomas McClellan said.

After some question as to whether changing the liquor ordinance would prohibit AMVETS from selling their property to someone who would want to secure a liquor license, trustees approved the ordinance change. Only Trustee Bill Rogers voted against the change.

"I question whether we need to go through this ordinance change because a church has decided to locate there," Rogers said.

The church will be built on four acres to the east of AMVETS just north of the Buffalo Grove Creek.



Officials in Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which jointly own the airport, have agreed to spend \$200,000 on the project. The Illinois Department of Transportation will contribute \$200,000. Airport officials must follow a strict schedule for the relocation or risk losing the federal money.

FAA gives \$3.6 million for work at Palwaukee

7-22-89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Federal Aviation Administration has agreed to contribute \$3.6 million so Palwaukee Municipal Airport may acquire seven parcels of land to relocate the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads. Four of the parcels are on the west side of Wolf Road, south of Hintz Road. The other three parcels are on the north side of Hintz Road, east of Wolf Road. Wolf and Hintz roads must be moved to create a "clear zone" at the north end of the airport's main runway, which now ends too close to the intersection. Under FAA regulations, airplanes, which now clear the roads by less than 10 feet, must clear the intersection by at least 15 feet. Although most of the land proposed for the acquisition is vacant, there is a shed on one of the Wolf Road parcels and a house on one of the Hintz Road parcels, said Michael F. Zonsius, assistant airport manager of finance and administration. FAA officials say Palwaukee may spend \$5 million on the project — \$4 million to acquire the seven parcels and \$1 million to build the new intersection.

Bob Sullivan said.

"Is development there dead? No, there is still a possibility of something happening," Sullivan said. "But we'd be less in control."

Regardless of the TIF district, Sullivan said the lack of retail shops in Wheeling has not been relieved since 1985. With Milwaukee Avenue expected to be widened and to bring more traffic into Wheeling, the area is ripe for private or public development, Sullivan said.

"WHEELING IS so short of retail that there really is a niche there," Sullivan said. "We feel that's a high visibility corner (at Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue), it's the traditional center of Wheeling and we'd like to see something developed there."

In 1988, Wheeling businesses generated \$2.8 million in sales tax for the village. But of that, only \$3,160 was generated by clothing stores, far below the \$606,000 generated by automotive sales and gas stations. Village residents wanting to buy blue jeans or dresses often leave the village to work on their wardrobe.

Vantage, now operating as Vantage/Bradford Companies, proposed a 130,000-square-foot shopping center that would incorporate Sportmart on Dundee Road as one of the anchor stores with another "anchor" going at the north end. Clothing stores and a blend of retailers are expected to occupy the center if it ever gets built.

For Whittington and other trustees, they say it must be built in order for the village to capitalize on a good situation.

"SOMETHING NEEDS to be done along that corridor," Whittington said. "It's no longer the little two-lane road that winds its way up to the northern suburbs. It's a major economic corridor."

Wellness on Wheels visits Wheeling

7-22-89
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wellness on Wheels van will roll into Wheeling next month.

Free tests for high blood pressure, high cholesterol, anemia and diabetes will be offered when the van arrives in Wheeling. The van will be parked from 8:30 a.m. to noon Aug. 3 at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

The Wellness on Wheels program — a pet project of the village's

board of health — provides medical care for residents who otherwise would be unable to afford it.

Financially strapped residents who are at least 18 years old can receive medical attention provided by the Cook County Health Department.

The van first hit the streets of Wheeling in May. Bruce Portnoy, a member of the village board of health, said the first visit was successful. Of the 12 appointments that were scheduled for the day, 10 peo-

ple showed up, Portnoy said.

"We look forward to increased community support as this program becomes more and more familiar to those in need," Portnoy said.

Sixteen appointments will be available Aug. 3.

For no charge to those who qualify, the clinic offers complete physicals, lab tests, booster shots, vision and hearing screening, dental care and nutrition and weight programs. In addition, patients may receive shots for measles, tetanus, mumps and rubella.

Students who qualify and are entering high school or college may receive physicals through Wellness on Wheels.

Participants need only to verify their need of assistance or they may call 865-6125 to determine whether they are eligible for the free program.

Portnoy said the continuation of the program depends on the participation of residents. Typically, the van returns once a month if the demand exists, he added.

Airport pond fill delayed by cost

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioners are delaying filling an airport pond as a means to deter geese because they say the engineering costs for the project are too high.

Last month, commissioners agreed to fill the pond by the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant, which is located on airport property. The top of the pond would be covered with dirt and grass and the bottom would be filled with water and drain tiles underground.

Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said geese come up the Des Plaines River and follow the path of the Wheeling Drainage Ditch, which runs through the airport. The pond provides a landing spot for the geese, which fly dangerously close to aircraft. Filling the pond would be a preventative measure to reduce the number of geese on the airfield, Stewart said.

Steve Moulton, engineering consultant for the airport, offered to do the work for no more than \$6,900 and finish in less than 45 days.

"It seems like a rather stiff amount to do this," commission Chairman Carey L. Chickerno said.

Commissioners agreed with Chickerno's suggestion to instruct airport staff members to review the contract and determine whether some of the engineering expenses could be reduced. The staff members are expected to report their findings to the commission within the next month. Stewart said airport officials created another attraction for the geese when they installed landscaping around the airport.

"It's not necessary to fill in the pond to get rid of the geese," Stewart said.

Heritage Park bridge bids being taken by park district

BY DAN ANDERSON
Daily Herald Correspondent

Wheeling Park District officials are accepting bids for a new service bridge at Heritage Park.

The existing bridge protrudes from the creek that runs through the park, preventing normal water flow during floods. In addition, the concrete on the bottom of the bridge is deteriorating.

Wheeling village officials had requested the park district either repair the old bridge or build a new one downstream. Because repairing the bridge would require construction of a temporary access route, commissioners unanimously opted for a new bridge.

Commissioners also chose a prefabricated steel bridge rather than one of reinforced concrete, which is more expensive.

Park District Manager Karop T. Bavougian estimated the cost of the bridge at \$45,000, which will be split between the park district and the village. Commissioners agreed to spend no more than \$7,500 for engineering

costs.

The new bridge will be 55- to 80-foot long and 16 feet wide. One tree, which Bavougian described as "a small one," will be chopped down. And two trees alongside the existing bridge will be destroyed during the demolition of the bridge. At least one of the trees grows from the creek and is probably supported by the bridge, Bavougian added.

Two large trees along the walkway approaching the bridge will be preserved, Bavougian said.

Chemical storage center plans outlined

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

World's largest recycler of used solvents, has been in business since 1968, said Ellen Jurczak, the environmental permits manager for the company.

The Wheeling center would be used only to store the solvents that would be brought to customers or to the processing plant.

The plans include a two-story building and 12 above-ground sealed storage tanks and three underground tanks to store the chemicals. The 20,000-gallon tanks would be surrounded by 3-foot high concrete wall, like a swimming pool.

Residents and business owners questioned the potential for explosions, fires, leaks, odors and traffic.

"I have a lot of concerns about the safety," said Robert Brower, who runs the Circle M Day Camp on Hintz Road, where he also lives. "I guess I really only think of accidents. I think accidents happen."

Jurczak said the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency regulates Safety-Kleen and the storage tanks must be checked yearly. Project Manager Raymond M. Karass said that in 21 years Safety-Kleen, which has 250 centers world-wide, has never had a building burn down. However, a chemical leak caused by an eroded pipe last winter caused an Arlington Heights center to close while Safety-Kleen repaired the break according to IEPA standards, he added.

Meadows votes down garbage transfer station

BY LARRY SMITH
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A controversial proposal to build a \$12 million garbage transfer station was rejected Tuesday in a 4-3 vote by the Rolling Meadows City Council.

Apparently recognizing heated opposition from residents and businessmen of both Rolling Meadows and Palatine, the city council denied the request by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County.

Saying that the difficult decision on the proposal came down to a moral question, First Ward Alderman Robert D. Taylor said he had to vote the way the people wanted.

"I have to vote no," Taylor said. Also voting no were Aldermen Thomas Menzel, Fredrick Jacobson and William Ball. Ball said because the aldermen were in effect acting as a jury, the evidence presented had to relieve them of all doubt on the proposal.

"I have several doubts," Ball said. The proposal by SWANCC is a key ingredient in the agency's bafill plan. It would have taken garbage from 14 suburbs, which would have been compacted and baled at the site, then taken to a proposed landfill near Bartlett for disposal.

The vote was received with loud

The garbage transfer station

What: A \$12 million garbage transfer station.

Where: Rolling Meadows near Palatine's southeast border.

What it would do: Between 900 and 1,300 tons of garbage daily would be shipped there, compacted, baled, then trucked to a landfill site near Bartlett.

When: Construction is expected late next year or early 1991.

Opposition: Residents and business people feel the transfer station would snarl traffic, endanger health and diminish property values.

Proponents: Sponsors say garbage transfer station is a clean, safe way to help solve the suburbs' landfill shortage.

Source: Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County



Daily Herald Map

Daily Herald Graphic

cheering and clapping by more than 175 opponents of the plan.

Elaine Werling, third ward alderman, said that she had to vote in favor of the proposal because it is a solution to the garbage question. Werling said she received numerous phone calls opposing the garbage station, but they did not persuade her to change her mind.

"It's the old story, 'not in my backyard you don't,'" Werling said.

Opponents cheered the final outcome, saying it's a victory in their favor.

"We won the big round, we are sure there's more to come," said Ken Catalain, a member of RATS (Resi-

dents Against Trash Site).

The proposed station would have been located in an industrial area near Northwest Highway and Rohlwing Road in Rolling Meadows. The site also borders the southwest side of Palatine. Many residents of Palatine have in the last few weeks doggedly opposed the garbage station.

Also voting in favor of the proposal were Fourth Ward Alderman John Rock and Sixth Ward Alderman Carl Couve.

Representatives of SWANCC left the meeting and were not available for comment.

Lake-Cook Road traffic study is begun

BY KRIS KOPP
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The first phase of the study will also include a tabulation of all accidents that have occurred on Lake-Cook Road and a field survey along the entire 8.7-mile stretch of highway.

Once the first phase of the study is complete, Morsche said consultants will analyze traffic counts to determine how much traffic Lake-Cook Road can support and congestion levels at the various intersections along Lake-Cook Road.

In addition, consultants will analyze signalized and non-signalized intersections and alternative means of transportation, including ride sharing and mass transit operations, and what effect they would have on traffic.

ities have created the Lake-Cook Road Local Corridor Agency, which has commissioned an engineering study of the congested road between Rand Road and the Tri-State Tollway.

Agency members and Cook County have agreed to split the \$400,000 cost of the study, based on the amount of property each owns along Lake-Cook Road.

Cook County will pay the lion's share of the study, or \$280,000. Buffalo Grove will pay \$76,000, Wheeling, \$38,000, Arlington Heights, \$5,000, and Palatine, \$1,000.

Consultants will begin collecting traffic counts along the road and at about 14 major and minor intersections, Morsche said.

Officials from the four commu-

Hazardous waste processor seeks to move to Wheeling

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

One of Illinois' major processors of hazardous waste is looking to build a 10-acre storage facility in Wheeling 10 times larger than its older Arlington Heights facility that it intends to close down.

Officials from Safety-Kleen Corp., Elgin, courted village trustees Monday as they laid out plans to construct three 20,000-gallon underground storage tanks and a dozen 20,000-gallon above ground tanks at the facility.

Safety-Kleen processes and recycles metal degreasing solvents, motor oil, engine coolant, dry cleaning fluids and other cleansing solvents. The Wheeling facility would store the materials before they would be sent to the company's recycling facilities.

Before the facility could gain approval,

Safety-Kleen must secure permission from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the village. Public hearings would be held to consider the project.

TRUSTEES AND NEIGHBORS raised a number of questions about the facility as they learned that an underground leak at the Arlington Heights facility caused ground contamination into a residential area of Buffalo Grove just north of the facility.

But Raymond M. Karass, Safety-Kleen project manager for technical services, said the Wheeling facility would use safety measures that surpass state requirements, adding that similar contamination at the Wheeling facility would be unlikely.

That leak caused Safety-Kleen to remove the contamination from the soils while building a cement wall 10 feet into

the ground separating the underground tanks and Buffalo Grove property.

"The reason we want to have this facility is to have a state of the art facility," Karass told trustees.

UNLIKE AT THE Arlington Heights facility, underground tanks built in Wheeling would be protected by double-lined walls, Karass said. The 12 above ground tanks would also be protected from flood damage while cement retention areas would minimize potential leaks from spills while the fluids are being transferred to trucks.

Safety-Kleen provides and recycles cleansing solvents for small manufacturers and collects other used products from a host of industries ranging from gas stations to restaurants.

According to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency figures, Safety-Kleen's processing plants in Dolton and

Elgin process millions of gallons of hazardous materials each year, making them one of the

Because there is no room to upgrade or expand Safety-Kleen sites in Arlington Heights or other areas, Karass and Safety-Kleen's Ellen J. Jurczak said the Wheeling facility will allow Safety-Kleen to collect more spent products from area businesses, products the firm says have traditionally been tossed in the trash rather than being recycled or taken to hazardous material dump sites.

ROBERT BROWER, OWNER of the Circle M Day Camp across Hintz Road from the proposed storage site, said the village must study Safety-Kleen and its past record before approving the facility. He called on the village to hire a consultant to research current lawsuits against the company and to investigate

(Continued on page 19)

July 26, 1989 - Herald
Make this agreement fly

It's time for Wheeling and Prospect Heights, co-owners of Palwaukee Airport, to make a decision on where to relocate an intersection that is too close to the airport's main runway.

The two municipalities have been dragging on negotiations for over a year on where to move Wolf and Hintz Roads. One of the difficult issues has been Wheeling's reluctance to use some of its prime commercial land for relocating the roads and their intersection. The village feels it stands to lose future property tax income that it would otherwise derive from that land.

Administrators from both municipalities have been working on an agreement for the relocation, and the airport commission chairman says he's certain it will be finalized within a month. Let's hope this comes to pass, because the airport could lose funding from the Federal Aviation Administration and the Illinois Department of Transportation if the towns continue to stall.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights are also in danger of being negligent in their responsibilities as owners to maintain the 5,000-foot main runway. If they failed to reach an agreement, their ownership of the operation could be in jeopardy.

It's encouraging to hear that an agreement is nearing completion. At this point, the airport commission should do all in its power to get it off the ground.

7-28-89
Balefill opponents granted second chance to build case

By DANIELLE ACEYO
and JOHN CARPENTER
Daily Herald Staff Writers

Opponents of the proposed balefill site near Bartlett will have another opportunity to make a case against the plan, state environmental officials announced Thursday.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has granted a request by balefill opponents that a second round of public hearings be held before a decision is made on the 142-acre site at Gifford and Bartlett roads in unincorporated Hanover Township.

The hearings will be held Sept. 18 and 19 at the Days Inn in Elgin and will focus on an amended permit application as submitted by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. SWANCC's first permit request was denied in May following a similar set of hearings.

"We have no objections to people taking a hard look at this," SWANCC

Executive Director William F. Abolt said. "We figured public hearings would be held. We are not surprised or discouraged by the decision in any way."

Meanwhile, Bartlett Village President John A. Stark is claiming partial victory over the IEPA decision, saying he's happy hearings are being held, but disappointed opponents will not have more time to prepare a case against the project.

"We were trying to convince them that a mid-October date would be more appropriate," Stark said. "September is just too soon."

It was Stark who, along with Bartlett Village Administrator Valerie Salmons, met with IEPA officials this week to request that hearings be held.

"We feel the IEPA has the best interests of the public at heart by allowing these hearings," Stark said. "Our efforts have been very successful. We believe they (SWANCC) are on the run."

7-27-89
Urgency stressed in search for garbage transfer sites

by the rejection, opponents of the site were pleased and said the entire garbage plan is ill-advised.

"You can put a lot of makeup on a pig, but it's still a pig," said Daniel Kairis, president of Citizens Against the Balefill, the group that has been protesting the Bartlett landfill since it was proposed in 1985.

How big a setback this rejection will be for the agency's plan is unclear, but Abolt said landfills that accept garbage from the Northwest suburbs are rapidly filling up.

"The bottom line is unless the transfer stations are developed, no balefill will be developed," Abolt said.

However, more stations will add to the cost. According to state law, the agency can't submit another proposal to Rolling Meadows for two years unless it is substantially different.

The proposed \$12 million facility was rejected by the Rolling Meadows City Council Tuesday by a 4-3 vote. While Abolt said he was "shocked"

The facility proposed for Rolling Meadows would have received garbage from 14 communities, and nearby residents feared increased traffic, blowing trash and rodents. Another station planned for an undetermined location on the North Shore would collect trash from the other 14 towns associated with the waste agency.

But building several stations — or even 28, one in each of the towns — would spread the burden and possibly enhance acceptance by residents, Abolt said.

must find a new site — or up to 28 sites — where garbage can be baled and then shipped to the landfill proposed for near Bartlett.

Abolt said the waste agency's executive board will meet next week to discuss options.

"We'll have an alternate plan ready to go by September," Abolt said. "We can't wait any longer."

Although Rolling Meadows officials rejected a key part of a Northwest suburban landfill plan, organizers vowed to find one or more new sites for controversial garbage transfer stations.

"It's a setback but we're going to go forward," said William Abolt, executive director of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. "I think we can do it."

Abolt said Wednesday the agency

Waste

(Continued from page 5)

past accidents involving Safety-Kleen.

Although Brower said the company is taking precautions against contamination and other accidents, he said accidents could still happen.

Officials for Engis Corp., a Park Ridge firm that is expected to build a 66,000-square foot building on property to the west of the Safety-Kleen facility, raised a number of questions regarding the use of the extended Glenn Avenue that would be constructed south of Hintz Road when both facilities would be built.

Karass also said the company could later seek to expand the facility from its current configuration. Under the plan unveiled Monday, most of the storage tanks and the transfer building would be located on the southern five acres of the site.

More residents asked to pitch in on recycling effort

Although both Wheeling and Buffalo Grove officials have expressed optimism about their respective recycling programs, both villages are trying to figure out how to get more people to comply with the program.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Countryside
7-27-89

The success of Elizabeth Hartman's tomato crop this year, the Wheeling trustee contends, has much to do with a private recycling effort. As the summer months go by, the tomato plants are treated to a smorgasbord of compost materials that once lined the garbage bags of the Hartman home.

No longer relegated to the trash, fruit peelings, lettuce stalks and other vegetable matter end up as the daily food for the plants surrounding the Hartman's home.

"There are a lot of ways to use things from the yard without putting them in the trash," Hartman said.

For Hartman, the compost materials have become a fine fertilizer for her flowers, shrubs and vegetables. It is also part of an overall recycling effort that finds her, and nearly 60 percent of Wheeling's residents, placing leftover glass, aluminum and newsprint in 12-gallon orange plastic bins at the curb once each week.

WITH WHEELING IN its third month of recycling and with Buffalo Grove ready to start its second year of its curb-side recycling program, officials are calling the programs successful while seeking greater participation.

In just two months, Wheeling residents have been exceeding area averages for participation, with 58 percent of possible residents taking their recyclables to the curb. In Buffalo Grove, 50 percent of the 7,800 homes being serviced by Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal are using the program on a weekly basis.

But both communities want to increase those figures as they try to reduce the amount of waste entering area landfills while looking to the day when recycling will no longer be optional.

While Wheeling officials laud village residents for their relatively high participation rate, Buffalo Grove officials are looking at ways to spur increased interest in the program.

"**IT GOT** off to a pretty good start; I thought it would really gather some momentum, I thought it would be further along than it is," Buffalo Grove Trustee John Marienthal said.

Buffalo Grove Assistant Manager Lee Szyborski said the village is restudying education efforts for the recycling program. New marketing schemes will be unveiled later this year as the village tries to encourage more participation, Szyborski said. "There are many things we need to do to get those numbers up," he said.

In Wheeling, the village is continuing to use the village newsletter and other education outlets to get more recyclables to the curb. Hartman said

(Continued on next page)

Recycling —

(Continued from previous page)

programs like Wheeling's and Buffalo Grove's will be models for probable legislation that will make recycling mandatory in the near future.

"I think before the end of the century recycling will be mandatory," Hartman said. "And I think the sooner we get on the bandwagon the better."

WHILE HARTMAN CONTINUES her own personal compost heap at home now, state legislation has already mandated that yard waste be taken out of the waste stream. A 1989 deadline has already been pushed back to 1990, but when compost technology matches demand, state law will require that grass clippings and other yard waste no longer end up in landfills.

"Other countries like Europe and Japan are way ahead of us in the way of recycling," Hartman said, "so I know there is a great deal of improvement ahead of us."

For now, Wheeling officials are pleased with the results of the first two months of their recycling program. Of the 4,300 homes and townhomes that are serviced by Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal's recycling trucks, 58 percent put those bins on the curb in May and 57 percent in June.

Participating residents are now paying an additional dollar each month to offset the cost of the recycling program. After Waste Management deducts the cost of labor, maintenance and other costs, proceeds from the sale of the recycled products is sent back to the village.

IN THE TWO months already completed, the disposal company has

paid Wheeling \$3,261. Through June, Buffalo Grove received \$23,500 from the sale of its recyclables.

But Marienthal said the village must do more, including taking its message to students in the village. Marienthal said those kids should be told about the program so that they go home and ask their parents why they aren't participating.

"Let's face the facts of life, people will do the easiest thing," Marienthal said, adding that some people are resisting the need to separate cans, bottles and newspapers from the regular trash. "But in the long run, we're all going to pay for it if we don't do it."

Countryside 7-27-89

Wrecking ball to ring in new era for Wheeling convent

Addolorata Villa Home for the Aged in Wheeling will soon enter a new era, but the change won't have much effect on the commitment of the 14 sisters who live in the second-story convent that has been part of the facility for the past 29 years.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Very soon, Sister Mary Roberta Prince says the word of the Bible will be played out at the Addolorata Villa Home for the Aged.

As progress toward a new nursing center building picks up, the daunted wrecking ball will be employed soon to bring down the Wheeling building that has housed a convent for the past 29 years.

"You know the old saying in the Bible," Sister Mary Roberta tells five sisters who do or have lived in the convent, "you tear down to build up."

Outside of strong memories, none of the five appeared very upset about the impending move they will have to make because of the demolition. Instead, warm smiles and bright eyes reflected on the years spent living in the upstairs cloister that is home to 14 sisters from the Servants of Mary religious order.

"I KNOW it's an inconvenience for some, but you always have to look at the goal and the finished product," said Sister Roberta, who lives in one of the cottages on the property. "That's what we should be excited about because we're going to be able to care and service so many more residents."

The convent must come down because repairs to adjacent buildings would require the order to bring the convent, originally built in the 1920s, up to state building codes. That would be cost prohibitive, Sister Roberta said.

After completion on the new, skilled-care nursing home and 100 independent living apartments, Sister Roberta said the facility will have capacity for 255 residents and patients, far more than the 95 now under the care of the order.

Originally, the convent was part of a residence for widows and orphans of men who worked for the Crane plumbing company. Instead of doling out large cash payments to family members, the company provided lodging and schooling to families at the Wheeling site.

In 1942, the Servants of Mary bought the property from the Crane family and began operating a convalescent home where people could visit to relax for a while and take in the open space and tranquility of the 32-acre site. There even was an outdoor pool on the grounds.

COMING OUT OF the novitiate convent in Ladysmith, Wis., sisters were assigned to work in certain schools, hospitals and convalescent facilities like Addolorata Villa, Sister Roberta said. Those coming to the villa ran the nursing home and the convalescent home, keeping the sisters assigned there busy. Now most of those chores have been handed over to lay people.

But although the 14 sisters are no



(From left to right) Sister Mary Bernard Samz, Sister Mary Sophia Jaskot, Sister Mary Monica Bresadola reminisce about the earlier days at Addolorata Villa Home for the Aged. (Staff photos by Richard Bajjalieh)

longer as active as they once were, their commitment to care has remained. They continue to do what they can, helping with the housekeeping and cooking and keeping some of the patients company during their stay. "Sisters never retire," Sister Roberta says with a smile.

As visitors became older, the direction of the facility changed. The pool was filled in and Addolorata Villa became a place for retirees who needed varying degrees of care.

With the change, the lodge moved and so did the sisters, forming the convent that within the next two months will be coming down.

Now the sisters are beginning to prepare for the move that will take them from their small, second floor rooms to the east wing of the existing nursing home, which will be renovated to accommodate the sisters.

"**THERE ARE** a lot of memories in there," Sister Mary Monica Bresadola said as she and her fellow sisters reminisced. "We were so young then."

Then was just 1960, when the order moved a former school house and lodge from the front of the property along McHenry Road to behind the nursing care center. The lodge became a convent for sisters who were working at the facility.

As they sat in Sister Roberta's office, the sisters recalled days when they used to play baseball outside of the convent, and when card playing was a common diversion from the everyday running of the Villa.

"**YOU SHOULD** see the way they used to play cards. Oh, cards — they would play for blood," Sister Mary Sophia Jaskot said as she motioned with



Sister Mary Bernard Samz begins work on some of the embroidery that has kept her busy during her two-decade stay in the cloister that will soon fall prey to demolition.

her hands and her smile.

"It's going to feel kind of bad," Sister Mary Sophia said. "It's too bad."

As with most anything, things change. No longer do the sisters round each

other up for a couple innings of ball. But although those things have changed, the sisters know that their move from the convent will be worthwhile. You've got to make way for progress, Sister Roberta says.

Program To Benefit Palwaukee Airport

Wheeling Journal - 7-27-89

Plans for road work near Palwaukee airport could benefit from a federal program designed to expedite the disbursement of funds for airport improvements.

A project to relocate Wolf and Hintz roads, which intersect at the northwest corner of the airport, could begin as soon as weather permits next spring, airport manager Fred Stewart said.

Illinois has been designated as a test state in which the Federal Aviation Association gives block grants to states for distribution beginning with the fiscal year starting Oct. 1, he said.

"They have offered to the communities of Wheeling and Prospect Hts. letters of agreement, one of which was to construct the relocated bridges for the Wolf and Hintz roadways, and the other was to purchase the property," Stewart said.

The work is needed so the airport can continue having a 5,000-foot north-south runway, he said.

Wheeling doubtful on recycling plastic

8-1-89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials say that adding plastic to the village's list of recyclable materials may be too costly for homeowners.

Last month, village officials requested information from the village's trash hauler, Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal, about the cost of including plastic in the weekly recycling pickup.

Homeowners now pay \$1 a month for the recycling program, which accepts newspaper and inserts, colored and clear glass, aluminum and tin. Homeowners would pay an additional 50 cents a month if plastic were added to that list, said David Kowal, assistant to

the village manager.

However, Waste Management Inc., which owns the Wheeling disposal company, would collect only high-density polyethylene plastics, such as milk cartons. Soda pop and laundry detergent containers are made of a different kind of plastic and would not be accepted, Kowal said.

"I don't think that is a significant enough amount of plastic to warrant it," Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman said of the additional cost. "If they could also accommodate pop bottles, I would be more willing to listen to more about an extra charge."

Village President Sheila H. Schultz said trustees will determine whether adding plastic to the

program is worth an extra 50 cents a month. Kowal was uncertain when the trustees will discuss the issue.

Collecting plastic presents other problems because the material must be shredded before it is sold to a buyer. Plus, the material is difficult to transport because of its bulk, Kowal said.

Wheeling's recycling program began May 2. All residents who have curbside garbage pickup and residents of subdivisions who have the approval of their homeowners association are eligible to participate in the program.

So far, 4,300 homeowners participate, and residents of the Shadow Bend subdivision will join on Friday.

Burglaries drop sharply, DUI arrests up, police say

Countyside
By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

8-3-89

Wheeling residents take heart, the criminal element is learning not to conduct some of its business in the village.

Police officials are crediting stepped up police activity for contributing to a 52 percent drop in the number of burglaries to homes and businesses during the first six months of this year. Deputy Chief Gary O'Rourke said 94 burglaries were reported in the first half of 1988, and just 45 during the same time frame this year.

"That is something that, yes, is affected by (more) patrols," O'Rourke said. Although the number of department personnel stayed relatively the same, O'Rourke said crime statistic analysis led to programs that had officers looking for specific crimes, including burglary.

In addition to the positive numbers reflecting a reduction in burglaries, O'Rourke said the department has shown a marked increase in the number of traffic citations and warnings, including a 26 percent increase in the number of drunken driving arrests.

Wheeling crime statistics

1988 vs. 1989

Crime	1988	1989	% Change
Burglaries	94	45	-52%
Auto burglaries	99	88	-11%
DUI	72	91	+26%
Traffic citations	3,973	5,292	+33%
Sticker citations	657	1,503	+129%

Source: Wheeling Police Department. Statistics are based on the first half of each year. Traffic citations also include warnings. Sticker citations refer to number of tickets issued to vehicles without a village vehicle tag.

"I'M NOT unhappy with this report at all," O'Rourke said.

After watching residential and home burglaries climb 17 percent in 1988, and after seeing injury accidents jump 41 percent for the year, police targeted both areas for increased attention, O'Rourke said. More time was spent stopping motorists and more surveillance was conducted on areas where burglaries were occurring, O'Rourke said.

As a result of the program and because the department has a trained

police dog, O'Rourke said word has filtered back to the department that professional burglars are avoiding Wheeling.

"A known police presence will or should help us decrease burglary activity," O'Rourke said.

IN WATCHING MOTOR vehicle traffic closer, the department wrote 4,588 traffic citations in the first half of this year, a 27 percent jump over 1988. Combined with a 94 percent jump in the number of warnings given to motorists,

O'Rourke said the enforcement actions taken by the department are sending a clear message to drivers.

"They serve the purpose of telling someone they made a mistake and they should pay better attention to their driving," O'Rourke said. "I'd like people to have the feeling that the Wheeling police are out there and you're likely to get stopped."

The number of arrests also increased in the first six months of this year. A total of 794 people have been arrested this year, compared to 699 in 1988.

"I would credit the officers with that increase," O'Rourke said. "They've been doing a good job. They are really out there looking for things."

WITH THE RECENT hiring of five new officers, O'Rourke said the department anticipates a greater number of arrests over the next six months while the department continues to devote attention to specific crimes.

He said the department will continue to monitor intersections where problems have existed in the past while keeping a close eye on traffic violations such as speeding and drunken driving.

Wheeling to add two firefighters

8-3-89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling fire and police commissioners plan to hire two new firefighters this month to address the demands of the growing village.

One firefighter would fill a vacancy left on the department since June, when former Wheeling firefighter Richard Bayne retired.

The second position is a new one included in this year's fire department budget. Wheeling Fire Chief Bernhardt O. Koeppen requested another firefighter so that both fire

stations — at 255 W. Dundee Road and 780 S. Wheeling Road — would be adequately staffed.

"It just gives us more people on a shift," Koeppen said. "We've been growing. The town has been growing and we're going to have to grow with it."

Koeppen would like to have five firefighters at all times at each station. Currently, the total number of firefighters on a shift sometimes drops to eight, he said.

The new employees bring to 32 the number of firefighters on the Wheel-

ing Fire Department.

Seven of the top 96 eligible firefighter candidates who passed the written and agility tests recently took psychological and polygraph tests.

Commissioners are reviewing the results and will name two new firefighters within the next three weeks, Koeppen said. Those new employees would be hired pending successful medical exams.

Annual salaries for the new firefighters, who also must be trained paramedics, will start at \$23,238.

In addition to the need for more firefighters to keep up with growth in the community, the Wheeling Police Department recently increased its force by five.

Two of the officers fill new positions that were added to the department. One of the officers will take the place of former Wheeling Police Officer John Stone, who was promoted to sergeant.

The two other officers fill vacancies created after a police officer was fired for gambling and another left the department to take a job in another state.

Board tentatively approves hiring of two firefighters for Wheeling

Countyside
Two men were tentatively hired Tuesday to fill vacancies in the Wheeling Fire Department.

The Wheeling board of fire and police commissioners tapped Joseph Mariotti, 27, of Carol Stream, and Fred Korf, 31, of Des Plaines, from a list of 96 candidates to become department firefighters. With the hiring of the pair, the department now has 38 firefighters, firefighter/paramedics, lieutenants and

lieutenant/paramedics.

Pending passage of final medical exams, Mariotti will begin a six-week training session in Arlington Heights Aug. 21, assistant to the village manager Dave Kowal said. Mariotti is now an engineer for the U.S. Coast Guard, where his duties include fighting fires.

Kowal said Korf will begin his training in October. Korf is now a firefighter for Des Plaines.

Police commission sets Aug. 31 disciplinary hearing for local officer

Countyside
The Wheeling board of fire and police commissioners Tuesday rescheduled a date for hearing charges against Sgt. Michael Staufenbiel that could lead to his demotion.

After having to cancel a July 20 hearing, the board set Aug. 31 as the hearing date. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of Village Hall at 255 W. Dundee Road.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger has charged that Staufenbiel upended the village flag following an April 6 hearing that resulted in officer Richard Imber's firing. The chief contends Staufenbiel's action brought

the department "into disrepute and reflected discredit upon Sergeant Staufenbiel as a member of the department and will impair his efficiency as an officer and a supervisor."

In his charges, Haeger is recommending Staufenbiel be demoted to patrol officer.

Imber was fired after the board found him guilty of two counts of gambling and one count of battery stemming from three separate incidents at Vivian Lee's restaurant on Milwaukee Avenue dating to May, 1988.

Waste processor vowing to improve on plant safety

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

8-3-89
Courtesy
As officials of a hazardous waste processing company seek approval to locate in Wheeling, they say safety measures taken with the proposed facility would preclude the same type of waste spills that have occurred at the company's Arlington Heights plant.

Twice since 1985, hazardous waste from the Safety-Kleen facility in Arlington Heights leaked into a bordering condominium complex in Buffalo Grove, causing the company to replace bushes and dirt in the complex and to build a cement wall to prevent future spills.

In September, 1985, an alarm on a tanker truck carrying mineral spirits failed to sound when the truck was pumping mineral spirits into a Safety-Kleen underground tank. The problem caused 15 gallons of the solvent — used to clean manufacturing parts — to spill onto the pavement and to leak north into the Villa Verde condominium complex, Buffalo Grove health officer Brian Sheehan said.

Again in January, 1988, another spill sent 50 gallons of solvent onto Villa Verde, Sheehan said. Both times, Safety-Kleen cleaned up the site, Sheehan said. Villa Verde condominium association treasurer Bob Lewis said the company removed several hundred yards of dirt on both Safety-Kleen and Villa Verde property where the solvents flowed.

"IT'S A very minor spill but it's still a spill. You're talking about hazardous waste," Lewis said.

Safety-Kleen is proposing to build a

(Continued from page 5)

modern, state-of-the-art storage facility 10 times larger than the Arlington Heights in an industrial area of Wheeling along Hintz Road, east of Wheeling Road.

JURCZAK SAID THE company, while wanting mainly to increase the size of its facility, is also considering the Wheeling site because it would move them away from the Villa Verde complex.

"We'd like a better environment," Jurczak said. "Being next to the condominium complex — it's just not a preferred situation."

The Wheeling site rests in an industrial section of the village along Hintz Road. Lewis said that fact, combined with Safety-Kleen's ability to

build its own, state-of-the-art facility, should combine to make any new storage site better than the existing Arlington Heights site on Campus Drive.

According to plans laid out by company officials before the board of trustees, the company would use the 10-acre Wheeling site for storing nearly 300,000 gallons of used oil, mineral spirits and other solvents in three below ground and 12 above ground storage tanks.

PAUL PEDERSON, REGIONAL environmental engineer for Safety-Kleen, said tanker pads and better underground tanks at the Wheeling facility would make it difficult for an overflow to leave the site.

"It's certainly going to be much improved over what we have in Arlington Heights," Pederson said. He said programs at the Arlington Heights facility have been updated with additional physical improvements, making future spills less likely there, too.

If the Wheeling facility is approved, Safety-Kleen officials told Wheeling officials July 24 they intend to close down the Arlington Heights site. Lewis said that prospect would please many of his neighbors.

"I think Safety-Kleen does a pretty good job normally," said Lewis, who is a landfill engineer. "Safety-Kleen is good

(Continued on page 12)

over the next several months, plans for the new facility are expected to filter their way through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the village plan commission as well as the village board.

positions to one full-time position, bringing the number of full-time community service officers to six.

Deputy Chief Michael Hermes said the department has had trouble keeping the positions filled and attracting qualified applicants for the jobs, which pay \$6 an hour. The compensation is not enough to keep the part-time officers, who typically leave for higher-paying, full-time positions, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

The new position would be for 40 hours a week instead of 30 hours a week for each of the two part-time

Two firefighters are hired for Wheeling

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling fire and police commissioners have named two new Wheeling firefighters.

The new firefighters — Joseph Mariotti, 27, and Fred Korf, 31 — will fill a vacancy and a new position included in this year's fire department budget.

The vacancy on the force was created when former Wheeling firefighter Richard Bayne retired in June.

Mariotti, of Carol Stream, currently is an engineer for the U.S. Coast Guard in Chicago. Part of his duties include serving as a firefighter on U.S. ships. Although his duty ended in June, Mariotti has re-

mained there on reserve status.

Korf, of Mount Prospect, currently is employed as a firefighter with the Glenview Naval Air Station Fire Department. He will start with the Wheeling department in October.

Mariotti's first day with Wheeling will be Aug. 21, when he begins firefighting training at the Arlington Heights Firefighting Academy.

Although commissioners have named the new firefighters, their actual hiring is contingent upon their successful completion of a medical exam.

Both new firefighters, whose starting annual salary is \$21,779, will be required to complete paramedic training within two years. Their salary will then be increased to \$23,238.

Commissioners chose the two firefighters after reviewing test results from seven of the top 96 eligible candidates who passed the written, agility, psychology and polygraph tests.

Bernhardt O. Koeppen, Wheeling fire chief, said the new position was added to the department to keep up with the demands of the growing village. Koeppen wants to have five firefighters at all times at both fire stations — at 255 W. Dundee Road and 780 S. Wheeling Road.

Likewise, five Wheeling police officers were hired recently, partly in response to the village's growing population. Starting annual pay for all five officers is \$27,117.

Two of the openings were new positions included in this year's police department budget and the other

openings were vacancies on the police force.

One of the five officers will take the place of officer John Stone, who was promoted to sergeant last month. Another of the vacancies was created when officer William Hubner left the department to take a job with the Portland, Ore., police department.

And the third vacancy was created in April when the village's fire and police commission fired officer Richard R. Imber.

Three of the officers are in a 12-week police training program with the Chicago Police Academy. The other two officers, who already had some police training, are training with the Wheeling Police Department.

Community service officer posts merged

9/10/89
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials have converted two part-time community service officer positions to one full-time job in an effort to keep the post filled.

One of the part-time positions in the department has been vacant since May and the other has been open since July, when the officer left to take a full-time police officer's job with the Carol Stream Police Department.

Recently, village trustees unanimously approved changing the two

officers. The hours and days of the week the officer works would vary depending upon where he is needed, Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said.

"My feeling is we'll be just as productive," Anderson said of the decrease in hours. "We have had difficulty (filling the position), and it's frankly costly to attract and retain CSO officers."

A community service officer, who is a civilian and not sworn as a police officer, enforces village laws, including parking and traffic rules, and is in charge of the village's animal control efforts.

A full-time officer, which would cost the village about \$23,603 a year, would save the village \$1,184 a year because full-time benefits would be paid to one person instead of 75 percent benefits being paid to two people.

"Our hope is to be able to attract and retain a qualified person to make it a career," Anderson said.

Trustee Judy Abruscato suggested the village contact other area police departments that have part-time community service officers to determine how they retain the employees.

Hearing date set for accused cop

8-7-89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling fire and police commissioners have set a hearing next month for a police sergeant accused of showing disrespect for the village of Wheeling.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger is charging that Sgt. Michael J. Staufenbiel, an 18-year Wheeling police department veteran, turned the village flag that stands in the council room upside down. Staufenbiel left the flag portion on the floor and the pole leaning against the

wall, Haeger charges.

Haeger is requesting fire and police commissioners demote Staufenbiel to a patrol officer. Staufenbiel's annual \$41,492 salary could drop to between \$27,117 and \$36,555 with a demotion.

The original hearing, which was set for July 20, was postponed because Haeger is recovering from back surgery.

The new hearing is set for 7 p.m. Sept. 7 in the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Haeger said the incident occurred April 7 following a commission hear-

ing for Wheeling police officer Richard R. Imber, who was fired for gambling while off duty.

Following that hearing, police officers and a supervising officer saw Staufenbiel, who was off duty and wearing his police uniform, walk up to the village flag and upend it, Haeger charges.

Staufenbiel "acted in such a manner which brought the department into disrepute and reflected discredit upon himself," the charges state. His actions "will impair his efficiency as an officer and a supervisor," Haeger

states in his charges.

Staufenbiel said that Haeger suggested Staufenbiel resign to save himself from public embarrassment. But Staufenbiel said he refused and will defend himself before the commission without an attorney.

This is the third police officer this year that Haeger has charged with violating police department regulations. Officer Michael T. Rompala was suspended for 10 days in June for his unauthorized participation in a high-speed car chase to Chicago in January.

Bell contract will save Wheeling money

8-10-89

By DAN COIT
and JEFF CARLSON
Daily Herald Staff Writers

A new agreement with Illinois Bell will save the village of Wheeling about \$3,400 over the next three years.

Village trustees have approved a new contract that locks the village into using its current Centrex telephone system for the next three years. In return, the telephone company's monthly rates will be lowered. The reduced rate is guaranteed to the village for the length of the contract.

Currently, the village pays \$20.11 per month for each of its 106 phone lines, or \$2,131.66, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson

said. The new agreement reduces the village's per-line cost to \$19.21 per month, or \$2,036.26.

The entire village hall operation, including police and fire department phones, are tied into the Centrex system.

"This will freeze the rates for that period and stabilize things," Anderson said.

The telephone company offered the village five-year and seven-year contract options with additional savings, but officials decided against extending the agreement beyond three years.

"Our feeling was that we didn't want to go out that far," Anderson said. "There is a possibility our needs might change in three years."

A multi-year contract had been proposed to the village by the telephone company some time ago, said Robert Fialkowski, the village's director of finance. But officials wanted to complete a review of the present system and survey the village's future needs before initiating contract talks.

"The reason we didn't do it before is because we wanted to wait until an audit was done," Fialkowski said.

An audit of the entire village telephone system revealed several minor discrepancies in billing, Anderson said. After resolving those problems, the village began negotiating a multi-year contract with the phone company.

Wheeling, BG lose out in ruling on garbage transfer station facility

Plans for a garbage transfer station that would have serviced trash for Buffalo Grove and Wheeling were scaled back Tuesday night by the Rolling Meadows City Council.

Countyside 8-10-89

By Dennis Anderson
Managing Editor
Pioneer Press

Members of Residents Against the Transfer Station (RATS) were celebrating a victory Tuesday after the Rolling Meadows City Council agreed to scale back its plans to expand the existing garbage transfer station in that city.

The original proposal called for 14 communities to ship their garbage to the Rolling Meadows site for disposal elsewhere. Under the plan approved Tuesday, only Palatine and Rolling Meadows would bring their garbage to the station.

The new plan, however, leaves open the possibility of expanding to include Arlington Heights, Inverness, Barrington and South Barrington, but only after a series of public hearings.

With the city council approving the downsized transfer station, Buffalo Grove and Wheeling garbage originally destined for the facility will now have to be transferred elsewhere, Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz said.

UNDER THE PROPOSAL earlier defeated by the council, the Rolling Meadows transfer station would have been the drop off point for garbage from 14 different municipalities that are part of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern

Cook County.

Now, only Palatine and Rolling Meadows are guaranteed initial use of the facility, with the city later considering the other four communities.

Although the reduced size of the Rolling Meadows facility will mean a search for an additional transfer station site, Schultz said she and the other communities left out of the new proposal supported the downsizing.

RATS objected to the original expansion plan because of what they perceive to be potential traffic, environmental and health problems.

"PERSONALLY, I thought the plan was fair, although not all our members feel that way," said RATS spokesman Ken Catelain. "But after a day or so, they should feel better about this. We went from 14 communities (involved in the plan) five or six weeks ago to two to six today. I feel this is an equitable plan."

Catelain, a resident of Palatine, said he worked on the new plan with Rolling Meadows council members William Ball, Thomas Menzel and Robert Taylor.

"I was impressed that they were so concerned about us," Catelain said of the Rolling Meadows officials. "I feel the Rolling Meadows City Council members did a better job for us than our own village board."

One-stop shopping

Countyside 8-8/10-89
If you window shop while driving around Wheeling's main thoroughfares, one thing becomes abundantly clear. Strip shopping centers dominate the commercial landscape.

Like so many other suburban communities, vacant land has been gobbled up only to be steamrolled with one after another single-level strip of brick and glass to house the latest video store, dry cleaners, pizza joint and convenience store.

And even as the potential number of prospective sites for more of these centers is dwindling, there still is a parade of developers marching into Village Hall each year trying to make their own splash in this sea of homogeneity.

To the village's credit, trustees this week took a positive step to try to gain greater control over the strip shopping center development circus.

By requiring that shopping center developers now meet an additional set of nine criteria before being able to build, trustees will have greater say in trying to bring some sanity to a field where placing awnings above store fronts is considered a bold creative stroke.

It would be easy to say that the village's action came only after the horse has bolted from the farm, but that misses the point. The trustees' action is a clear sign that they want local government to be more than a slave to zoning requirements and building codes.

If there is a danger in this action, it is that the village board now has the potential to stifle business competition by over-regulating future development. With the current economic make-up of Wheeling, however, the board's action seems more a measured response to bringing some control to a development spree gone mad.

Chicago tax assessment protests may be repeated here

By Mike Wilkinson 8-10-89
Staff Writer

Countryside
Tax increases that recently sent north Chicago residents reeling could be around the corner for Wheeling Township.

After a five-year absence, field workers from the Cook County Assessor's office are finally getting around to reassessing property in Wheeling Township and in January, Wheeling and Buffalo Grove residents are expected to find large hikes in their property assessments.

Those large assessments, coupled with spending increases among local taxing bodies, will likely fuel correspondingly large jumps in next July's tax bills — bills that this year are generating thousands of protests on Chicago's north and northwest sides.

"I got hit by one of those four years ago. The same one we're going to be hit with next year," said Buffalo Grove resident Bob Johnson.

AS A NILES resident then, Johnson saw his taxes increase dramatically with the 1984 reassessment. Now he is watching reports carefully after his father, a homeowner on the northwest side of Chicago, saw his tax bill jump from \$1,200 in 1988 to nearly \$2,000 this

"If you get a 50 percent increase (in your assessment), you could almost bet your last dollar — and it may be your last dollar — that you'll see a (comparable) increase in your taxes."

**— Dolores Stephan
Wheeling Township Assessor**

year.
The increase in the value of his home contributed to the tax increase Johnson paid. But increases in property taxes by the City of Chicago, the Cook County board and other taxing bodies contributed to Johnson's situation, typical among his fellow property owners.

"I see the writing on the wall. I see it coming," Bob Johnson said Monday. "I don't see it being any different."

Wheeling Township Assessor Dolores Stephan warns that what Johnson fears will be what nearly every property owner will realize next summer: "gigantic" increases in property taxes. With local property values increasing by leaps as the real estate boom finally catches up with official assessments, the increase in taxes paid will be substantial, Stephan said.

"IF YOU get a 50 percent increase

(in your assessment), you could almost bet your last dollar — and it may be your last dollar — that you'll see a (comparable) increase in your taxes," Stephan said.

The school districts that consume a majority of local tax bills will reap "gigantic windfalls," Stephan said, as their spending increases are fed by the huge increases in property assessments. Dick Vanecko, director of community relations for the Cook County Assessor's office, said the expected jump in tax bills has less to do with assessment increases and more to do with additional spending by Cook County taxing bodies.

"If (taxing bodies) didn't raise taxes, their (property owners' tax) bills would be the same as the year before," Vanecko said.

COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR Thomas Hynes is pushing for a series of spending

reforms that would make it easier for voters to curb spending increases, Vanecko said. He said Hynes is calling for increases in the homeowner and senior citizen property tax exemptions, which would mean an immediate \$200 in tax relief to the average homeowner, Vanecko said.

Hynes is also pushing for a law that would force taxing bodies to seek voter approval for all spending increases over 5 percent. Current law dictates that taxing bodies hold public hearings if projected spending jumps by more than 5 percent. Hynes won passage of that law, Vanecko said.

"Now we need something more stringent," he said. He said Hynes' proposal also calls for taxing bodies to notify property owners whenever they request an increase in property tax spending.

Taxpayers groups are beginning to form lines of protest as the tax bills hit the streets. Steve Merica, attorney for the National Taxpayers United of Illinois, said northwest suburban Cook County residents can benefit from the recent misfortune of their Chicago counterparts.

"UNLESS WE band together, then certainly those in the north and
(Continued on page 8)

Five land parcels at airport may be spared in road move

The planned relocation of Wolf Road may not require as much land acquisition as was originally thought, according to a recent letter from the Federal Aviation Administration.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Countryside
Five parcels of land near Palwaukee Municipal Airport may no longer be scheduled for airport acquisition based on recent information provided by the Federal Aviation Administration.

A letter from the FAA states Wolf Road may only have to be moved 619 feet from the main runway. A plan approved earlier by the airport commission but rejected by the Wheeling's village board called for the road to move 1,000 feet from the runway.

Trustee Bill Rogers, a member of the airport commission and a long-time proponent of scaling back the distance between the roadway and the runway, said the new information could mean an additional five parcels of industrial land are spared from condemnation.

"I'm saying we should give the airport the minimum amount of land for it to meet safety requirements," Rogers said.

AFTER ASKING THE FAA what the minimum distance the relocated road must be from the center of the

airport's longest runway, village officials this week said the response may mean changing existing plans in favor of property owners along Wolf Road.

Since the village joined with Prospect Heights to buy the airport with federal and state help, the FAA has called for an increase in the safety "clear" zone at the north end of the airport's longest and most important runway.

The airport commission and the two communities have struggled with plans to relocate Wolf Road, Hintz Road and the intersection. The design that would have moved the road 1,000 feet west of the runway included plans to build airport-related businesses between the roadway and the runway.

But Rogers and the village have fought that suggestion and until the village received the FAA's letter, the official rules were in dispute. Rogers says the letter, sent by FAA official Robert F. DeRoeck, proves his contention that the road does not have to move as far west as originally planned.

"I WANT to know what the FAA
(Continued on page 21)

rules are. Now I know," Rogers said.

DeRoeck's letter, however, indicates that no buildings would be allowed within 750 feet of the runway. Airport Manager Fred Stewart said that stipulation will also hold for the roadway, meaning the road would move at least 750 feet from the runway.

But Rogers said that stipulation won't affect the five parcels that the realignment may spare. "Yes, I'm pleased with the letter in that it identifies the minimum amount we can move the roadway and we can see the benefits from moving the roadway," Rogers said.

Mike Klitzke, Wheeling's community development director, is now using the new information to draw new plans outlining the property savings, Rogers said. Those plans, he said, will show trustees how many buildings and corresponding tax-producing parcels would not be removed from the tax rolls should the nearer road relocation plan be adopted.

THE FAA'S CLARIFICATION

(Continued from page 5)

northwest quadrants of Cook County are just going to be absolutely clobbered with the tax increase next year," Merica said. "But it's going to take some activism on the part of the people."

Like Vanecko, Merica said the assessments aren't the problem. He said governments and schools have to tighten the belt on spending.

"The real question in my mind is cutting back on the fat in the budgets and the pork barrel projects," Merica said.

But local school district officials defended themselves, saying the uneven assessment rises are to blame for the increased size of the tax bills.

DAN CASH, BUSINESS manager for Community Consolidated District 21, said the district will not gouge taxpayers. Instead, he said the district will only ask for enough tax dollars to cover district needs.

"We will not treat the reassessment any differently than any other year," Cash said. "We will treat what our needs are."

Because of the expected jump in assessments, taxing bodies will be able to collect larger "levies." When a taxing body's tax rate is at its limit, the district can only get additional property tax dollars if assessments rise. If the districts aim to maintain the same tax rates in a year of reassessment hikes, property owners will see an increase in their bills.

The question becomes how that assessment increase will affect the individual property owner. While the Wheeling Township Assessor's office and Cook County officials won't project how high property values will be pegged in the reassessment, it is a virtual certainty the increase will be significant.

January, Wheeling and Buffalo Grove residents are expected to find large hikes in their property assessments.

Those large assessments, coupled with spending increases among local taxing bodies, will likely fuel correspondingly large jumps in next July's tax bills — bills that this year are generating thousands of protests on Chicago's north and northwest sides.

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COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR Thomas Hynes is pushing for a series of spending

approval for all spending increases over 5 percent. Current law dictates that taxing bodies hold public hearings if projected spending jumps by more than 5 percent. Hynes won passage of that law, Vanecko said.

"Now we need something more stringent," he said. He said Hynes' proposal also calls for taxing bodies to notify property owners whenever they request an increase in property tax spending.

Taxpayers groups are beginning to form lines of protest as the tax bills hit the streets. Steve Merica, attorney for the National Taxpayers United of Illinois, said northwest suburban Cook County residents can benefit from the recent misfortune of their Chicago counterparts.

"UNLESS WE band together, then certainly those in the north and
(Continued on page 8)

Five land parcels at airport may be spared in road move

The planned relocation of Wolf Road may not require as much land acquisition as was originally thought, according to a recent letter from the Federal Aviation Administration. 8-10-89

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Five parcels of land near Palwaukee Municipal Airport may no longer be scheduled for airport acquisition based on recent information provided by the Federal Aviation Administration.

A letter from the FAA states Wolf Road may only have to be moved 619 feet from the main runway. A plan approved earlier by the airport commission but rejected by the Wheeling's village board called for the road to move 1,000 feet from the runway.

Trustee Bill Rogers, a member of the airport commission and a long-time proponent of scaling back the distance between the roadway and the runway, said the new information could mean an additional five parcels of industrial land are spared from condemnation.

"I'm saying we should give the airport the minimum amount of land for it to meet safety requirements," Rogers said.

AFTER ASKING THE FAA what the minimum distance the relocated road must be from the center of the

airport's longest runway, village officials this week said the response may mean changing existing plans in favor of property owners along Wolf Road.

Since the village joined with Prospect Heights to buy the airport with federal and state help, the FAA has called for an increase in the safety "clear" zone at the north end of the airport's longest and most important runway.

The airport commission and the two communities have struggled with plans to relocate Wolf Road, Hintz Road and the intersection. The design that would have moved the road 1,000 feet west of the runway included plans to build airport-related businesses between the roadway and the runway.

But Rogers and the village have fought that suggestion and until the village received the FAA's letter, the official rules were in dispute. Rogers says the letter, sent by FAA official Robert F. DeRoeck, proves his contention that the road does not have to move as far west as originally planned.

"I WANT to know what the FAA
(Continued on page 21)

rules are. Now I know," Rogers said. DeRoeck's letter, however, indicates that no buildings would be allowed within 750 feet of the runway. Airport Manager Fred Stewart said that stipulation will also hold for the roadway, meaning the road would move at least 750 feet from the runway.

But Rogers said that stipulation won't affect the five parcels that the realignment may spare. "Yes, I'm pleased with the letter in that it identifies the minimum amount we can move the roadway and we can see the benefits from moving the roadway," Rogers said.

Mike Klitzke, Wheeling's community development director, is now using the new information to draw new plans outlining the property savings, Rogers said. Those plans, he said, will show trustees how many buildings and corresponding tax-producing parcels would not be removed from the tax rolls should the nearer road relocation plan be adopted.

THE FAA'S CLARIFICATION may speed up negotiations between the village and the city over the relocation of the road. Village Manager Craig Anderson said the two municipalities are getting closer to striking an agreement on the road relocation, along with other disputes regarding airport development.

Until the two sides come to an agreement, further study of the proposal will remain stalled. Until an environmental impact study can be completed, funding for the project would be held up. The FAA and the Illinois Department of Transportation have been pushing the two communities to move faster in approving airport plans.

(Continued from page 5)

northwest quadrants of Cook County are just going to be absolutely clobbered with the tax increase next year," Merica said. "But it's going to take some activism on the part of the people."

Like Vanecko, Merica said the assessments aren't the problem. He said governments and schools have to tighten the belt on spending.

"The real question in my mind is cutting back on the fat in the budgets and the pork barrel projects," Merica said.

But local school district officials defended themselves, saying the uneven assessment rises are to blame for the increased size of the tax bills.

DAN CASH, BUSINESS manager for Community Consolidated District 21, said the district will not gouge taxpayers. Instead, he said the district will only ask for enough tax dollars to cover district needs.

"We will not treat the reassessment any differently than any other year," Cash said. "We will treat what our needs are."

Because of the expected jump in assessments, taxing bodies will be able to collect larger "levies." When a taxing body's tax rate is at its limit, the district can only get additional property tax dollars if assessments rise. If the districts aim to maintain the same tax rates in a year of reassessment hikes, property owners will see an increase in their bills.

The question becomes how that assessment increase will affect the individual property owner. While the Wheeling Township Assessor's office and Cook County officials won't project how high property values will be pegged in the reassessment, it is a virtual certainty the increase will be significant.

Wheeling asks for limits on future Familyfest bashes

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

8-10-89
Countyside

Just one month after the largest Familyfest crowds ever, Wheeling officials told organizers of the event last week that it is time to curtail certain aspects of the festival.

Officials said they suggested the festival be shortened, music sound levels be lowered, and alcohol sales be restricted.

"The fest is for Wheeling a great promotion and the people who run it should be complimented, but it's getting a little rough around the edges ...," village Trustee Bill Rogers said Tuesday.

In a meeting among village staff, trustees, park district officials and Familyfest organizers, the message to fest sponsor St. Joseph the Worker Church was made clear on several fronts.

VILLAGE MANAGER CRAIG Anderson said the village requested church officials consider limiting the number of days the fest runs and the hours of operation each day. He said alcohol sales were also discussed with the suggestion made that alcohol drinking be limited to a specific area of the grounds.

He also said he asked that the helicopter rides be discontinued because of safety reasons.

"I guess we are hopeful the Familyfest people will take to heart our suggestions and proposals and come back to us with plans for next year," Anderson said.

Questions over this year's festival — the eighth one the church has held — came after traffic, parking, crime and noise complaints came back to the village. Before the meeting, village officials said changes needed to be made to the event that drew an estimated 250,000 this year.

FAMILYFEST IS THE church's main fundraising activity, church officials have said. Carnival rides, entertainment for all ages and a row of food concessions are offered on church, village and park district property behind the church on Dundee Road.

Monday, during the regular village board meeting, Rogers played a tape he

made from his Wolf Road home. The tape captured the "ambience" of Familyfest from his bedroom, which Rogers said was nearly 1,000 feet from the stage. According to Rogers and other trustees, the tape revealed that the music from the band Bachman-Turner Overdrive successfully battled his television for his attention.

"I played the tape just as further evidence that we needed to monitor the sounds coming out of the speakers at Familyfest," Rogers said.

Although the village does not approve the business of running the event, it does grant the church a liquor license that allows it to sell beer and wine coolers. Rogers said that trustees will be asking questions next year when the church requests that permit.

"**AT THAT** time the trustees have indicated they will be asking some pointed questions," Rogers said. "The fest people are now aware of our concerns."

Village officials said the suggestion of a beer garden, which would limit where beer drinkers could go, was put before Familyfest organizers in an attempt to restrict alcohol sales to minors. Although workers asked for identification before selling any alcohol, beer was allowed throughout the grounds.

Anderson said one of those concerns related to the length of each Familyfest day. He said the village asked festival organizers to consider closing the activities each day at 10 p.m. or 11 p.m. rather than the current midnight curtain fall.

"Why do you have to be so late?" Anderson said. "It seems that's when the problems intensify — when you have more drunks."

POLICE ARRESTED SEVERAL drunken drivers near the festival who said they had attended the beer tent there. Other problems included an aggravated assault charge against a Prospect Heights youth and several incidents of vandalism to cars parked in municipal lots.

When the festival organizers come back to the village next year, Trustee James Whittington said he will be looking for some "strong assurances" that some of the village's concerns are addressed.

Shopping centers will get closer village scrutiny

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Countyside 8-10-89

After granting approval — sometimes reluctantly — to a number of strip shopping centers in the last year, Wheeling trustees Monday gave themselves greater control over the future spread of the centers.

Board members unanimously voted to make shopping center developers meet an additional set of criteria that will allow trustees to make broader judgments over whether they want to allow the centers.

"The board questioned the number of strip centers," Village Manager Craig Anderson said. "(They said) 'Yes, we have enough, but we want to ensure we don't have to approve more.'"

After an informal discussion among trustees last year found board members concerned about strip malls, Anderson said village staff prepared suggestions for addressing the situation, with the result being the special use designation.

"**WE'RE TRYING** to say it's time for us to exert more cautious control on what goes in these areas," Trustee Bill Rogers said. "It's a better tool to say 'if you're going to build, then we want to see what you're going to put there.'"

Now, when a developer wants to build a shopping center, the project will have to meet nine additional criteria in proving that the center is in harmony with the surrounding area, and that it meets public need and convenience.

(Continued on page 19)

Before, trustees could only call for changes to building size and shape. The new rules will allow trustees to deny a project based on the additional criteria even if it meets building codes, officials said.

"Part of it is a need for local control over what is developed," Trustee James Whittington said. The special use permit, he said, was "one more check we can put on the developer."

IN JUST OVER a year, trustees have approved three shopping centers, two of them at the intersection of Wolf and Dundee roads. Whittington said the project at the southwest corner was approved only after trustee concerns over density of the project were met.

But he said the new zoning ordinances adopted Monday "may mean controlling it (vacant property) by not having a shopping center."

Buffalo Grove Village Manager Bill Balling said his village has a similar

constraint on shopping centers that allows village trustees to have greater control over development.

"It's a good tool. I applaud Wheeling for doing it," Balling said.

ROGERS SAID THE board's decision, however, may not solve the situation that he says finds too many strip shopping centers along village roadways. "It may be a little late in having done this," he said. "The problem didn't get really bad until the last three (centers)."

Trustees said the special use process may allow them to discover or restrict certain tenants from a shopping center before the project is built.

Board members recently denied a special use permit for a Little Caesar's Restaurant to operate a carry-out business in the new center at the northwest corner of Wolf and Dundee roads, citing it did not meet several of the special use criteria. If the special use designation had been in place before, trustees said that situation may not have occurred.

Engineers to finish sewer inspections

Aug. 16, 1989

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Engineers will finish inspecting sanitary sewers in nearly 4,000 Wheeling houses by the end of the month to determine why the village's sewers are overloading.

Since February, engineers from RJN Environmental Associates, Inc. in Wheaton have inspected or have made appointments to inspect 1,945 of the 2,000 buildings included in phase one of the inspection project. Phase two, which began last month, includes 1,750 houses.

Village officials hope the inspections will identify where storm and ground water is leaking into the village's sanitary sewers.

When water other than domestic waste overloads sanitary sewers, it results in sewer backups and added cost for upgrading the sanitary treatment plant.

Wheeling is exceeding the sewage flow standards set by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, where the village's sewage is discharged.

Engineers are checking the sanitary systems for illegal hookups, which may allow residents' sump pump to run storm water directly to the sanitary sewers rather than outside their homes.

The inspections must be completed within the next three weeks so that the village can submit a report on the problem areas to the water reclamation district by the

Sept. 30 deadline, said Scott Shirley, Wheeling's assistant director of operations and maintenance.

Homeowners are first informed of the inspections by letter.

Subdivisions in the first phase include Mallard Lake, Tahoe Village, Malibu, Lake Side Villas, Orchard Lakes, Pleasant Run and industrial buildings along Wolf and Wheeling roads. The second phase includes inspections in the Dunhurst, Poplar Grove and Hollywood Ridge subdivisions and commercial buildings along Dundee Road.

Shirley asks homeowners in those areas whose homes have not yet been inspected to contact the village at 459-2624 for an appointment.

Trash rate increase up for discussion

Wheeling residents may pay nearly 5 percent more each month for garbage disposal if village trustees agree to a rate increase Monday.

The village's garbage collection company, Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal, is seeking to raise the current rate of \$10.48 a month by 50 cents, or to \$10.98 a month.

The increase is needed to offset operational and employee costs and increases in landfill dumping fees, Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said. The additional money also is needed to pay for increases in fuel, oil and equipment repairs, he added.

"I think it's a reasonable request," Anderson said. "For twice-a-week pick-up, we're still doing the same as other communities."

In Arlington Heights, residents pay \$10.14 a month for twice-a-week pick-up, whereas in Buffalo Grove, residents pay \$12 a month for trash

The top meeting

Who: Wheeling village board
Where: Wheeling village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road
When: 8 p.m. Monday

pick-up twice a week.

If approved, the new rate for Wheeling's twice weekly garbage collection would appear on garbage bills beginning Oct. 1.

In 1987, trustees agreed to increase the trash collection rate by 58 cents a month and last year, they approved a 40-cent increase.

Anderson said garbage collection rates may begin to stabilize in the future with the village's recent participation in a recycling program. The program, which costs residents an additional \$1 a month, helps reduce the amount of trash that is hauled to landfills, he added.

How would you suggest that property taxes be reduced?

How would you suggest local officials reduce your property taxes?

Nancy Ebner, 42, Fletcher Drive, Wheeling, dental assistant.

"I don't think the taxes are that bad. For the surrounding areas, taxes are very low here so I have no complaints. If the taxes in the city of Chicago went to the right places, they'd have plenty of money. If they didn't give all the people in high-ranking jobs raises, they'd have plenty of money for taxes and they wouldn't have to charge the common people."

Fran Sandock, 61, Cottonwood Court, Wheeling, housewife.

"To change the school district. We live in Wheeling and most of our taxes go for Prospect Heights and Arlington Heights schools. I don't think that's right. I think we should pay for the village we're living in. Some-

thing has to be done, they are really getting out of hand. Of our taxes, almost \$600 goes to Prospect Heights which we have no jurisdiction over. Almost \$300 goes to Arlington Heights. I can't believe with all the new properties going up, all the new buildings, all the new condos why are taxes keep going up when the villages are getting more money?"

Joe Wargo, 29, Audrey Court, Wheeling, laborer.

"Go for it, just lower them. Cut costs for one. Soon your water and sewer bills are up so high, cut them for one. I don't know if they have any control over garbage. Garbage is way up there but that's because people don't want garbage dumps in their backyards."

On Your Mind is a feature of the Daily Herald.

— compiled by Barbara Vitella

Wheeling crime dip, larger force linked

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

The addition of new officers to Wheeling's police force accounts for some of the decrease in incidents reported in the village over the past six months, Police Chief Michael F. Haeger says.

This year's number of crimes reported in Wheeling from January through June has decreased by 2.6 percent from last year.

In 1988, the village reported 2,021 offenses, whereas 1,969 incidents were reported so far this year.

Serious crimes, including rape, robbery, burglary, auto theft and arson, decreased by 13.2 percent this year.

However, less serious crimes, such as criminal trespass, possession of cannabis and other controlled substances, increased slightly, or by .6 percent.

Offenses involving children, such as curfew, runaways, child abuse and truancy, were up by 75.5 percent this year. But Haeger said it is difficult to control those offenses since many of the incidents occur at children's home.

The hiring of new officers "has made an impact on the amount of

crime that is occurring," Haeger said. "The statistics could be an indicator that we are being successful."

The department hired four police officers last year and two additional officers last month. Several others were hired both years to fill gaps left on the department.

Because the new officers are younger and more aggressive, they are more aware of crime while on patrol, Haeger said. In turn, residents see that they can't get away with crimes and are less likely to commit offenses, he added.

The police chief also attributes the decrease in major crimes to intensive patrolling by officers in previous years. When residents see that police are enforcing the laws, residents are less apt to break them, Haeger said.

"Officers are out there and being observant of all violations," he said. "There's a premise that discourages criminal activities."

In addition, the department's special operations group, or tactical unit, has helped reduce crime, Haeger said. The group of six officers is assigned to an area which needs the most attention.

For example, if several burglaries were to occur in a certain section of town, the officers would patrol that

Wheeling Police Department Crime Statistics

Offense	1988	1989	Change
Rape	2	4	100%
Robbery	2	0	-100%
Aggravated assault/battery	21	16	-23.8%
Burglary	94	45	-52.1%
Burglary from autos	99	88	-11.1%
Theft	231	231	0%
Auto theft	18	22	+22.2%
Arson	3	2	-33.3%
Battery/assault	159	151	-5%
Deception	57	53	-7%
Criminal trespass/damage	269	220	-18.2%
Deadly weapons	8	11	37.5%
Sex offenses	16	9	-43.8%
Offenses involving children	49	86	75.5%
Cannabis	39	52	33.3%
Controlled substance	11	11	0%
Liquor	57	29	-49.1%
Driving under the influence	73	92	26%
Motor vehicle offenses	512	592	15.6%
Kidnapping	0	3	-
Total offenses	2,021	1,969	-2.6%

Comparisons from Jan. 1, 1988 through June 30, 1988 vs. Jan. 1, 1989 through June 30, 1989

area. They may be in uniform, plain clothes or undercover and driving squad cars, unmarked cars, or walking or riding a bicycle. The officers also may be assigned to any shift, depending on the task.

"It's been successful," Haeger said. "The one advantage it gives us is those who are going to commit

crimes don't know who to watch for."

Haeger said he expects the number of offenses to decrease over the second half of the year, with the department being up to full staff. He said that if the number of drunk driving cases continues to increase, this year could be the highest for reported DUI offenses.

Wheeling board raises trash collection fees

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents will pay an extra 5 percent a month for garbage pick up despite one trustee's objection to the increase.

Trustees agreed Monday to raise the current trash collection rate of \$10.48 per household per month by 50 cents, or \$10.98 a month. The new rate for the twice weekly trash collection will appear on garbage bills beginning Oct. 1.

Buffalo/Wheeling Disposal, the village's garbage hauler, requested the increase to help offset operation and employee costs and increases in landfill dumping fees.

But Trustee Judy Abruscato re-

jected the proposal, saying the board should consider the request after reviewing how much money the village has saved in dumping fees with the recent start-up of a recycling program.

"I probably don't have a problem with the increase because of the good service I receive," Abruscato said. "But I represent the residents of Wheeling. I would like to look at this in January."

The village's recycling program, which includes newspapers, glass, tin and aluminum, has saved about \$4,250 in landfill costs during May and June, according to Bill Abolt, executive director of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. Residents pay an extra \$1 a month for the recycling pro-

gram, which was started in May.

However, village officials say the recycling program was started to reduce the amount of trash hauled to landfills and control the amount of cost. "We never said recycling would reduce our costs," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said. "But, it would help keep them from going up more quickly."

In addition, the village must pay off the start-up costs for the recycling program, which includes more than \$10,000 for orange bins that are used by residents to store the recyclables.

Village officials say Wheeling's trash pick-up costs are still less than what residents pay in surrounding communities, including Buffalo Grove.

Palwaukee groups striving for accord

8-21-89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials may reach an agreement today on several controversial issues concerning Palwaukee Municipal Airport that they have debated for years.

Craig G. Anderson, Wheeling village manager, said representatives from the two communities will meet this afternoon before the governing boards vote on a second intergovernmental agreement concerning the airport. Wheeling and Prospect Heights jointly own the airport.

The controversies include relocating the intersection at Wolf and Hintz roads, moving the Wheeling

Drainage Ditch and dividing property and sales tax revenues generated by the airport.

"I think it's gotten progressively better," Anderson said. "Every time we meet we get closer to where we want to be."

Anderson added that community officials have written a seven-page intergovernmental agreement that attorneys are "fine tuning."

Wheeling trustees may hold a special meeting Aug. 28 in lieu of their regular board workshop meeting to vote on the agreement, Anderson said.

Officials from the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration pressured airport owners to settle their differences earlier this

summer or face losing government money for airport improvements.

The FAA pays 90 percent of airport improvement costs, IDOT pays 5 percent and Wheeling and Prospect Heights split the remaining 5 percent.

Wheeling officials have stalled on approving a proposal to relocate the intersection at Wolf and Hintz roads because that plan — as well as the proposed relocation of the ditch — would absorb some prime commercial property.

Sheila H. Schultz, Wheeling village president, has said both relocations hinge on the split of future property and state tax revenues the airport may generate.

Palwaukee seeks appraisals on land

8-23-89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

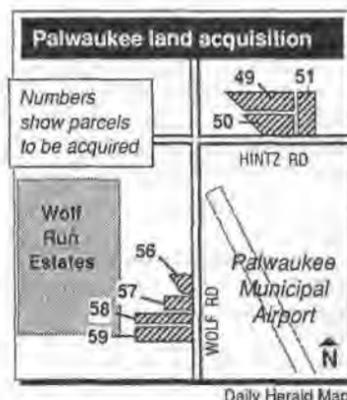
Palwaukee Airport commissioners are seeking appraisals for seven parcels of land they plan to buy for the relocation of the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads.

The intersection must be moved in order to create a "clear zone" at the north end of the airport's main runway. Under Federal Aviation Administration standards, the intersection runs too close to the runway.

The proposed plan is to align the two roads west of where they now meet. The seven parcels are needed for the move.

Four of the parcels planned for the acquisition are on the west side of Wolf Road, south of Hintz Road. The other three parcels are on the north side of Hintz Road, east of Wolf Road.

Commissioners recently agreed to



Daily Herald Map

hire two companies, approved by the Illinois Department of Transportation, to review the appraisals and provide necessary title services for the land.

However, commissioners rejected a company to assist in the relocation of existing occupants on the land be-

cause the airport received only one bid for the job.

Three residents, eight businesses and one storage center would need to be relocated.

The airport will hire Wm. A. McCann & Assoc., Inc. to appraise the parcels for \$1,700. McCann's quotes for per parcel fees range from \$500 to \$1,000 each. Another bidder, Lorenz & Associates, Ltd., estimated the appraisal service at \$2,280, with fees ranging from \$600 to \$1,200 per parcel.

Commissioners rejected a \$14,904 bid by Vector Corporation to assist in the relocation of the current landowners on the parcels. Vector was the only company to bid on the job because the other state-approved firm, O.R. Colon Associates, declined to submit a quote.

Commission Chairman Carey L. Chickerneo said he did not want to accept the only bid because that may

give the "appearance of impropriety." He added that the relocation is not eminent and he requested airport staff members to check whether other companies may be eligible to bid.

Although the Chicago Title Insurance Co. was the only firm to bid to provide title services for the parcels, commissioners unanimously approved hiring the company for \$320 per parcel. Another state-approved company, TICOR Insurance Co., declined to bid.

"This is something of an urgent nature, although I would like to see more participation on the standpoint of soliciting bids," Chickerneo said. "The project can't go forward without this, whereas the relocation is not eminent."

Chickerneo added that there is not much difference between companies for title insurance because the rates are basically the same.

WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

Business to expand with revenue bond

An Arlington Heights closet manufacturing company will expand its business in Wheeling with an \$850,000 industrial revenue bond.

California Closet Company, Inc., based in Woodland Hills, Calif., plans to construct a 9,000 square-foot building in Wheeling's Edgebrook Industrial Park to house a franchise that is now leasing space in Arlington Heights.

Village trustees agreed to sponsor the \$850,000 loan the company will make to finance the purchase of land and construction of the building for California Closet.

The village, in essence, agreed to issue its economic development revenue bonds to help finance the cost of building a new warehouse. However, the company, not the village, is responsible for repaying the loan.

California Closet Company redesigns closets to create more space

for clients' needs. The service ranges from \$500 to \$700 per closet.

Robert W. Dunn, California Closet's vice president for finance, said the company will create about 20 jobs, with about one quarter of the employees living in Wheeling.

Funds will help repair houses

Low-income Wheeling residents will receive money from a community development block grant program to repair their homes.

Village trustees accepted \$28,240 from Cook County from the community development program, which gives financial assistance to residents. The money must be used to bring houses up to village codes, such as to repair electrical wiring, plumbing or roofs.

The village already has received \$50,000 from the county this year and about \$105,000 was left over from previous years, when all the money was not used.

Since 1980, Wheeling has received about \$482,000 in community development block grants.

To qualify for a grant, a family of four must have an annual income of less than \$33,350 and a family of two must make less than \$26,700 a year.

Company will do work on wells

Village trustees have hired a Wheeling company to plug and abandon three village wells.

Trustees agreed to award a \$19,900 bid to Milaeger Well & Pump Company in Wheeling. The company, located at 910 N. Milwaukee Ave., outbid two other companies. Layne-Western Company, Inc. of Aurora, quoted the work at \$23,297, and Wehling Well Works, Inc., of Beecher, estimated the job at \$24,948.

Plugging and abandoning wells is required for the village's lake water allocation. At least two wells are still in operation in Wheeling. Vil-

lage Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

The wells to be abandoned include well No. 1 at the southwest corner of Center and Milwaukee avenues, well No. 3 at the southwest corner of West Manchester Drive and Sunset Lane and well No. 4 at the southwest corner of West Manchester Drive and Sunset Lane.

The job, which includes measuring the depth of the wells and filling them with gravel, should take less than three months to complete.

Foundation slates weekend tag day

Members of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation will conduct a tag day Friday and Saturday in Wheeling.

The 34-year-old organization is raising money so that a cure can be found for cystic fibrosis.

Taggers will be stationed at Lake-Cook and Milwaukee roads, Dundee and Wolf roads and Hintz and Elmhurst roads.

Incentives to attract business may be limited

8-24-89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling village official is proposing to limit the number of incentives the village may use to entice businesses to locate in town.

A village official wants a policy on the books that would limit Wheeling trustees to offer prospective businesses only one of two current incentives.

However, under the policy, the village could not file an objection if a business applied to the state of Illinois for additional incentives.

The two incentives include a property tax exemption and an industrial revenue bond — incentives trustees recently gave to two businesses to attract them to

Wheeling.

The proposal, which trustees may discuss next month, was suggested by Robert Fialkowski, Wheeling's director of finance. He believes Wheeling shouldn't have to offer more than one incentive to entice businesses.

"It's a whole matter of how far do you go to induce a thriving company into an area that is not economically dependent, which is this area," Fialkowski said. "If they already have one (incentive), why should they have any other one?"

Although the incentives do not cost taxpayers money, the village may not collect as much tax revenue for properties as it could without the incentives, Village Presi-

dent Sheila H. Schultz said.

Trustees recently agreed to endorse an \$850,000 loan for California Closet Company to buy land and build a manufacturing plant in the Edgebrook Business Center. In May, trustees approved a property tax exemption for Engis Corp. to construct a building at the southwest corner of Hintz and Glenq roads.

Under a tax exemption, property is taxed at a lower rate for a number of years and then gradually brought up to the correct rate, with the village receiving a \$500 application fee. With a bond, a business may borrow money at a lower rate and the village receives a fee of between three-fourths of 1 percent and 1 percent of the loan.

Roadside check nets nearly 200 stops for police

8-24-89
Nearly 200 cars were stopped and 35 drivers were ticketed or warned last Thursday as Wheeling police conducted a roadside safety check in the 1400 block of south Wheeling Road.

Five motorists were ticketed for unlicensed driving, six were given citations for driving with suspended or revoked licenses, six were given traffic citations and 17 were given written warnings, police said. One motorist was arrested on a Du Page County warrant.

Wheeling nears pact on moving Wolf, Hintz Roads

8-24-89
By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

After nearly a year of disagreement, Wheeling is expected to join Prospect Heights next week and approve a plan to move Wolf and Hintz roads to meet safety and economic needs of Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Without an agreement next week, the two municipalities — joint owners of the airport — will face a potential loss of federal and state funding for airport improvements.

Although the airport commission recommended — and Prospect Heights approved — a design in September, 1988, village trustees have withheld support for the project, saying the westward relocation of Wolf Road consumed too much village land.

But following a closed-door session Monday, Village Manager Craig Anderson said the board appears ready to accept a relocation design that is identical to the one proposed last year. Anderson said the proposal is better, however, because the agreement covers revenue sharing between the two airport sponsors, an arrangement not considered when the relocation was proposed last year.

THE PROSPECT HEIGHTS City Council adopted the intergovernmental agreement Monday, City Administrator Bob Kiely said Tuesday. He said the city council is glad the debate over the road relocation is nearly over. The relocation plan is considered essential to keep the

ROADS —

(Continued from page 13)

airport without jeopardizing their own best interests.

But Wheeling Trustee Bill Rogers, a staunch opponent to the current design, said Wednesday he will continue to oppose the design because, he said, it still calls for the village to "donate" too much land to the airport.

"I'M NOT objecting to the intergovernmental agreement," Rogers said. "What I'm opposed to is the decision regarding the roadway."

He said plans to move Wolf Road

airport's longest runway open to the facility's largest aircraft.

"We are looking forward to moving ahead, to getting it approved and signed," Kiely said.

Without the relocation, the Federal Aviation Administration has said the runway could be closed to the large aircraft that are considered the lifeblood of the airport.

An environmental impact study will begin if the agreement is adopted by the village. Kiely said the Illinois Department of Transportation's aeronautics division has warned the airport must adopt the design by Aug. 31 and start the impact study or face loss of funding. Although the city and village bought the facility, 95 percent of improvement funds are provided by the FAA and IDOT.

THE VILLAGE HAS balked at a speedy resolution of the design conflict because of what some trustees considered unnecessary expansion of the airport. But Village President Sheila Schultz said the new agreement, which now allows the village to annex property on the eastern side of the airport, provides new opportunities for the village.

"The lengthy process to this point was a necessary one," Village President Sheila Schultz said. "We don't have any apologies for that."

Schultz said the agreement now ensures that both municipalities can make good decisions concerning the

(Continued on page 19)

1,000 feet west of the north-south runway would require taking more land than FAA regulations state. Rogers called the move "pure expansion."

"I don't want to donate any more land to the airport than necessary. And obviously Craig (Anderson) feels we ought to donate that land to the airport for hangars," Rogers said.

Rogers said he advocates going with the minimum requirements established by the FAA. He said recent documents provided by the agency indicate the road could be moved less than 650 feet from the runway.

Garbage fees go up 5 percent

8-24-89
Like the cost of putting trash in the ground, the cost of moving it from Wheeling curbs went up Monday.

Village trustees agreed with officials from Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal to increase the monthly rate was raised 50 cents from \$10.48 to \$10.98, a nearly 5 percent increase.

Officials from the Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal said landfill costs have jumped from 7 percent to 31 percent and that the company has incurred smaller increases in personnel, fuel, oil and parts and repairs.

The hike in the service, which is billed quarterly, does not include the \$1 each month added to garbage bills to cover recycling costs. The rate increase will become effective Oct. 1.

Don Roth's, Chinn's Crabhouse expand

8-23/29
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Two well-known Wheeling restaurants will be expanding soon to keep up with increased business along Milwaukee Avenue. The owners of Don Roth's Restaurant at 61 N. Milwaukee Ave. will expand the building to seat an additional 100 people, while Bob Chinn's Crabhouse Restaurant at 393 S. Milwaukee Ave. will build a new parking lot to accommodate 120 more cars.

Work at Don Roth's may start in November and be finished next May. Work on the parking lot at Bob Chinn's may begin next month. The expansion project at Don Roth's includes adding another section to the northeast side of the building, enclosing a portion of the outdoor patio eating area and adding more landscaping around the building and parking lot. "The business dictates expansion," restaurant Manager Jim Lederer said. "We want to keep all the integrity intact. We don't want to change Don Roth's, but make it a little nicer place to visit."

The expansion of Don Roth's represents an ongoing effort to improve the already-busy restaurant, Lederer said. A new chef, Bill Eisenmann, was hired several months ago to serve a more "upscale" menu at the restaurant, Lederer said. Besides increasing restaurant seating, Don Roth's also may add a banquet hall to the century-old building. The expansion will increase seating from 179 to 278 and create a brighter atmosphere inside, Lederer said. The parking lot addition at Bob Chinn's would help the restaurant keep up with a growing number of customers, General Manager Frank D'Angelo said. When the restaurant first opened nearly seven years ago, it had seating for 170 people. It now seats 638 patrons. The new parking lot at Bob Chinn's will be constructed on a vacant lot several doors down from the restaurant. Bob Chinn's patrons now park their cars in the restaurant lot, at an adjacent office building and along streets.

Agreement would split Palwaukee revenues

8-28-89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling and Prospect Heights may equally split future revenues generated by Palwaukee Municipal Airport if Wheeling trustees agree tonight to a second intergovernmental agreement.

The proposed agreement spells out solutions to several controversies that officials from Prospect Heights and Wheeling, the airport owners, have battled over for years.

Some of the proposals in the agreement include annexing several parcels of land along the east border of the airport, annexing the Twin Drive-In Theater, relocating the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads according to the proposal already approved by Prospect Heights aldermen and equally dividing taxes generated by the airport between the two communities.

"I think it's an agreement that both communities can be confident with," Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz said. "No one is going to suffer unfairly. Whatever happens, we're going to share it."

Officials from the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration have pressured airport owners to reach an

accord. The airport could lose government money if an agreement is not reached soon, state and federal aviation officials have warned.

The proposed agreement, which Prospect Heights aldermen approved Aug. 21, would put to rest the question of what would become of some unincorporated land around the airport that could serve as prime commercial property for Wheeling.

Currently, all sales taxes generated by the airport goes to Prospect Heights because the airport's service businesses are within the city's borders.

Under the agreement, the airport owners would buy the drive-in property, but use only the minimum amount of land required to relocate the Wheeling Drainage Ditch, which meanders through the airport. The remaining land would be sold for private commercial use and likely be annexed later to Wheeling.

The Wolf/Hintz roads intersection would be moved west to create a clear zone and include additional property on the northwest corner for future airport development, according to the proposed agreement.

All taxes generated by the airport from original airport property would be divided equally among the two communities after May 1, 1994, or

Proposed Intergovernmental Agreement for Palwaukee Municipal Airport

Issue	Proposed solution
Annexation	The municipalities agree that parcels 30 through 34 shall be annexed to Wheeling and used for airport purposes.
Wolf/Hintz roads	The municipalities agree it is necessary to relocate the intersection and shall direct an environmental impact assessment within 60 days of approving the agreement.
Tax revenue division	The municipalities would share equally all tax revenue generated from property now owned by the airport after May 1, 1994 or when a second service business is started at the airport, whichever occurs first.
Twin drive-in theatre property	The municipalities agree to acquire the drive-in with federal and state aviation money. The southwest boundary of the drive-in would be used to relocate the Wheeling Drainage Ditch and for construction of T-hangars. Land not used for airport purposes would be sold to private owners.

when a second service business is started at the airport.

If trustees approve the agreement tonight, Schultz said, the commission

would likely meet the list of stringent deadlines required to receive money from state and federal aviation departments.

Wheeling trustees OK airport agreement

8-29-89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees narrowly approved an agreement with Prospect Heights on Monday that outlines solutions to several conflicts concerning Palwaukee Municipal Airport, which the two communities have feuded over for years.

The second intergovernmental agreement between the municipalities, which jointly own the airport, calls for equally dividing future tax revenues generated by the airport.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz pushed the measure through by casting a yes vote, giving it the majority needed for approval after Trustee Judy Abrus-

cato voted "present" and trustees William Rogers and Elizabeth Hartman voted against the agreement.

Since Prospect Heights aldermen approved the agreement last week, some technical changes have been made in the wording. Both municipalities expect to vote on the additions in the next couple of weeks.

The agreement also directs that an environmental impact study be conducted on the proposed relocation of the intersection at Wolf and Hintz roads.

The intersection must be moved west to create a "clear zone" for the airport's main runway according to federal safety regulations.

But Rogers said the proposed

road relocation includes about 30 acres more than is necessary for the move. The extra property, which may be used for future airport expansion, could house commercial development to generate tax revenues for Wheeling, Rogers said.

"If there is any benefit," Rogers said, "it may have to be shared with Prospect Heights, which I find somewhat disturbing."

The relocation also requires the acquisition of a couple of houses and a newly built commercial center to provide enough property. Also under the agreement, the municipalities would acquire the Twin Drive-In Theater property to relocate the Wheeling Drainage Ditch on the southwest boundary.

Wolf Road relocation plan will take homes with it

8-31-89
By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

When an airport is your neighbor, you get used to the roars that come with each take-off and landing.

For more than 30 years, Pat Curran has lived in a home on Kerry Lane, just west of Palwaukee Municipal Airport, and has heard the sound of propeller planes get replaced by the thunder of jet engines. She and her family have adjusted to the airport as they adjusted to their home.

The vacant lot behind her home has been the athletic training ground for the Wolf Run Estates children. Her brother-in-law is a neighbor to the south. Like many residents of the neighborhood, Curran has spent nearly a lifetime in her home.

But with action taken by Wheeling trustees Monday, Curran will join several other home and property owners who will now have to face the prospect of moving to accommodate the relocation of Wolf Road.

Although previous relocation designs would have given Curran a road for a neighbor, the design tentatively adopted Monday will now put Wolf Road right through her garage. Good-bye to Wolf Run Estates.

"I LOVE it and would hate to go," Curran said Tuesday after learning her house is in the proposed path of the new, improved Wolf Road. "Where can I go to replace something like this for what they want to give me?"

To the south, Norm Curran was less shocked by the news. He said he had seen plans for Wolf Road that may call for the purchase of his home and property for the road.

"I figured it was about to happen," Curran said. "But they fooled around

with it for so long. God knows what's going to happen."

Whatever does happen will probably be without Curran around to watch. He said he was planning to retire and move to the Gulf Coast of Florida in the near future. But that will follow 32 years living on Carol Avenue.

WHILE THE VILLAGE trustees and Prospect Heights aldermen talk about the economic viability of the airport, and the need to move the road to create a larger safety zone around the runway, families in Wolf Run talk about homes and lifestyles. To them, the movement of Wolf Road will be a major inconvenience.

"I guess we want to be settled quick and get out. I guess that won't happen, though," said Richard Smith, of Kerry Lane. His home would have been taken by either of the two relocation plans considered by the village. "I expect to get enough out of this to replace our three-bedroom ranch house on a half-acre. And I'll sue the village to get it."

Richard and Leah Smith have watched with intent the proceedings of the project. At one point, it looked like the suggestions of at least one trustee, Bill Rogers, would create a relocation plan that would spare their home.

But Monday, with trustees adopting an agreement with Prospect Heights over annexation, revenue sharing and airport development, they also began the process to study the relocation that would eclipse the Smiths' and Currans' homes.

"I THINK it smells," Richard Smith said. "I can't see condemning land to make more hangars for them to rent out." Smith was referring to the proposed airport development that could be situated between a relocated Wolf Road and the runway.

Pension ruling could affect Wheeling police, taxpayers

By Marcia Z. Nelson
Managing Editor and
Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Courtesy
8-31-89

Wheeling officials are carefully watching the fallout from a recent Cook County Circuit Court ruling that blocks the creation of low-cost mortgage and loan programs for police officers using pension fund assets.

A similar program using Wheeling police pension fund money has been on hold pending a court review of the programs.

With Circuit Court Judge Kenneth L. Gillis ruling last week that a Barrington program violated state regulations, Wheeling Village Attorney James Rhodes said it could mean the village will finally sign a settlement agreement with the pension board that would kill any plans to implement a program using Wheeling pension funds.

Gillis ruled that the mortgage programs did not meet state rules requiring that pension funds be administered solely for beneficiaries — police officers — of the fund.

"WHEN TRUSTEES consider other benefits, they're not administering solely for participants," Gillis said Monday in explaining his ruling. He also ruled that the mortgage program constituted improper additional compensation for current police officers.

"It (the program) was trying to do something laudable, to be sure," he said. "But it shouldn't come at the expense of the beneficiaries of the pension fund."

Richard Puchalski, an attorney for Barrington's police pension board, said Wednesday the board will appeal the

ruling.

Like Barrington village officials, who joined the legal battle against the pension board's loan program, Rhodes said Wheeling sued its pension board to halt a similar program because it could have cost village taxpayers, one of the backers of the pension fund, nearly \$6 million over the life of the first mortgages.

UNDER THE PROGRAM, the pension board would invest a portion of its assets with a guaranteed return rate at 6½ percent. The now-defunct credit union that would have administered the program would have then offered 8½ percent mortgages — below market rates — to members of the pension program.

Rhodes said the return rates for the program were below those rates that other investments could have generated and could have cost the pension program millions of dollars, dollars that by state law would have had to be covered by taxpayers.

"So in essence, they were agreeing to lose money on this investment so their members could get low-interest loans," Rhodes said. He said he welcomed the decision.

"I'm certainly glad to hear that the village (of Barrington) was successful because from our standpoint it was a scam," Rhodes said.

PENSION BOARD MEMBER Marvin "Syke" Horcher said the ruling will not automatically mean the board will sign the settlement agreement. He said the board will likely wait for the expected appeal before deciding on the status of the settlement agreement.

Horcher said portions of the judge's

ruling was invalid. He said the village uses the interest earned from pension board investments to lower the village's contributions that are generated by tax dollars. Other states have similar programs that have been upheld by court rulings, Horcher said.

Barrington village attorneys welcomed Gillis' ruling. "It certainly sets a precedent for the state," said Barrington Village Attorney J. William Braithwaite.

The ruling ends a suit filed in 1987 by the pension board against the Illinois Department of Insurance, which had sought to end the mortgage program that began in 1986. State regulators had

"I'm certainly glad to hear that the village (of Barrington) was successful because from our standpoint it was a scam."

**— James Rhodes
Village Attorney
Wheeling**

said the program constituted an imprudent investment and was prohibited by the Illinois Pension Code.

PENSION BOARD OFFICIALS set up the program after two years of study as a benefit aimed at retaining police officers. The loan program covered single-family homes.

Under the program, AmeriFed Federal Savings Bank in Joliet made home loans available to those qualified at an interest rate of 2.5 percent less than whatever was the savings and loan's

current note rate. In turn, the pension fund deposited in AmeriFed an amount of money equal to the mortgage amount that earned interest at 2¼ percent less than the mortgage interest rate charged the borrower.

Barrington village officials had intervened in the case on the side of the state, arguing that the home mortgage loan program had an extra cost to taxpayers because of the source of pension funds.

Police pensions are funded from three sources. Officers contribute 8.5 percent of their salaries. The fund earns interest from investments. Like Wheeling and nearly every other municipality in the state, Barrington taxes property owners at a level required to cover future retirement and disability payments.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS ARGUED that taxes would have to be raised to compensate for reduced interest earnings when money was lent to officers at below-market rates.

"The taxpayer is the guarantor (and) makes up the difference," said attorney Eugene J. Kelley Jr. of Arnstein & Lehr, who represented the village. Kelley said the village estimated the additional cost to taxpayers over a 20-year period could have been \$2 million.

Barrington village attorneys said that \$650,000 of fund assets had been placed into an AmeriFed "matching fund" account that equaled the amount of mortgage loans made. Of the 29 active officers in the pension plan, 10 mortgage loans had been made.

Although the Wheeling police pension board adopted a program, it has never been implemented and no low-interest loans have been granted.

Trustees examine costs of attracting new businesses

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Courtesy
8-31-89

Like fishermen working an untested river, Wheeling officials are considering which lures — and how many — they want to set out to land new businesses.

After learning that an incoming business, already granted a tax abatement by the village, has asked the state to back low-interest loans for construction, trustees say they are now wondering how much they must do to encourage commerce and industry to say yes to Wheeling.

Village officials called for the review last week after learning that Engiss Corp., a Park Ridge manufacturer, had asked the state for an Industrial Revenue Bond to help pay for a new building in Wheeling.

Earlier this summer, trustees granted Engiss a tax abatement for constructing a new building off Glen Avenue, south of Hintz Road. But Engiss has asked the state to extend a lower-interest, Industrial Revenue Bond to help offset the cost of construction, Finance Director Bob Fialkowski said.

ALTHOUGH TRUSTEES GRANTED

an IRB to California Closet Corp., Inc. Aug. 21, Fialkowski said few have been granted in recent years. Besides the tax abatements, which are offered in order to encourage businesses to stay in Cook County, the village can also offer IRBs as business inducements.

But with Engiss Corp. applying to the state for an IRB after already securing a tax abatement, Fialkowski said trustees have directed his staff to develop a policy that may call for the village to limit businesses to getting only one of the inducements from the village.

Both programs were developed by the state and county to keep industrial and manufacturing businesses in Illinois and Cook County.

"I can see the municipality offering an inducement and I have no problem with applications going to the state for

(Continued on page 22)

Businesses —

(Continued from page 5)

an inducement, but I don't think the municipality should offer two inducements," Trustee Tony Altieri said.

FIALKOWSKI SAID THE village would likely consider a policy in which they would not oppose state-granted IRBs but would review constraints on offering village IRBs to companies that already have secured tax abatements.

Besides the village, the state offers IRBs, Fialkowski said. But the municipality can veto such bond issues. He said, however, that trustees said they would not block attempts to secure the loans from the state.

Both IRBs and tax abatements save companies money, depending on the size of each, Fialkowski said. The revenue

bonds offer lower interest rates to businesses while the tax abatements cut the property taxes a business pays over the first 12 years in the community.

But Fialkowski said the policy review may be unnecessary given the size of the village's IRB allotment. With California Closet taking \$850,000 of the village's \$1.3 million maximum, there is little left to make such a loan worthwhile for a business, he said.

HE ALSO CAUTIONED that the village, by not granting some IRBs, could lose some of the money generated by fees attached to the IRBs. He said the village will likely get between \$6,400 and \$8,000 in fees from the \$850,000 bond loan to California Closet.

Municipalities to split airport revenues

Wheeling approves design plan for road relocation

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Countryside
Wheeling trustees continued to disagree about the specifics of the plan, but a board majority Monday approved an initial design for the relocation of Wolf and Hintz roads while agreeing to split airport revenues with Prospect Heights.

In adopting a second intergovernmental agreement governing the joint-operation of Palwaukee Municipal Airport by Wheeling and Prospect Heights, trustees said the move allows airport development to continue without pitting one community against the other.

Two trustees, Bill Rogers and Elizabeth Hartman, continued to oppose the plan because they said it calls for too much village land to be taken off the tax rolls. Trustees Joe Ratajczak, Tony Altieri, James Whittington and Village President Sheila Schultz supported the measure. Judy Abruscato voted "present."

The agreement calls for the two communities, which bought the airport with federal and state funding in 1984, to share equally all tax revenue generated

8-31-89
by the airport. It also allows for Wheeling to annex airport properties that are bordering the village.

But the most controversial aspect of the plan, adopted by a 5-2 vote of the board, calls for Wolf Road to move 1,000 feet west of the airport's longest runway. Supporting trustees said that design, which exceeds Federal Aviation Administration standards by 250 feet, allows for potential airport development between the roadway and runway.

WITH THE AIRPORT hoping to host a second fixed-base operator (FBO) within the next five years, Village President Sheila Schultz said the airport needs the area near the north end of the runway to have several location options.

And without the proposed revenue sharing stipulated in the agreement, Schultz said each community might vie for future airport business to go into its portion of the airport.

Relocating Hintz Road to the north and Wolf Road to the west is considered essential to keep the airport's longest

(Continued on page 23)

Relocation

(Continued from page 8)

runway open to the airport's largest aircraft. Without creating a larger safety zone around the runway, the FAA has said the runway could be closed to those aircraft that are considered the lifeblood of the airport.

Rogers, in a prepared speech to the board, again said the relocation plan constitutes "donating" village land to the airport. He said such a move violates a pledge made at the time of the airport's purchase that there would be no expansion of the facility.

"WHAT IS most troubling to me is the fact that the trustees promised the voters in 1985 that they would not expand the airport beyond the plan submitted at that time," Rogers said. "Now we are being given an opportunity to show if

indeed the word of an elected official is to be believed or not."

Village trustees agreed to purchase the airport along with Prospect Heights in 1984 after Wheeling voters narrowly defeated a proposal to buy the airport in a non-binding referendum. Schulz broke a 3-3 tie to approve the purchase.

Several parcels of land, some with homes, would be acquired under the plan outlined Monday. At least two residential homes in the Wolf Run Estates subdivision would be spared if the road is moved just 750 feet from the runway.

But Trustee James Whittington said the village must provide that extra 250 feet because the airport must have development options in the future.

"HISTORY HAS shown us that if we don't prepare logically for the future, we

get burned," Whittington said.

Hartman, however, said another portion of the new agreement, which calls for study of the Twin Drive-In as a possible new location for a diverted Wheeling Drainage Ditch, allows for the proposed new development to take place at the center of the airport and not along the runway.

Without relocating the drainage ditch to the drive-in property, the interior of the airport could only be developed following the construction of costly bridges, officials have said. In considering the drive-in as an alternative for the ditch, Hartman said future airport-related development could be built upon the interior acreage.

Schultz and Trustee Tony Altieri, however, said that while that suggestion is possible, the runway area is still

necessary. "If it can't go there (the interior of the airport), then what? You have no options," Schultz said.

WITH EITHER A 1,000-foot or 750-foot sweep, one recently-completed industrial building along Wolf Road is slated for the wrecking ball. Officials for the building's owners said Monday they were still considering lease agreements with hopeful tenants.

Even though the village and city have agreed to undertake the environmental impact study necessary to begin the relocation process, the actual demolition of buildings and construction of the roadway is potentially years away. The airport is now trying to purchase several parcels along Hintz Road that are needed to build bridges over the Wheeling Drainage Ditch.

HERALD

9-3-89

One black officer grew 'a thick skin'; others file suit

BY STEVE GORECKI
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Florene Williams is not the first black police officer to contend to be a victim of racial discrimination in the suburbs, where black officers are a rarity.

With Williams' dismissal from the Hoffman Estates Police Department — which she plans to challenge in Cook County Circuit Court — the number of black officers in the Northwest suburbs totals fewer than a dozen, including two in Elk Grove Village and one each in Des Plaines, Wheeling, Rolling Meadows and Buffalo Grove.

At least two of those black officers — Des Plaines Officer Clifford L. Cadle and Wheeling Officer Robert Pressley — recount charges of racial harassment similar to those leveled by Williams.

In Hoffman Estates and Wheeling, officials are keeping silent about the charges because of pending federal lawsuits.

But Des Plaines police Lt. Ronald K. Diehl said his department has gotten over the "initial shock" of Cadle being that town's first black officer in 1982 and sees no problems today.

Diehl said the department has adjusted to the presence of its first black in much the same manner it did the first woman officer. And he emphasizes that racial harassment witnessed by or reported to superiors will not be tolerated.

Clifford Cadle, 36, said he has experienced different levels of racial discrimination during the seven years he has been on the Des Plaines police force. He also said he's not about to run away from his job.

Before becoming Des Plaines' first black officer in 1982, Cadle worked for the Cook County Sheriff's Department. There were no racial problems there, he said.

But upon arriving in Des Plaines, Cadle, a native of Belize in the British Honduras, said he began experiencing many of the things Williams is charging. (See related story).

There were racial jokes and slurs

and also radio cut-offs, he said. There also was an incident, he said, when a firecracker was placed under the hood of his personal car and went off when he started the engine.

"I wasn't shocked. I was just amazed because Des Plaines is so close to Chicago, where there are so many blacks working," Cadle said. "Because of the way I was brought up, I didn't think I would have a problem."

"I've been here seven years and I intend to stay here. My mother raised me in a way that I won't run away from life's problems. I have a commitment to myself that when I'm going to leave I'm going to do it on my own, not because somebody ran me out of there."

Cadle said he also reported his charges to his supervisors. They in turn transferred him to another shift and the problems lessened, he said. Cadle's supervisors said such a transfer is routine to defuse such situations.

Some racial tension remains, but

Cadle said the Des Plaines department has a good police force that is committed to the community.

"The jokes don't bother me. I realize you have to have a thick skin," Cadle said.

"I'm not going to ever accept anyone trying to degrade me or take away my dignity as a human being, whoever it is. I mean, this is America where there is supposed to be freedom for all. This isn't Russia or some Third World country with communism."

Cadle said he would like to see an association formed in the Northwest suburbs for black police officers to meet and discuss mutual concerns and job tensions.

He said he has not resorted to legal action, saying he prefers to work for solutions within the department as long as supervisors cooperate. He said he's learned to take the good with the bad.

"All I want to do is do my job and be left alone. I'm not looking for any special treatment," Cadle said. "I just don't want to come to work and

have my day made miserable. As long as I'm treated like everyone else, get the same expectations and opportunities as everyone else, they won't have any problems with me."

One of Cadle's supervisors, Lt. Diehl, said Cadle's first experiences on the job were no different than those experienced by the department's first female officers 15 years ago.

"I think it was a jolt when the first woman came into the department and a jolt when the first black came on. Then he blended in," Diehl said.

But he adds, "If you rebel against everything that's done against you or that you don't like, you're not going to last long. You won't make many friends."

Patrolman Al Davis, 31, of Rolling Meadows, said racism has never been a problem during the more than two years he's been on the force.

"I've had no problems at all. I expected to be judged by the quality of my work and that has been the

case," Davis said. "I've been here, they've accepted me."

Rolling Meadows Chief Richard Hamr doesn't have a "magic plaining why Davis has as the only black officer in the department."

"We're a team-oriented and you have to be a team to get along. And well," Hamr said.

In Wheeling, Officer Pressley apparently felt he was in with the rest of the department when he filed a racial harassment lawsuit in June.

The suit, which is set to trial in January, could be subjected to epithets, and jokes," Pressley said. "I've had racist cartoons" placed in the police station. Police Chief Michael Pressley refused to discourage Pressley.

Neither Pressley would comment on the

HERALD 9-3-89

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BY STEVE GURECKI
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"I've had no problems at all. I expected to be judged by the quality of my work and that has been the

case," Davis said. "And since I've been here, they've accepted me."

Rolling Meadows Acting Police Chief Richard Hammer said he doesn't have a "magic formula" explaining why Davis has fit in so well as the only black officer in the department.

"We're a team-oriented organization and you have to be part of the team to get along. And Al fits in very well," Hammer said.

In Wheeling, Officer Robert Pressley apparently felt he was not fitting in with the rest of the police department when he filed a racial discrimination lawsuit in June 1983.

The suit, which is expected to go to trial in January, contends Pressley was subjected to "racial slurs, epithets, and jokes," including "racist cartoons" placed in his mailbox at the police station. Pressley said Police Chief Michael F. Haeger refused to discourage such treatment.

Neither Pressley nor Haeger would comment on the matter.

Wheeling hires firm to design street work

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees have hired a Crystal Lake engineering company for nearly \$60,000 to design next year's street improvements.

Baxter & Woodman, Inc., which has done street improvements for Wheeling for the past five years, will survey and design 15 streets included in the plan. The company will do the work for no more than \$59,444.

Village trustees have budgeted \$100,000 for the street improvement designs in the road and bridge fund. If the designs are completed this year, bid specifications could be submitted in spring to begin construction in May or June, said Robert D. Gray, Jr., Wheeling's director of operations and maintenance.

Next year's improvements will complete the repairs to the remaining streets identified in the village's original pavement management

plan, which was drafted in 1983.

Several streets were added to the original plan, including roads in the Northgate Industrial Park and the Wheeling Center for Industry Industrial Park.

"Those streets have seen some rapid deteriorating due to construction traffic," Gray said.

Those streets would become a top priority to prevent additional future costs for major reconstruction, he added.

Repairs to Glen Avenue, which runs from Hintz Road to Carpenter Avenue, and Pleasant Run Drive, from Elmhurst Road for about 600 feet east, were to be included in the village's 1985 and 1986 programs, but were left out because of a lack of money. The basic engineering and evaluations were completed, but engineers will now determine the current conditions of the roads.

Glen Avenue probably now re-

Wheeling's 1990 street improvement program

Street	Project description
Jefferson Court	Wheeling Road to cul-de-sac
Muriel Court	Wheeling Road to cul-de-sac
Janice Court	Wheeling Road to cul-de-sac
Shawn Court	Wheeling Road to cul-de-sac
Messner Drive	Peterson Drive to Wolf Road
Peterson Drive	Messner Drive to Marquardt Drive
Marquardt Drive	Peterson Drive to Wolf Road
Pleasant Run Drive	Elmhurst Road to about 600 feet east
Seton Court	Hintz Road to cul-de-sac
Glen Avenue	Hintz Road to Carpenter Avenue
North Third Street	Strong Avenue to Mayer Avenue
Northgate Parkway	Lake-Cook Road to about 700 feet north of Dundee Road
Allendale Drive	Diens Drive to Northgate Parkway
Diens Drive	Allendale Drive to Quail Hollow Drive
Quail Hollow Drive	Diens Drive to Northgate Parkway

quires total reconstruction, Gray said. Most of the other streets in the plan require removing cracked surfaces and resurfacing, he added.

North First Street, which is now a dead end, would be extended and made into a cul-de-sac for access to houses built off the street.

Although construction costs would not be available until after the engi-

neering is completed, village officials estimate the repair costs for the program, which is included in the village's capital improvements program, at about \$1.5 million.

When the street plan is completed, Gray said, village officials will begin working on a new list of streets repairs, which would likely include roads in subdivisions.

Wheeling flies airport plan over opposition

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Despite pleas from business owners, residents and one trustee to reconsider parts of an agreement with Prospect Heights concerning Palwaukee Municipal Airport issues, Wheeling trustees Monday approved the final version of the agreement.

The second intergovernmental agreement was approved in concept last week by officials in Prospect Heights and Wheeling, the two communities that own the airport. But some wording changes were made since then.

The revised plan, which was approved after Village President Sheila H. Schultz cast a tie-break-

ing vote, outlines the solutions to several conflicts concerning the airport that the two towns have feuded over for years.

However, Wheeling Trustee William Rogers objected to a proposal included in the agreement for the relocation of the intersection at Wolf and Hintz roads. The intersection must be moved west to create a "clear zone" because, according to Federal Aviation Administration standards, the airport's main runway ends too close to the roads.

According to the agreement, the municipalities must authorize an environmental impact study within 60 days for the intersection to be moved 1,000 feet from the center of the runway.

Rogers said the intersection could be moved 620 feet to comply with FAA requirements. Rogers calls the plan "expansionistic" because he said the airport owners want to develop the additional 380 feet.

With the proposed realignment, a few houses in Wolf Run Estates and a recently-built business center would have to come down.

"The overzealous expansionistic plan," business center co-owner John Cartland said, "unjustly destroys our privilege to develop our property."

However, Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said the proposed relocation is necessary for a safe configuration of the intersection.

Disciplinary hearing for local officer is scheduled for tonight in Wheeling

Charges filed by Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger against Sgt. Michael Staufenbiel last May are expected to finally be heard tonight (Thursday).

In his list of charges, Haeger is asking the board of fire and police commissioners to demote Staufenbiel to patrol officer for allegedly turning the village flag upside down following an April hearing in which the board fired another Wheeling officer.

Haeger said the alleged action was "unbecoming an officer" and said the act brought the department "into disrepute or reflects discredit upon the officer as a member of the department..."

The alleged incident came following a hearing for fired officer Richard Imber.

After earlier finding Imber guilty of breaking department rules prohibiting gambling and battery, the board of fire and police commissioners fired Imber. About 30 friends and department members, including Staufenbiel, stayed until the meeting ended just after 2 a.m. April 7.

Haeger charged that Staufenbiel turned the village flag upside down, balancing the pole against the wall as the flag rested on the floor. Haeger said several officers, including another supervisor, allegedly watched Staufenbiel upend the flag.

At an earlier hearing, Staufenbiel said he expected to defend himself without the aid of an attorney. He also said he intended to question those officers who are expected to testify against him.

Expansion sought for waste transfer station

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Waste Management, Inc. wants to expand its waste transfer station in Wheeling Township to increase its efficiency in shipping recyclable materials.

The station is located on 4.4 acres at 350 Summit Road, west of Milwaukee Avenue and just north of the Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

The unincorporated Cook County site also includes a maintenance garage and the main office for Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal, which collects recyclable materials from Wheeling, Buffalo Grove and Prospect Heights.

Tom Mazzenga, general manager for the disposal company, said the enclosed transfer station would be expanded on the north side to accommodate a cardboard baler machine that would be added to the center. The north property is owned by Waste Management and is currently vacant.

A cardboard baler machine is used to compact cardboard, newspapers and plastic into wirebound bales, loaded into trucks and brought to recycling centers. The cardboard balers could not be used to compact other garbage, Mazzenga added.

Corrugated cardboard collected from businesses that is typically shipped to landfills could be baled and brought to recycling centers with the baler, Mazzenga said.

"If we can keep it out of landfills, the more time we'll have on the landfills," Mazzenga said. "We're trying to address commercial waste with cardboard recycling."

In addition, newspapers that currently are dropped off at the Wheeling Township site and loaded into semi-trucks before being shipped to an Alsip recycling plant could be baled. That would increase the efficiency in delivering recyclables to processing plants, Mazzenga added.

The Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals is holding a public hearing on the matter at 3 p.m. Sept. 15 in the Wheeling Township Hall, 1616 N. Arlington Heights Road.

Wheeling gives approval to airport improvements

A plan for making improvements at Palwaukee Airport received formal approval from Wheeling, clearing the way for changes at the airstrip.

Countryside 9-7-89
One week after approving in principal an agreement governing improvements to Palwaukee Municipal Airport, Wheeling trustees Tuesday made the move official.

After making several changes in a planned intergovernmental agreement with neighbor and airport co-owner Prospect Heights, Wheeling trustees narrowly approved the deal that calls for revenue sharing between the two communities as they plot necessary safety improvements for the airport.

Adopted by a 4-3 vote decided by Village President Sheila Schultz' tie-breaking vote, the plan also calls for the study of relocating Wolf and Hintz roads to increase the safety "clear zone" at the north end of the airport's longest, and most financially important, runway.

While supporters of the relocation design have said it allows for greater flexibility by providing for additional development acreage between a relocated Wolf Road and the runway, its detractors called the design "expansionistic" and said it calls for the condemnation of too much village property for the improvements.

THE TWO COMMUNITIES have been at odds over the relocation issue since last September. Until the two municipalities settled annexation and revenue splitting issues at the airport, Schultz said Wheeling officials were reluctant to approve road relocation

designs.

But Schultz said earlier that the new agreement allows for the airport commission and the two communities to consider airport improvements without pitting Wheeling against Prospect Heights. With revenues from airport businesses and taxes shared equally, no community would gain from the location of any business on its portion of the airport.

Schultz was joined Tuesday by trustees Joe Ratajczak, Tony Altieri and James Whittington in supporting the new agreement with Prospect Heights. Trustees Bill Rogers, Judy Abruscato and Elizabeth Hartman opposed the agreement, Village Manager Craig Anderson said Wednesday.

The entire agreement was preceded by the debate over the relocation of Hintz and Wolf roads, considered essential to keep the airport's longest runway open to the airport's largest aircraft. Without creating a larger safety zone around the runway, the Federal Aviation Administration has said the runway could be closed to those aircraft that are considered the financial lifeblood of the airport.

THE TWO COMMUNITIES purchased the airport in 1984 using federal and state funding.

The Prospect Heights City Council has already approved the second intergovernmental agreement.

Hearing continues for Wheeling officer

9-8-89
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling fire and police commissioners continued a hearing for two weeks for a police sergeant accused of showing disrespect for the village flag five months ago.

Sgt. Michael J. Staufenbiel, an 18-year department veteran, is accused of not showing respect for the village flag when he upended the flag and left it on the floor of the council chambers early one April morning.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger, who is charging Staufenbiel with discrediting the department, is seeking to demote the sergeant to a patrol officer. A demotion could drop his annual \$41,492 salary to

between \$27,117 and \$36,555.

A hearing set for Thursday was continued to 8 p.m., Sept. 21 in the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road, after a court stenographer, whom commissioners waited for for one hour, failed to show up to the meeting.

A frustrated Staufenbiel said, "I just wish we could get it over with." Staufenbiel, who was charged in June, is defending himself without an attorney before the commission.

A previous hearing scheduled for July 20 was delayed because Haeger was recovering from back surgery.

The charges against Staufenbiel stem from an emotional fire and police commission hearing on

April 6 when police officer Richard R. Imber was fired for gambling in a local bar while off duty.

Following the hearing, police officers and a supervising officer saw Staufenbiel, who was off duty but wearing his police uniform, walk up to the village flag and turn it upside down, balancing the pole against the back wall. Staufenbiel then walked out the back door of the chambers, the charges state.

The action "will impair his efficiency as an officer and a supervisor," Haeger states in his charges. Staufenbiel said that Haeger — before filing the charges — suggested Staufenbiel resign to save himself from public embarrassment. But Staufenbiel refused.

Appointee to Palwaukee panel dead at 58

9/14/89
BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Appointed earlier this month for a second time to the Palwaukee Airport Commission, Ronald C. Sowatzke was anxious to return to the commission he once chaired.

Sowatzke stopped by the Prospect Heights City Hall twice on Monday, hoping to catch Clerk Karen A. Pedersen. He wanted her to swear him into office so he could begin attending meetings, his wife, Mary Jane, said.

With Pedersen out of the office,

Sowatzke returned home to cut the grass. Shortly afterwards he suffered a massive heart attack and died, she said. He was 58.

"He was a very solid citizen of Prospect Heights," said Daniel Quirey, who served with Sowatzke on the airport commission.

A 19-year resident of Prospect Heights, Sowatzke served on the Prospect Heights Elementary District 23 school board from 1972 to 1978.

Sowatzke also worked on the citizens committee that laid the groundwork for the purchase of Palwaukee

Municipal Airport. He was appointed to the first airport commission in March 1985.

"Ron was one of those guys who, when questions were asked, took it upon himself to find the answers," William Rogers, the airport commission's first chairman, said.

"He (Sowatzke) was the real workhorse on our airport commission when it first got started," Rogers added.

Sowatzke succeeded Rogers as chairman of the airport commission in March 1987, but resigned three months later because of a lack of lia-

bility insurance for commission members. The issue would paralyze the commission, with members afraid to vote on substantive airport issues for fear it could expose them to potential litigation.

With the insurance matter resolved and Sowatzke retired from his job, the former chairman was ready to rejoin the commission this year. Prospect Heights Acting Mayor Jerry Meyer appointed him to replace Jim Nickel on Sept. 5. His first meeting would have been Sept. 20.

"When he took on something," Rogers said, "he took it on and gave it his best."

Police sergeant flag issue hearing planned

9-17-89
Wheeling fire and police commissioners will try for a third time this week to conduct a hearing for a police sergeant accused of showing disrespect to the village flag.

A hearing set earlier this month for charges filed by Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger against Sgt. Michael J. Staufenbiel was delayed because a court stenographer failed to show up.

Staufenbiel, an 18-year department veteran, is charged with

THE WEEK AHEAD

pending the village flag in protest of a hearing that ended with the firing of a fellow police officer for gambling and battery.

The original hearing for Staufenbiel, set for July 20, was delayed because Haeger was recovering from back surgery.

Following an April 6 hearing for former police officer Richard B.

Imber, police officers and a supervising officer saw Staufenbiel walk up to the village flag that stands in the council chambers and turn it upside down. Staufenbiel then walked out of the back door of the chambers, leaving the flag upside down with the pole leaning against the wall, Haeger states in his charges.

The action by Staufenbiel, who was off duty at the time but wearing his police uniform, "will impair

The top meeting

Who: Wheeling Fire and Police Commission

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

When: 8 p.m. Monday

efficiency as an officer and a supervisor," the charges state.

Staufenbiel has refused an attorney and said he will represent himself before the commission.

Wheeling seeks landscape waste solutions

Sept. 18, 1989
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling officials may ask Waste Management Inc. to dump the village's landscaping waste in state-approved sites in an effort to reduce the amount of trash hauled to landfills.

Dave Kowal, assistant to the village manager, said he wants to hold a workshop meeting with Waste Management officials in October or November to discuss limiting the amount of village landscaping and recyclable wastes dumped in landfills.

Landscape waste currently is accepted by pick-up trucks if it is bagged.

Under a new state law that

takes effect next July 1, landfills no longer will accept landscape waste, which includes grass clippings, leaves, twigs and branches.

Municipalities must come up with an alternative to dumping the waste in sanitary landfills or use one of eight compost sites approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Compost is a mixture of decomposing refuse that can be used later to fertilize soil.

Kowal said he is not recommending the village make its own compost site.

"I don't think a compost site run by Wheeling would be feasible," Kowal said.

He added that he probably would not request that residents

take care of their own yard waste by doing their own composting.

Kowal said he also wants to discuss with the garbage collection company whether plastics could be added to the village recycling program that started last May. In July, garbage collection officials said they could collect only plastics such as milk containers for an additional charge.

Homeowners now pay an additional \$1 a month for the recycling program, which accepts newspaper and inserts, colored and clear glass, aluminum and tin.

All residents who have curbside garbage pick-up and residents who have the approval of their homeowners association may participate in the program.

Residents protest balefill proposal

9-19-89 Herald
BY DANIELLE ACETO
Daily Herald Staff Writer

More than 100 sign-toting "balebusters" crowded into an Elgin hotel meeting room Monday to protest the proposed construction of a balefill near Bartlett.

Clad in their trademark "balebusters" T-shirts, the angry contingent of area residents were joined by local, state and federal officials in a united opposition front, as the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency began the first of a two-day set of hearings on the balefill proposal.

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County has applied for a permit to build a 142-acre balefill at the northwest corner of Gifford and West Bartlett roads in unincorporated Hanover Township.

"We are tired of this battle," U.S. Rep. J. Dennis Hastert said. "It is time to bury not bales of garbage, but this proposal once and for all."

SWANCC earlier this year had its first permit application denied by the IEPA, which cited 25 deficiencies and potential violations of the Environmental Protection Act.

Claiming those deficiencies have indeed been answered in the revised application now under consideration, SWANCC officials disputed the protesters' claim that the site in question was vulnerable to groundwater contamination.

"We have responded to each and every concern and it has confirmed our belief that the system is absolutely essential, urgent and safe," said SWANCC chairwoman and Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz.

Schultz' comments, like those of other pro-balefill speakers Monday night, were jeered by many in attendance.

"The conference has used every trick in the book and some they even invented to ram this project down our throats," said Bartlett Village President John A. Stark.

Wheeling approves sandwich shop in center

9-19-89
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday approved plans for a sandwich shop in a developing village shopping center, where earlier this summer they rejected plans for a carry-out pizza restaurant.

The village board unanimously approved a request by Schaumburg resident Petroula Petro to open a Subway Sandwiches and Salads restaurant in Center Plaza, 16 W. Dundee Road.

The center is located on the northwest corner of Dundee and Wolf roads and abuts a heavily-traveled intersection.

In June, trustees in a 4-1 vote rejected plans for a Little Caesar's

Pizza restaurant in the same shopping center because, they said, it would increase traffic problems.

Village officials said the center could not provide adequate parking for customers during peak business hours and, traffic at the intersection would increase with the pizza restaurant.

Little Caesar's representatives had said the restaurant would have less than 10 customers an hour on weeknights and less than 50 cars an hour during weekend evenings.

In addition, trustees said they did not want to increase the already large number of pizza restaurants in the village.

However, a sandwich shop would not increase traffic at the center and would provide enough

parking for the number of customers the restaurant would serve during the day, trustees said.

"Before, when it was the pizza place, there would be heavier traffic than there would be with a Subway," Trustee Judy Abruscato said. "And it's something new and different. It's something we need additional in the village."

The sandwich shop, which is mostly a carry-out business, would have 10 parking spaces and would limit seating to six customers. The peak hours for the restaurant, open until 2 a.m. on weekends, are from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Traffic during peak evening hours at the sandwich shop still would not be as heavy as at a pizza restaurant, Abruscato added.

Wheeling lets school buses stay parked

9-20-89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling school bus drivers will continue to park on village streets until officials determine how to handle residents' complaints about the issue.

About 30 bus drivers from National School Bus Service, Inc. recently complained to village trustees after about 10 drivers received tickets or warnings last week for parking their 42-foot vehicles in front of their own houses.

Trucks and vehicles requiring a Class C license are prohibited from parking on village streets, although bus drivers say they have parked there for years and have never received tickets.

Police issued the \$5 parking tickets after the department received several complaints about the buses, Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said.

"We never had a problem before," said Joan Woods, a 15-year bus driver. "We are running all day long. To take the bus back to the terminal... there would be no way we could make our runs on time."

Bus drivers, who drive several routes during the day, typically park their buses in front of their houses during lunch hours and between runs rather than drive back to a terminal in Wheeling.

The Mundelein bus service transports children from Buffalo Grove, Mundelein, Prospect

Heights, Arlington Heights, Libertyville and Wheeling to schools in Wheeling Township Elementary District 21, Prospect Heights Elementary District 23, Arlington Heights Elementary District 25 and Northwest Suburban High School District 214.

School buses are allowed to park on streets in those suburbs, even though other Class C vehicles are prohibited from doing the same thing, Woods said.

Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said officials are studying village laws and would likely exempt buses from following rules for trucks. Meanwhile, tickets issued to bus drivers last week will be treated as warnings, meaning that drivers will not have to pay.

Both sides confident of victory on balefill

9-21-89

By DANIELLE ACETO
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Pro- and anti-balefill activists each were laying claim to potential victory Wednesday, following the most recent round of public hearings on a proposal to construct a garbage dump near Bartlett.

Members of both the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and Citizens Against the Balefill said Wednesday they are confident state environmental officials will rule in their favor later this year, when a decision is rendered on SWANCC's second application for a permit to build a balefill at Gifford and West Bartlett roads in unincorporated Hanover Township.

Called a balefill because — unlike a landfill — the refuse is compressed into bales and then buried, the dump would serve most of the North and Northwest suburbs.

"There was no new data whatsoever to indicate the site is unsuitable. We see no basis on which the permit could be denied," SWANCC Executive Director William F. Abolt

said Wednesday — one day after completion of the second round of Illinois Environmental Protection Agency hearings on the proposal.

"We wouldn't have resubmitted if we didn't believe a permit was going to be issued," Abolt added.

But members of the leading opposition group fighting the proposal are just as sure the state will punch holes in SWANCC's plan and once again deny the permit request.

"We are very upbeat and positive," said Citizens Against the Balefill Vice President Mary Byrne. "And we are prepared to fight, however long it takes, until we do kill it (the proposal)."

But fighting costs money and, as both sides know, supplies do run dry.

"It has taken its toll, but it also has made us stronger in our commitment to defeat this," said Byrne. "Financially, it may be a problem, but where there's a will there's a way."

Abolt said SWANCC already has pumped more than \$4 million in the balefill effort.

Confession no good in cop murder

9-21-89

By DAVE URBANEK
of our Springfield bureau

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that the confession of a man accused of killing Wheeling police officer Kenneth R. Dawson of Kildeer cannot be used as evidence against him.

The decision clears the way for the long-delayed trial of Larry Strickland.

Strickland, 30, was indicted four years ago in the 1985 shooting, which took place during an alleged burglary attempt in Wheeling. Strickland's 24-year-old brother, Tyrone, was convicted last year of killing Dawson and sentenced to death. Dawson was shot in the chest.

Authorities extracted a confession from Larry Strickland soon after his arrest, but his defense attorneys had successfully argued before Judge

Fred Suria in Cook County Circuit Court that the statement should be stricken because police and prosecutors "coerced" it. Wednesday's decision upheld Suria's ruling.

Strickland, of East Chicago Heights, charged that police officers refused to treat a bullet wound in his finger until he gave them the statement they wanted.

While prosecutors admitted that several hours elapsed before Strickland was treated, they contended that Strickland confessed twice, once during initial questioning at a Chicago police station and then in the hospital emergency room after a doctor examined his finger.

In arguments before the Illinois Supreme Court, Assistant State's Attorney Marie Quinliven Czech maintained that Strickland's injury was not serious and said the court at least should allow prosecutors to use

Strickland's second confession.

The Supreme Court, though, said "coercive circumstances" were still apparent during Strickland's second confession, circumstances that formed a "coercive chain" from the police station to the hospital.

"Although a doctor had already examined the defendant by the time of the final interview, it appears that the defendant's finger was still in substantially the same condition as before," said the opinion, written by Justice Benjamin K. Miller of Springfield. "The defendant may have continued to believe that any further medical treatment was dependent on his present cooperation."

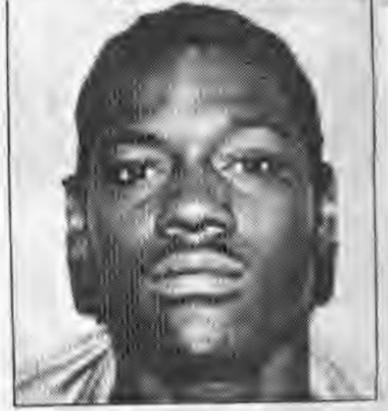
Czech said it is too early to know whether the Supreme Court's decision will affect Strickland's trial.

"We have some other evidence of

See CONFESSION on Page 7



Kenneth R. Dawson



Larry Strickland

CONFESSION: Court clears way for trial

9-21-89

Continued from Page 1

his guilt, but we really wanted the confession," Czech said. "We're certainly going to give the trial a shot."

She added that prosecutors will use physical evidence from the scene and eyewitness accounts during the trial. They will be unable to tell jurors that Strickland's brother has

been convicted of murdering Dawson.

Appellate Defender Alan Goldberg, representing Strickland, said the decision was a "victory" for his client, who has been held at the Cook County Jail since 1985.

"It would have been an injustice had a statement that was induced or coerced been introduced as evidence," he said.

Palwaukee looks at relocating intersection

9-21-89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Relocating the intersection at Wolf and Hintz roads tops a new 5-year improvement program at Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Airport commissioners Wednesday unanimously approved the annually updated Transportation Improvement Proposal that outlines airport projects planned through 1995.

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

Relocating the intersection falls under the 1992 plan, but Commis-

sion Chairman Carey L. Chickerneo said that timetable is unrealistic unless the FAA funds the previous years' requests. Those requests include money to build bridges and acquire land needed to relocate.

The intersection must be moved west because, according to FAA standards, the airport's main runway ends too close to the roads.

The 5-year plan was developed by consulting engineer Stephen W. Moulton. If approved by Prospect Heights and Wheeling, it will be submitted to the FAA for funding consideration.

Each year the list is updated and resubmitted.

"We ask for a little of everything," Chickerneo said, adding that the FAA typically funds only

a few of the projects each year.

The FAA funds 90 percent of the airport improvement projects, while the Illinois Department of Transportation pays 5 percent and the airport pays the remaining 5 percent.

This year, which ends Sept. 30 for the FAA, the airport received \$144,000 to acquire one parcel of land, airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said.

Airport Commissioner William Rogers was concerned that the airport may run out of money in a few years if all of the projects are funded.

But Chickerneo said the commission has the option each time a project comes up to reject the FAA grant.

Cop on carpet in Wheeling flag flap

By Jessica Seigel

A controversy over free speech is upsetting some municipal officials in Wheeling, where a police sergeant faces demotion for turning the village flag upside down.

Though flag burning was made legal by the U.S. Supreme Court decision in June, flag turning—even a village flag—is still serious business in the northwest suburb.

Sgt. Michael Staufenbiel is charged with behavior unbecoming an officer. Village Atty. James Rhodes says the sergeant insulted the government that employs him last April when, in a fit of temper, he turned a village flag upside down at the Village Hall.

"Our flag is the symbol of authority of Wheeling," Rhodes said. "It symbolizes the village exactly the way the U.S. flag

symbolizes this country."

Unlike the Stars and Stripes, the blue and green banner of Wheeling has a short history. Village officials can't recall the name, age or sex of the student who won a contest to design the village flag in the 1970s, said Village President Sheila Schultz.

But the symbolism of the Wheeling flag lives on as strong as a decade ago. Decorating the banner are a wagon wheel representing Wheeling, an outline of Illinois, an elongated white cross representing the main roads through town and a blue stripe for the nearby Des Plaines River.

Schultz and Police Chief Michael Haeger declined to comment on Staufenbiel's case, which will be heard Thursday night

before the village Board of Fire and Police Commissioners.

Staufenbiel admits he did the deed in anger after a fellow police officer was fired last April by the same three-member civilian board that will hear his case. But the 18-year veteran says he believes the charges and possible demotion far outstrip the severity of his act.

"I'm not trying to hide anything. I've admitted what I've done and I'm not proud of it," said Staufenbiel, 39. "But I think the punishment sought is way beyond the crime."

If demoted to patrol officer, he would lose at least \$7,000 of his \$43,000-a-year salary. In addition, if he retires at 50 and lives 25 years, he estimates he could lose more than \$188,000, counting pension

See Flag, pg. 4

Flag

Continued from page 1

payments. When he goes before the police commissioners Thursday night, Staufenbiel plans to ask for a period of unpaid suspension instead of demotion.

"I'm not happy with what I did, but this flag wasn't damaged or destroyed or harmed in any manner. It's as good as new today," said Staufenbiel, standing in the municipal conference room of the Village Hall where the flag incident occurred April 7 at 2 a.m.

In front of the room, in stands, are the village flag, Illinois flag and American flag. Staufenbiel took the village flag from its stand, turned the pole upside down and leaned it against a wall.

Staufenbiel acted shortly after the commission voted to fire Officer Richard Imber for playing liar's poker in a tavern, battery and resisting arrest. Though not a close friend of Imber, who is now driving a

truck, Staufenbiel had been a character witness for him at the hearing.

"I was really convinced his punishment would be a 30-day suspension," Staufenbiel said. The spontaneous flag overturning "was my way of showing the Police Department had been turned upside down," he said.

The next morning custodians reported finding the village flag upside down, its cloth trailing on the floor. Chief Haeger's internal investigation, which found several witnesses, made clear that this was no casual matter.

In June, the chief filed charges against Staufenbiel for conduct unbecoming an officer, bringing discredit on the department and violating standards of conduct for police officers.

"The charges suggest this was an act of disrespect," said Rhodes. By disrespecting the village symbol, Staufenbiel by inference offended the village, which is his employer.

"A citizen would have a right under the law to show disrespect to anything, but for an employee rights are limited," Rhodes said.

Officer only suspended in view of sincerity

By TRISH LIEFRENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling fire and police commissioners say they suspended rather than demoted a village police sergeant because he "sincerely" regretted upending the village flag.

Sgt. Michael J. Staufenbiel, an 18-year department veteran, was suspended for 21 days without pay following a fire and police commission hearing Thursday.

During the hearing, Staufenbiel admitted to walking into the village hall and turning the village flag upside down after a stormy disciplinary hearing last April for a fellow officer. That officer, Richard Imber, was fired by the

commission for gambling and battery.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger, who charged that Staufenbiel's action showed disrespect for the village, sought to demote the sergeant to a patrol officer. Haeger said Staufenbiel's outburst could impair his ability in his role as a supervisor.

The village's three fire and police commissioners unanimously rejected Haeger's recommendation and instead suspended Staufenbiel — a move that will cost the sergeant about \$3,740 in wages.

"My reasons were that we're looking at an 18-year veteran that according to evidence has had a pretty good police record," Commissioner Edward Main said. "He

obviously made a mistake, one that cannot go unpunished. I believe the sincerity in his apology."

Agreed Commissioner Rita Strzyk: "He was very, very sincere. He agreed with our findings and feeling that an officer cannot do whatever he wants. We didn't give him a slap on the wrist, but we didn't go overboard."

Staufenbiel believes the punishment is too harsh.

"I still think it's a stiff penalty, but obviously not as stiff as what the chief wanted," he said. "I thought they would give me a suspension, but I thought it would be less."

Haeger could not be reached for comment Friday.

Daily Herald

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EDITORIALS

Study train station plan

As suburban traffic increases and as more jobs move outside the city, public transportation is becoming a higher priority. One area that sorely needs service lies between the north and northwest tracks of the commuter rail agency, Metra.

Residents of this wide area, which includes Mundelein, Vernon Hills, Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Prospect Heights, would like to see commuter service started up on the Wisconsin Central Railway. The tracks run through these towns.

Metra officials have discussed the possibility of initiating service on this line. Now, however, their attention is focused on \$363 million they have allotted to make trains accessible to the disabled and \$160 million they will need to repair bridges. Metra has little choice in these matters. Federal legislation nearing passage in Congress will mandate accessibility for the disabled by 1995, and many World War I-era train bridges are reaching the end of the 75-year lifespan they were designed for.

The money spent on these two necessities, however, is money that will not go toward another critical priority — increasing transportation to the suburbs. Suburban rail extensions were not even mentioned in Metra's 10-year capital improvement plan, which means they are not likely to be built in this century.

This scenario is typical in an age in which the federal government is providing fewer dollars and forcing state and local governments to shoulder more responsibility. One of the solutions being proposed, in fact, zeroes in on those local governments. Metra officials say they would pursue the \$40 million Wisconsin Central railway project if the five suburbs along the line would build their own stations and parking lots.

Railways have always been responsible for building train stations, and village trustees could rightfully expect Metra to fulfill its obligations in doing so. However, the rail agency's budget is squeezed, and town officials know that rail service makes their towns more desirable places to live.

Another solution being pursued is a public-private partnership. Metra officials have met with site selectors for major convenience store chains. They proposed that the chains essentially construct a combined store/railway station building alongside the tracks in each of these five suburbs. In return, the chain stores would have a ready clientele of commuters. Metra spokesman Chris Knapton reported that the chains are considering this course of action.

While Metra should not renege on its responsibility to provide service on the Wisconsin Central line, the five suburbs along it must be realistic about the agency's budget constraints. They might as well study the possibility of building their own stations or letting commercial stores do it for them.

Expansion approved for 2 eateries

9/25/89
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Two restaurants along Milwaukee Avenue may begin improvement plans now that Wheeling trustees have unanimously approved their proposals to expand.

The owners of Don Roth's restaurant, 61 N. Milwaukee Ave., plan to build an addition to the century-old building located along Wheeling's restaurant row. And Bob Chinn's Crabhouse, 393 S. Milwaukee Ave., will build a new parking lot to accommodate about 120 more cars.

The expansion project for Don Roth's includes adding another section to the northeast side of the building, enclosing a portion of the outdoor patio eating area and adding more landscaping around the building and parking lot.

Although there no longer will be outdoor dining at Don Roth's, architect Lawrence Berkley said, the patio may be used on nights when business is slow and during banquet parties.

Inside, the bar, kitchen and wash-room areas will be expanded. The

expansion is expected to add 99 seats, which would increase seating from 179 to 278. More parking would be added around the southeast side of the property.

Construction is expected to begin in November and be completed next May. Restaurant manager Jim Lederer said the expansion is needed to accommodate the increase in business at the restaurant and to create a brighter atmosphere there.

The parking lot addition at Bob Chinn's also will help the restaurant keep up with a growing number of

customers, General Manager Frank D'Angelo said.

Signs will be installed at the restaurant directing patrons to additional parking. Although patrons now park their cars in the restaurant lot, at an adjacent office building and along streets, the parking still is inadequate for the restaurant, D'Angelo said.

The new lot will be constructed on a vacant lot several doors down from the restaurant, which was first open nearly seven years ago. Work on the parking lot may begin this month.

Village-sponsored blood drive set for Nov. 8

9/25/89
Wheeling board of health commissioners are making plans for the last village-sponsored blood drive of the year.

Commissioners this week plan to discuss details of the blood drive, which is tentatively set for 2:30 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 8 at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

In an effort to increase donors, commissioners plan to start a phone-a-thon this year to encourage residents who have never donated blood to be a part of the blood drive. Village Sanitarian Daniel Adams said

volunteers would be needed to call residents for the blood drive.

Blood supplies typically are low during summer and holidays because the supply is used up faster and donors may be too busy to give blood, Adams said.

"The blood center still is really short on blood," Adams said. "They have been all summer. I have a feeling it's going to continue through winter. Holidays always take a toll on the blood supply."

Adams said the Wheeling Jaycees

likely will co-sponsor the November blood drive, as the organization has done in the past. In July, the village collected 91 units of blood, which is 36 percent more than was collected the same time last year, Adams added.

The blood is collected by LifeSource, a not-for-profit organization, which is a combination of The Blood Center of Northern Illinois and the American Red Cross that supplies blood and blood components to more than 60 hospitals in the Chicago metropolitan area.

The top meeting

Who: Wheeling board of health

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

When: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday

Staufenbiel case points to signs of distress in department

9-25-89
By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

For educated boaters, an upside down flag signals distress.

It was an upside down flag that cost Wheeling police Sgt. Michael Staufenbiel three weeks pay, and it was one sign of discord between the Wheeling police and the police administration.

With Staufenbiel's 21-day suspension, a steady procession of police discipline hearings has come to an end. Low department morale has followed on the heels of the disciplinary action.

At several of the hearings and in other conversations, department officers have said a rift exists between department leaders and the patrol officers and that it transcends those officers hired before and after Haeger took over the chief's position from Ted Bracke in 1982.

ALTHOUGH OFFICERS PUBLICLY will not comment on department morale for fear of retribution from the department's hierarchy, privately they have said a gap has been exposed as a result of the charges against several officers.

"It used to be that when you started here, you strapped on your gun belt and it was us against them," said one officer as he pointed toward the street. He spoke only on the condition of anonymity. "Now, it's us against them," he said, pointing toward the department's offices.

In the past year, Haeger has brought charges against officers Adrian Russell, Richard Imber, Michael Rompala and Staufenbiel. Russell and Rompala agreed to negotiated settlements without going to the board. Imber was fired after he was found guilty of gambling and battery. He is appealing the decision.

Several officers, including Staufenbiel, said Haeger will continue to bring more officers before the board of fire and police commission for disciplinary hearings.

"I AM certain this is not the last meeting the fire and police commission will have in disciplining persons on the police department," Staufenbiel said.

Village officials have said earlier that Haeger was hired as a disciplinarian. Since his 1982 hiring, Haeger has redefined the department's disciplinary process. He has also used the board of

fire and police commissioners many more times than his predecessors.

Haeger defended his discipline procedures and said the Staufenbiel case, like those against Imber, Rompala, Russell, Burt Kaminski and Robert Pressley, have been handled individually.

"They're all handled independently of one another," Haeger said.

ALTHOUGH STAUFENBIEL DID not get the penalty Haeger sought from the board, Haeger said the board's process was fair. While officers have questioned the board's relationship with Haeger, the chief said the board does not, as some officers have suggested, "rubber stamp" his disciplinary suggestions.

The board's penalty was one of the few it has handed out. In most recent cases excluding the Imber hearing, the chief and those officers charged have reached penalty settlements before a formal hearing by the board.

"I think they are very fortunate to have the quality of board of fire and police commissioners that they have," Haeger said.

Staufenbiel apologized for the flag incident that put him before the board

and said it was the result of frustration over Imber's firing that concluded with "five seconds of stupidity."

BUT HE SAID the board's action in his case, like the firing of Imber, did send a message, albeit a different one, to the department. He said the board listened to the facts of the case and came up with what he thought was a good decision.

"I think the board has sent a message...," Staufenbiel said. "And that message is that the board can, in fact, be fair."

Staufenbiel said police officers had questioned his move to fight the recent charge. Those officers labeled his efforts futile, saying the chief and village officials would always "win."

But several officers said last Thursday's decision gave them renewed faith in the board's ability to "be fair."

AS A DISCIPLINARY body, the board's penalty choices are limited. While the chief can suspend an officer for up to five days without pay, he must go to the board for stiffer penalties. State laws limit the board's powers to 30-day suspensions, demotions or firings.

Planners support proposed pizza parlor

9-29-89
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling plan commissioners are supporting a proposal for a local pizza parlor to relocate in a future office center despite staff recommendations to deny the request.

Joseph Mastrototaro, owner of Wa-Pa-Ghettis located at 46 W. Dundee Road, wants to move his pizza carry-out and delivery restaurant to the northwest corner of Mors and Milwaukee avenues.

Mastrototaro, who bought the property that is a little more than half an acre, said his business has outgrown its current location. The property, which is zoned for office use, has been unused for about 20 years and currently houses a vac-

ant gas station.

The move requires that the village grant Mastrototaro a special use to open a pizza parlor on the land where he plans to build an office center for five businesses.

But Village Planner Robert Sullivan said Thursday the restaurant would increase traffic along Milwaukee and Mors avenues and a carry-out restaurant is not compatible with the village's plans to upgrade Milwaukee Avenue.

In addition, the building would be too close to residences and the increased traffic, noise, cooking odors and late hours would be a nuisance, Sullivan added.

Mastrototaro said he would not build the office center unless his restaurant is included in the plans.

But Mastrototaro added that he would "do anything" to improve the aesthetics, such as adding landscaping or a fence.

"It was my dream come true to be on Milwaukee Road," Mastrototaro said. "I was looking forward to moving to that location."

Commissioners Otis Hedlund and Paul Eisterhold, who opposed the proposal, suggested a new plan that includes those amenities. But commissioners Steven E. Walanka, Frank A. Proietti and Terry Steilen said the plans were fine the way they were and the restaurant would improve the condition of that corner.

The village board is expected to vote on the recommendation next month.

Flag incident nets police sergeant three-week suspension

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

The controversial case of a Wheeling police sergeant who was brought up on disciplinary charges for overturning a village flag was finally resolved last week when the police and fire commission moved to suspend the officer for three weeks without pay.

Countywide
9-28-89

Sgt. Michael Staufenbiel called it a victory, but an expensive one. Chief Michael F. Haeger called it a "fair decision."

Members of the Wheeling board of fire and police commissioners last Thursday suspended Staufenbiel for three weeks without pay, far above the three-day suspension he suggested, but far below the demotion that Police Chief Michael F. Haeger sought.

"It's not as good an outcome as I hoped it would be and it's not the outcome the chief thought it would be," Staufenbiel said. "It's a middle ground."

Without the aid of an attorney, Staufenbiel last Thursday defended himself against Haeger, who sought to demote Staufenbiel for turning upside down the village flag after an April hearing in which a Wheeling officer was fired.

During the hearing, Staufenbiel labeled the flag incident "five seconds of stupidity" that came after the board decided April 7 to fire Richard Imber.

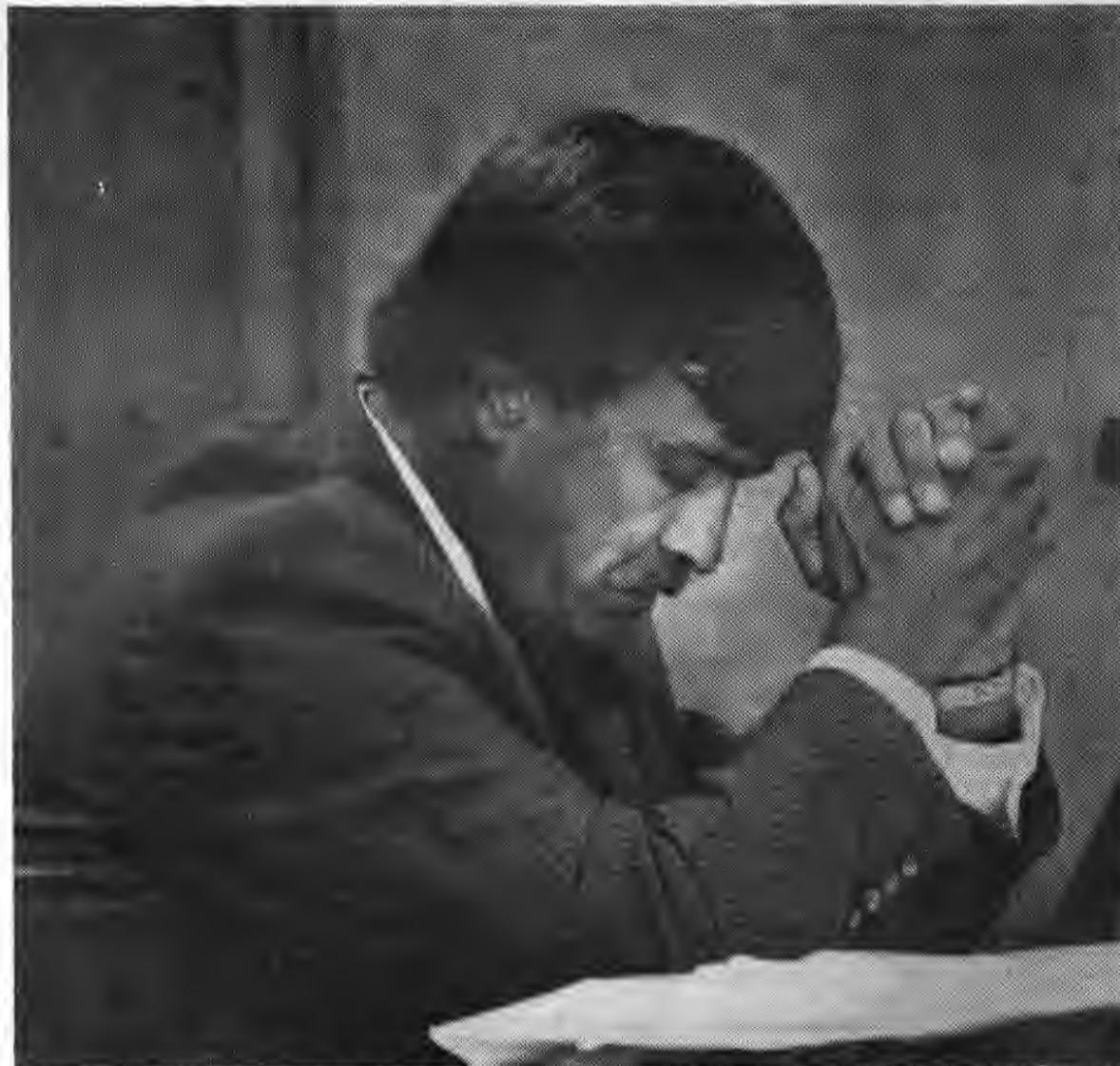
"I FEEL he got a good deal compared to what he could have gotten," said Rita Stryszyk, a member of the board of fire and police commission. "I think we were fair."

Stryszyk said she and commissioners Ed Main and Maurice Weitlauf all agreed that Staufenbiel should be suspended, but not demoted, a penalty she called "too strong."

"We just heard both sides of everything and we thought a demotion ... was a little too harsh for what happened and he seemed to be sincerely sorry for what he did," Stryszyk said.

Haeger's attorney, Stephen Culliton, argued for

(Continued on page xx)



Wheeling Police Sgt. Michael Staufenbiel listens to charges against him at a hearing last Thursday. The board of police and fire commissioners moved to suspend Staufenbiel for three weeks for turning the village flag upside down. (Staff photo by Daniel White)

Suspension —

(Continued from page 5)

Staufenbiel's demotion because he said the sergeant's action diminished his ability to act as a department leader.

CULLITON SAID THAT Staufenbiel should not have publicly challenged the firing of officer Richard Imber after the board found him guilty of gambling and battery. He said Staufenbiel, as a member of the department's supervisory staff, should have raised his concerns with Haeger alone.

"That's not what a sergeant does," Culliton said of the flag overturning. "That's not what a leader does. Those aren't qualities of someone in a supervisory position."

"I don't believe it's a simple indiscretion. I think it is conduct that does not coincide with the job," Culliton said.

On Monday, Haeger said the board did its job: acting as the civilian body that hears police grievances. "I see it as a fair decision made by the board," he said.

But the board agreed partially with Staufenbiel and accepted his apologies, Stryszyk said. Although the fine was much higher than that which Staufenbiel requested, Stryszyk said it was better, and more sensible, than demotion.

"WE FELT it warranted enough of a punishment to the rest of the police that we do want them to adhere to the rules," Stryszyk said.

The suspension will cost Staufenbiel, 39, more than \$2,500 of his yearly \$43,567 salary. Staufenbiel is one of seven sergeants in the department.

"I am not happy with the 21-day suspension — my suggestion was three days — but I do thank the board very much for not demoting me," Staufenbiel said.

The 18-year department veteran said the board's decision left him with a suspension greater than those offered earlier by Deputy Chief Gary O'Rourke and by

Culliton prior to last Thursday's hearing. Haeger acknowledged that the department had offered Staufenbiel penalties other than demotion that would have negated the hearing.

STAUFENBIEL TOLD THE board he regretted turning the flag upside down. He said the incident has not impaired his ability to act as a department supervisor.

The sergeant said he had never been suspended by

"I am not happy with the 21-day suspension — my suggestion was three days — but I do thank the board very much for not demoting me."

**— Michael Staufenbiel
Wheeling Police Sergeant**

the chief and had no problems in the department "of a major nature."

But he said he and Haeger have clashed in the past, and again over more public displays of dissatisfaction. In 1982, when Staufenbiel was an assistant shift commander, he said he questioned the chief's directive that officers fill out incident reports in the field.

In a staff meeting of patrol officers and the chief, Staufenbiel said he argued that officers be allowed to fill out the reports in the safety of the station house, making them less vulnerable to attack. But the chief disagreed and took away his assistant shift commander position. In 1984, he was again promoted to the same post, Staufenbiel said.

WHILE THE CHIEF was recommending that Staufenbiel resign his stripes and demote himself rather than face a hearing, he said he wanted to get the opportunity to tell his side of the story. He said he was

pleased with the board's process that gave him a suspension rather than a demotion.

"At least tonight, we're going to go home and there won't be any flags turned upside down," Staufenbiel said, visibly relieved from the hearing and the receding media attention. "I think people will go home somewhat satisfied."

During the relatively brief hearing, Staufenbiel admitted to an amended list of charges presented by Haeger. Most of the hearing was then centered on the penalty for the incident.

STAUFENBIEL TOLD the board he could lose \$188,000 in pay and pension benefits if he was demoted to patrol officer. He told the board he thought that was a high price for "something that took five seconds to do and something I'm not proud of but it's something I expect to be punished for."

In his closing comments, Staufenbiel asked the board members to "look into their hearts to decide a just punishment" and "not subscribe to the Captain Bligh School of Punishment."

Staufenbiel joined the police force in 1971 and was promoted to sergeant in 1986, when he topped the list of sergeant candidates. John Shelk, a member of the board of fire and police commissioners at the time of Staufenbiel's promotion, said Staufenbiel was the best candidate for the job.

"The chief says now I'm incapable of doing this job and in 1986 ... these experts (the board) said I was capable of doing it and promoted me to that position," Staufenbiel said during the hearing.

Village prosecutor Steve Handler unexpectedly acted as the hearing officer in the case. Village Attorney James Rhodes excused himself from the hearing after he told the commission an article in a Chicago newspaper inaccurately portrayed him as biased against Staufenbiel. The move cost the village \$300 in legal fees for Handler, Rhodes said.

Trial slated to resume in killing of Wheeling officer

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

With the Illinois Supreme Court agreeing to suppress statements made by the man accused of murdering Wheeling police officer Ken Dawson, the second murder trial in the case may soon resume.

And again, the Wheeling Police Department, Dawson's friends and his wife, Linda, will have to relive the November, 1985, evening in which Dawson was gunned down in a village subdivision.

Supreme Court justices ruled Sept. 20 that statements given the night of the shooting by Larry Strickland, 30, of Ford Heights, cannot be used during his murder trial, expected to resume early next year.

Strickland's brother Tyrone was convicted of the murder in 1988 and was sentenced to death for the crime.

When Larry Strickland's trial resumes, Linda Dawson, of Kildeer, said she will attend every day of it, as she did when Tyrone Strickland was convicted in Cook County Circuit Court in 1988. Friends and members of the Wheeling Police Department will join her at the trial, she said.

"I WOULD certainly like to see the same type of ruling that came down," Linda Dawson said of a penalty for Larry Strickland. "Tyrone Strickland got the death penalty, if you recall. I think that's only fitting (for Larry)."

The Supreme Court found, as did a Cook County Circuit Court judge and the Illinois Appellate Court, that Strickland's statements were coerced from him by Chicago police and Cook County state's attorneys. Strickland gave the incriminating statements both before and after he received medical attention for an injured hand.

After Chicago police arrested him and his brother, Larry Strickland was interrogated by police and state's attorneys, said Strickland's assistant appellate defender Alan D. Goldberg. At the time, Strickland's left index finger was damaged, later requiring reconstructive surgery.

While the state's attorneys did not argue with the contention that statements given by Strickland at the police station were coerced from him, they did try to have statements made at Cook County Hospital upheld.

IN AN OPINION written by Justice Benjamin K. Miller, of Springfield, the Supreme Court disagreed, finding the statements "tainted." The suppression order was affirmed.

"All the facts were accurate and they correctly and accurately applied the law to the case," Goldberg said. "It really



Ken Dawson

required the results that they reached."

Cook County assistant state's attorney Marie Quinlivan Czech said her office will not appeal the ruling and will proceed to trial.

"We're certainly going to trial," Czech said. "We're certainly going to put it in front of ... either a jury or a judge."

THE NEXT HEARING for the case won't be set until the Illinois Supreme Court's mandate on the decision is handed down. Czech said that could take between three and four weeks. The case would then go back into the Cook County Circuit Court schedule, where it was last heard before Judge Fred J. Suria Jr.

Larry Strickland was indicted on murder, attempted murder, aggravated kidnapping and armed robbery charges. He has been held at the Cook County Jail since the Nov. 5, 1985 shooting of Dawson.

Tyrone Strickland, 25, was convicted of murdering Dawson Feb. 10 in a bench trial before Suria. He was also convicted of two counts of attempted murder, aggravated kidnapping and unlawful restraint in connection with Dawson's slaying.

Dawson was shot and killed after he responded to a report that two men had tried to enter a home in the Cedar Run subdivision, located off McHenry Road, north of Dundee Road. Tyrone Strickland admitted to shooting Dawson while the officer was struggling with Larry Strickland, although he claimed it was an accident.

AFTER THE SHOOTING, the Stricklands fled, allegedly shooting at another Wheeling police officer. According to testimony at Tyrone Strickland's trial, Larry Strickland allegedly commandeered a car driven by Donald Hamburg, of Buffalo Grove, after the Stricklands abandoned their car.

Proper punishment

The case of Wheeling Police Sgt. Michael Staufenbiel and his overturning a village flag as a sign of protest presented the village's police and fire commission with a complex task last week of determining an appropriate punishment.

But while some of the media drifted off what was important in this case and began focusing on freedom of speech issues as they relate to the treatment of a flag, the commissioners properly centered their attention where it belonged — on how Staufenbiel's actions would or would not impair his ability as a supervisor.

In leveling a three-week suspension without pay against Staufenbiel, the board gave an appropriately stiff punishment to fit the offense.

Staufenbiel's outburst, which was a reaction to a previous commission hearing which resulted in an officer being fired for gambling and battery, was wrong and had to be dealt with. It was not something that would permanently impair his ability to supervise or to work with his superiors, however.

The penalty handed down will cost Staufenbiel more than a few weeks off the job. It will take more than \$2,500 out of his pocket. That's a stiff price to pay for what in his own words were "five seconds of stupidity." That moment of indiscretion, however, did no permanent damage to the department.

To his credit, Police Chief Michael Haeger seemed to understand the punishment he was seeking — Staufenbiel's demotion — was steep. In offering a negotiated settlement to Staufenbiel, Haeger and department's hierarchy may well have realized that the costs of enduring a lengthy and possibly bitter hearing process would not have been measured in only dollars and cents.

As unfortunate as this incident is for all parties involved, though, it points to what seems to be a deepening division among some officers and the department's management over such issues as fairness in disciplinary cases. That issue is something the police and fire commission can't rectify with any ruling. It appears to be time for some greater dialogue between the rank and file and the administration.

Trustees to get refresher course on codes

Sunday, Oct. 8, 1989

Wheeling trustees will get a refresher course this week when village officials review property and zoning codes.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said trustees in the past have requested information about the enforcement of certain village codes. Representatives from community development and the police department will go over the ordinances with trustees during one of several village board workshop sessions.

Some of the questions pertain to

THE WEEK AHEAD

high weeds in yards, abandoned cars and boats on private property and garbage put out on the curb too soon before pick-up day.

"Every area (of the village) always has people who don't seem to keep up their property as well as their neighbor," Anderson said. He added trustees have not identified certain parts of the village that may require additional code enforcement.

Trustees have questioned how some of those codes are enforced and which village department is responsible for enforcement, Anderson said. Because both community development and the police department split the responsibilities, trustees may question representatives from each department on Monday.

"It's one of those things where there's been enough questions that it's time to have an informal session," Anderson said.

Anderson said trustees also may

ask questions about the background of the codes or offer suggestions for revisions or enforcement.

The top meeting

Who: Wheeling village board

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

When: 8 p.m. Monday

Village seeks help on waste facility plan

Before acting on a suburban company's request to build a hazardous waste processing plant in Wheeling, local officials want to hear from independent consultants on how the facility would affect property values and the surrounding neighborhood.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

As Wheeling considers a proposed hazardous waste processing facility, it will now go into that process with outside professional advice.

Trustees, saying they need experts to study the environmental applications furnished by Safety-Kleen, agreed Monday to hire consultants that would provide environmental engineering and real estate appraisal work for the village.

Safety-Kleen has proposed building a storage facility on 10 acres of land off Hintz Road at Glenn Avenue. The company has said it wants to build a high-tech facility to replace its smaller, existing facility in Arlington Heights.

An Illinois Environmental Protection Agency siting hearing on the facility is expected in mid-November. Safety-Kleen will then present evidence in an attempt to prove it has met a series of criteria that would allow for the construction of the facility.

WITH MONDAY'S BOARD action, the village will have independent consultants give a "second opinion" on the data provided by Safety-Kleen, a national company that processes greases, oils and cleaning solvents from manufacturers and other businesses.

"I think the primary reason is so we can make an informed decision," Village President Sheila Schultz said.

Community Development Director Mike Klitzke said the village has narrowed its choices of consultants. He said he expects the village to make a final decision soon.

In order to meet one of the criteria, Safety-Kleen must prove that the facility would not be incompatible with the surrounding area and not have a substantially adverse impact on property values.

KLITZKE SAID THE real estate appraiser will help the

village determine what effect, if any, the proposed facility would have on the surrounding community. The environmental engineering consultant would study other guidelines of the siting criteria to ensure that the data provided by Safety-Kleen is accurate.

Under state law, Safety-Kleen is responsible for reimbursing the village for the consulting services, Klitzke said.

Although the community development department is familiar with many aspects of planning, Klitzke said the environmental process ahead of the village required hiring outside help.

Wheeling resident Robert Brower, who is organizing citizens to attend the Safety-Kleen hearings, said he was pleased trustees decided to hire a consultant. At a July meeting, when Safety-Kleen first courted the village, Brower suggested that trustees hire an independent consultant.

"I'M PLEASED that they're going to do it," Brower said. "I think they'll need all the help they can get."

Since that meeting, Brower has gone to local schools and community leaders in an attempt to stir up interest in the facility. He said he is concerned that human error could lead to problems at a Wheeling site similar to those that occurred at Safety-Kleen's Arlington Heights facility.

On two occasions, one in 1985 and another in 1988, cleaning solvents from a Safety-Kleen tanker leaked into a nearby drainage system, one time causing the removal of dirt and plants in an adjoining condominium complex in bordering Buffalo Grove.

"I'm concerned because of the possibility of human error up and down the line," Brower said. He said there could be construction or operation errors that could cause future problems. "I don't think anyone goes one or two days without making a simple mistake. And that's what concerns me."

BROWER OPERATES THE Circle M Day Camp on Hintz Road, less than a quarter-mile from the proposed Safety-Kleen site. He has contacted Community Consolidated District 21 officials and informed them of the ongoing process.

District 21 Supt. Lloyd "Bud" DesCarpentrie said the district has not made a decision on whether it supports or opposes the facility. He said the district wants to take part in the process that decides whether the facility is built. Three District 21 schools are within one mile of the proposed facility.

Safety-Kleen officials have said they want to build a technologically-advanced facility that would exceed existing regulations.

ROGERS ASKED THE board to support him in calling for a meeting with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials to discuss the problem. None of the trustees opposed Rogers' request. "I don't think it's a huge problem, but I think it's something to be looked at and discussed with the people that make a difference," Village President Sheila Schultz said. Like Rogers, Schultz lives directly under the flight path just west of Wolf Road.

According to Rogers, who lives on Wolf Road, about one mile north of the airport, more and more pilots are taking their planes over the village. On July 23, Rogers said he and a neighbor monitored jet traffic at the airport from 6 a.m. until 3 p.m. Of the 21 jet planes that used the airport, 12 landed from the north and nine took off to the north, Rogers said.

HE SAID THAT noise control policies described by Palwaukee air traffic manager William J. Martin indicate that take-offs and landings are supposed to occur in the same direction on the same runway. That would mean air traffic would be split to the north and south, Rogers said. But in a letter from Martin, the tower chief said that noise control policy can be altered for a number of reasons. When air traffic from O'Hare International Airport and the Glenview Naval

(Continued on page 20)

Wheeling trustee sounds off about Palwaukee noise

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

For Wheeling Trustee William Rogers, too many vibrations have been unnecessarily added to his life.

Claiming that aircraft from Palwaukee Municipal Airport are both landing and taking off over Wheeling, possibly in violation of the airport's noise control rules, Rogers said the village should pursue action to reduce jet traffic over the village.

"In other words, on any given day, Wheeling will receive all the jet traffic incoming and outgoing," Rogers said. "People living south of the airport are spared all the noise and traffic flow."

Rogers told his fellow trustees Monday that because of convenience and fuel savings, many pilots are electing to both take off and land to the north, apparently in conflict with a noise abatement program that would distribute aircraft noise both north and south of the airport.

Noise

(Continued from page 12)

Air Station conflicts with airplane approaches at Palwaukee, Martin said traffic is diverted to the north, putting the majority of jet traffic over Wheeling.

In his letter, Martin said pilots prefer to land from and take off to the north because it saves time and fuel to land and take off from the southeast corner of the airport, where most planes are stationed.

Rogers was highly critical of that excuse. "I could only imagine what would happen at Midway and O'Hare airports if pilots were allowed to choose which runways they wanted to use," Rogers said.

area supervisor for the Palwaukee tower, said air traffic has not increased over Wheeling. He said the number of complaints about air traffic noise typically increase during the summer because residents open their windows.

For safety, most of the jets and large twin engine aircraft using the main runway at Palwaukee file requests for guidance with O'Hare International Airport, located seven miles south of Palwaukee, he said.

The instructions often include flying over Wheeling to get to Palwaukee's main runway. There are no instructions to approach Palwaukee from the south because of airspace used by O'Hare aircraft, Martin said.

said. "We've gotten complaints at various times from various people."

Rogers said he plans to set up a meeting next month with Federal Aviation Administration and traffic tower representatives to work out a plan to reduce air traffic over Wheeling.

The airport is jointly owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which is located south of Palwaukee.

Rogers, who lives on Wolf Road, which abuts the airport, said the benefits of increased traffic on the north side of the airport include fuel savings, convenience for pilots and reduced noise on the south side of the airport.

However, William J. Martin,

"IT WOULD appear that at Palwaukee, pilots establish the air traffic control," Rogers said. "I'm somewhat bemused by that fact. I assumed that the FAA was responsible for air traffic control."

Martin said tower controllers cannot deny traffic requests from pilots unless it conflicts with incoming or outgoing traffic, or if tower officials discern a safety problem with the operation. But he said pilots can override the tower on those decisions.

After outlining his problem with airport operations, Rogers said the village must engage in dialogue with the FAA.

SUBURBAN REPORT

Air traffic over Wheeling prompts meetings

10/5/89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Palwaukee Municipal Airport commissioner is calling for a series of meetings with federal aviation and air traffic controllers to discuss balancing the flow of air traffic between Prospect Heights and Wheeling.

Commissioner William A. Rogers, a Wheeling trustee, claims that most of the aircraft arriving at and departing from Palwaukee use the north side, or Wheeling's side, of the airport.

"Wheeling has been receiving an increasing number of simultaneous incoming and outgoing air traffic to and from runway 16-34," the airport's main runway, Rogers

Keeping up appearances

Suburbs hammer away at neglected property with laws

10/1/89
By VICKI SPEER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Paint flakes off a two-story house in the heart of Des Plaines. Its porch is rickety and window screens are torn.

But there's little city officials can do to force the owner to fix up the house.

The city's frustrating lack of authority in such situations has prompted local officials to consider an ordinance requiring residents and business owners to maintain the appearance of their properties. The proposed law would, among other things, prohibit "bizarre" color schemes on houses and limit the height to which residents may allow their grass to grow.

"We're not going to be a Big Brother watching every move a resident makes," Mayor D. Michael Albrecht said. "We just generally want homes kept up the way the rest of the neighborhoods are."

The proposed law brings Des Plaines into the ranks of several Cook and Lake County suburbs that are responding legislatively to such neglect, or the threat of it.

Officials of several communities that more than a decade ago adopted laws regulating appearances — often dubbed "property maintenance codes" — praise them as effective and well-enforced. Complaints from other residents about neglected houses in their neighborhood help make these laws easy to enforce, they say.

The popularity of such laws has grown as the suburbs age and their building departments become more sophisticated, said Rita Athas, executive director of the Northwest Municipal Conference, a consortium of North and Northwest suburbs.

"They have the time then to start looking at things beyond building codes, quality of life things," Athas said.

Arlington Heights Environmental Health Officer Daniel Tarry said Arlington Heights arrested — and prevented — deterioration of its buildings by enforcing a property maintenance code approved in the mid-1960s and a housing, maintenance and occupancy ordinance approved nearly a decade later.

"What we were concerned with was many of our buildings were climbing up to 100 years old," he said, adding, "I'd say it makes a whale of a difference."

The newer code covers general ap-

Northwest suburban appearance laws

Who has them: Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove Village, Hanover Park, Hoffman Estates, Lake Zurich, Libertyville, Mount Prospect, Mundelein, Prospect Heights, Rolling Meadows, Schaumburg, Streamwood, Wheeling.

What are they: Laws regulating the appearance of homes and businesses by prohibiting chipped and peeling paint and unusual paint colors and limiting the length of lawns. Enforced largely by complaints of nearby property owners.

Why: To improve the image and look of communities.

How enforced: Violators can be ticketed and given fines of as much as \$500 per incident.

Daily Herald Graphic

pearances and is aimed largely at residential buildings, Tarry said. It includes provisions such as one stipulating that exterior wood surfaces on all dwellings be "reasonably protected from the elements and against decay by a suitable protective material." Which means, Tarry said, that a house must have either paint or aluminum siding.

Arlington Heights' property maintenance code is largely aimed at businesses, he said. It allows village officials to fine property owners up to \$500 a day for violations or to perform needed chores — for instance, cutting overgrown grass — and then charge the property owner for the work. Tarry said the village also has the option of imposing both sanctions.

Mount Prospect building inspector Frank Krupa similarly credits the village's property maintenance law with a marked improvement during the last six years in the appearance of several local apartment complexes. The village annually inspects apartment buildings and requires improvements based on the maintenance law, Krupa said. He said houses are not inspected other than in response to a complaint.

Mount Prospect's method of enforcing its law is similar to that of other communities. For example, if paint on a building is badly peeling or gutters are loose or rotten, the village sends written notification of the offense to the building's owner. In that letter, the village mandates a time period within which the violation must be repaired.

The amount of time given to make repairs generally depends on the severity of the problem. For example, a homeowner may be given two months to paint his house, Krupa said.

A resident or business owner may be ticketed and taken to court if repairs are not made after the designated time period expires. While possible fines vary, Mount Prospect's penalty of up to \$500 per day is common.

Sometimes property owners do end up in court and subsequently are fined. But most community officials report a high rate of compliance — 90-plus percent — from the first written notice of a violation.

"The fine is not the point," said Karl E. Faitz, Libertyville's building and zoning administrator. "It's that they have to go to court."

Violators generally are fined no more than \$20, Faitz said, despite the threat of much larger penalties.

Michael Richardson, Hanover Park's community development director, said that village's law prevents a few people's distaste for maintaining their property from spreading.

"If you've got one slob, it sometimes becomes — I don't want to say an example — but you have other people doing it," Richardson said. "An epidemic."

Still, not all older communities have adopted property maintenance codes. Neither Palatine nor Long Grove have such laws. Craig Malin, Vernon Hills' administrative assistant, said officials are considering such a law now that the village has closed in on the 30-year-old mark.

But it is "on the way, way back burner," Malin said. The issue has not yet been brought up to elected officials, he said.

Wauconda building and zoning official Ira Bliss offers a simple explanation for the community's lack of a property maintenance ordinance:

"Apparently that's not a problem," Bliss said.

Plans for hazardous-waste center get review

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

10-3-89
Wheeling trustees will hire two consultants for \$12,500 to review plans for a hazardous-waste storage center that owners of an Elgin chemical processing company want to build in the village.

Owners of Safety-Kleen Corp. in Elgin want to build the storage center on 10 acres on the south side of Hintz Road near the intersection at Glenn Avenue.

Trustees Monday unanimously approved hiring an environmental engineering consultant for no more than \$8,000 to review the safety of the chemicals and the building. In addition, a real estate appraiser consultant will review

the impact of the center on nearby property values for no more than \$4,500.

Safety-Kleen owners will reimburse the village for the consultants whether or not they receive approval to locate in Wheeling. Village Finance Director Robert W. Flalkowski said.

The company recycles hazardous wastes and processes solvents from cleaning machines, typically used for car parts and dry cleaning.

In Wheeling, the center, which is the world's largest recycler of used solvents, would be used only to store the solvents that would be brought to customers or to the processing plant. Because the company is regulat-

ed by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the village must hold a public hearing before recommending approval of IEPA permits for the center, Flalkowski said. The hearing will be set in November, he said.

Plans for the center include a two-story building and 12 above-ground sealed storage tanks and three underground tanks to store the chemicals. The 20,000-gallon tanks would be surrounded by a three-foot high concrete wall.

Although Safety-Kleen will have its own consultants at the hearing, village community development officials want outside consultants to testify or explain any safety or impact claims made during the hearing, Flalkowski said.

Traffic jams commuters, governmental effectiveness

By Susan J. White

Staff writer

COUNTRYSIDE 10/5/89

Some of us mash our teeth and pound the steering wheel, some try and make use of otherwise lost time by putting on makeup, finishing a project for work or even reading the paper, others just sit back and sing along to the radio.

But however we deal with it, the one thing we all have in common is the fact that there's no escaping it: traffic in the northwest suburbs has become a nightmare.

"I think right now traffic is our number one problem out here," Buffalo Grove Village President Verna Clayton said.

CLAYTON, WHO SITS on several regional and national traffic study committees, believes that although the area has not become a gridlock yet, it could if traffic problems are ignored.

Traffic today is anything but ignored. Urban congestion has become the focus of scores of regional planning groups here and around the country. Study upon study has been produced in the last few years to document the worst areas of congestion and suggest what can be done to help.

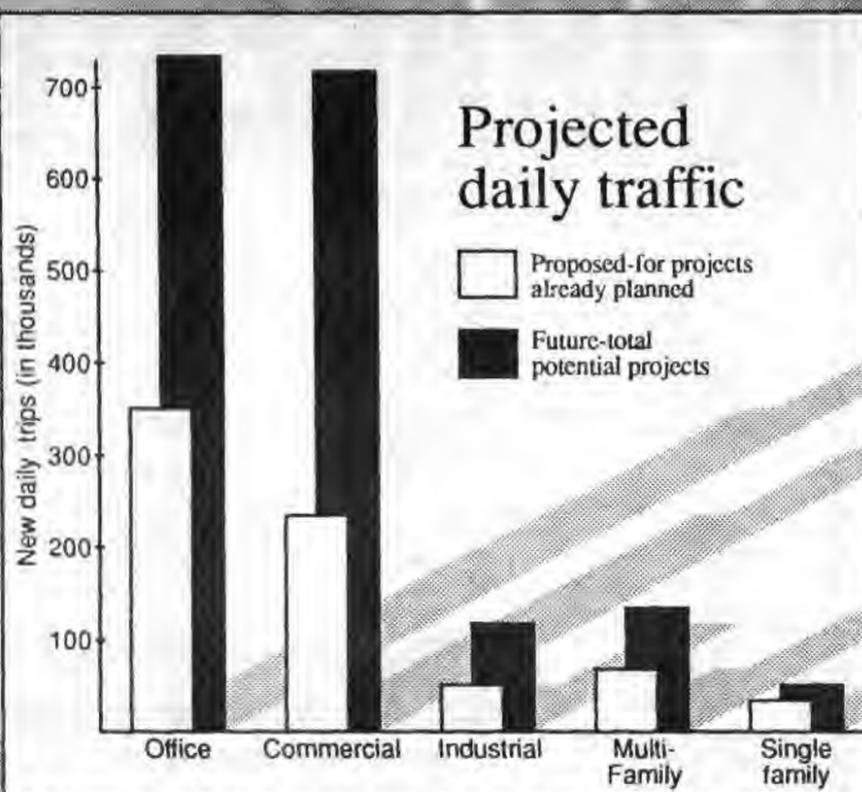
"Operation Green Light, A Transportation Plan for Northeastern Illinois," the "2010 Transportation System Development Plan," and the executive summary of the transportation partnership report are just a few of the reports to come out of this area in the last few years.

"It's been a problem for at least a decade, simply because the area is growing rapidly, faster than the traffic system and maybe more importantly the number of people and the number of jobs out here is simply more than any transportation system can handle," Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) Executive Director Larry Christmas said.

"CONGESTION IS choking northeastern Illinois." It says so right in the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) Operation Green Light report.

Although you hardly need numbers to prove there's too much traffic around here, everyone has them.

A Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS) list of transportation facts shows the number of work trips to and from Schaumburg more than tripling from 18,240 in 1970 to 55,425 in 1980. One look at all the growth that has occurred in that area in the last decade tells you to multiply that number a few more times to get this year's figure.



A Transportation Partnership Report study sponsored by the Northwest Municipal Conference shows how many traffic trips are generated by various types of development in the area. The study includes development projects already planned as well as possible future development.

Similarly the number of work trips in and out of Wheeling jumped from almost 50,000 to 70,000 in that period.

THE INTERSECTION OF routes 12 and 22 in Lake Zurich, (magic corners to developers) sees more than 95,200 vehicles pass through it each day.

"We're in a really tight situation at almost all of our major arterials and the level of service on the rest of the major roadways is deteriorating rapidly," Barrington Area Council Of Governments (BACOG) Director Donald Klein said.

So, everyone knows it's out there. It takes all of us longer to get where we're going, no doubt about that, but what's being done to keep our daily commutes from taking over our days?

Starting with the highways themselves, state and local officials are currently mulling over plans for road improvements, extensions and new construction all across the region.

"THE IMPROVEMENT of existing roads should have been done a long time ago, but the funds weren't available. Now

with the gas tax increase hopefully things will be fixed," long-time former Lake Zurich Village President Henry Paulus said. "The state started panic peddling about getting funds for highways a few years back, it should have been done long ago."

CATS Deputy Director Eugene Ryan said that although new highways are part of the state's plan, the improvement of existing roads is even more critical.

The 2010 plan, an extensive review of transportation systems and growth projections for a six county area including Cook and Lake counties, suggests adding only 40 additional highway miles to a 440-mile highway system in the area, a 10 percent increase, Ryan said.

"They in themselves are not nearly enough, we just can't put in more expressways. The answer is to use the state's regional arterial system of upgraded roads," Ryan said.

SOME OF THOSE strategic regional arteries designated for improvements, in most cases widening, are: Route 22; Golf Road; Route 58, all the way through

Cook and Lake counties, Algonquin Road; Higgins Road; Route 53; Palatine Road from Northwest Highway to the Edens expressway; Randall Road through McHenry County; Roselle Road; and Rand Road from Lake Cook Road up to McHenry County.

Not everyone has agreed with all facets of the comprehensive 2010 plan. In fact state officials are fighting some of the toughest resistance they've ever seen to a highway proposal with the plan to extend Route 53 through Lake County.

The opposition to Route 53, just one component of the 2010 plan, continues even as state funds are being set aside for land acquisition to build the highway. Traffic may be bad, but not bad enough for residents of communities like Hawthorn Woods and Long Grove to want a highway in their backyards.

"If you assume that highway 53 will be built, the questions you have to ask are how can these communities preserve the things they want," Christmas said.

THAT IS WHAT NIPC is trying to do with the recently formed corridor council of mayors. The local officials meet regularly attempting to make sure their input is a vital part of the highway extension that seems like a done deal. Though funding is not yet in place for the 53 extension, it looks closer than ever with the recent fuel tax increase.

Beyond roads and road improvements, local officials and even private industry are looking more and more at innovative ways to combat traffic snarls.

"Employers are looking at things like flex time, car pooling and van pooling. Especially in the last five years, large employers coming to this area know it's a problem they have to deal with. Sears is very actively involved with trying to find ways to solve traffic problems," Northwest Suburban Association of Commerce and Industry Executive Director Laura Davis said.

Davis' organization is involved in the Transportation Partnership, a joint venture of public officials and private enterprise working together to hopefully make greater strides in the traffic battle.

"FOR YEARS, many in business have perceived that government was not doing an adequate job of providing a functionally adequate transportation system... The unpleasant results, all too common today, included traffic jams, employees exhausted simply from driving to work and customers taking their business elsewhere," the partnership executive summary states.

(Continued on second following page)

Hope is on the horizon for easing local congestion

By Mike Wilkinson

Staff Writer

As the consummate middle man, Wheeling gets to see almost all of the good action.

Traffic action, that is.

Situated between major expressways to the east and numerous bedrooms to the west, Wheeling roads form part of the conduit that shuttles commuters and shoppers from the northwest suburbs and to work and play.

It is a situation that has given rise to a growing commercial base trying to latch onto the wallets that

pass by in cars. But it has also created problems for those village residents who just want to go across town.

"WE'VE BENEFITTED from it and we've suffered from it," Village President Sheila Schultz said of the heavy traffic flow.

But at least for some motorists, the amount of time they've sat idle on Wheeling streets may soon diminish.

Road widening and improvement projects on Hintz Road, Dundee Road, Wheeling Road and Buffalo Grove Road are finally come to an end, village Community Develop-

ment Director Mike Klitzke said.

With Hintz Road able to accommodate more traffic, Klitzke said the village could see an improvement in the east-west traffic patterns. But after two years of near-continuous construction, the effect of those improvements is unknown, he said.

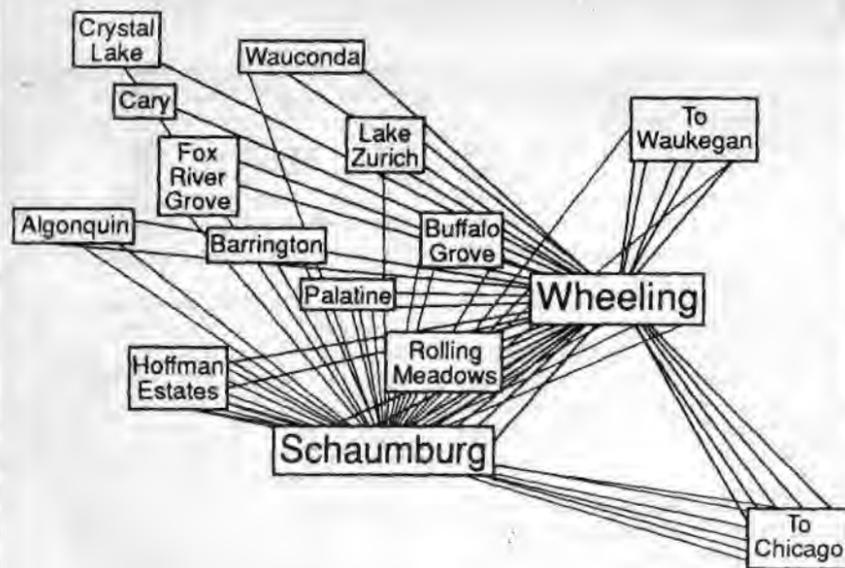
"I WOULD expect it to be better than what it was before, but how much? I don't know," Klitzke said.

In order to deal with existing traffic problems, other road improvements are being considered by state and county transportation officials looking to upgrade Wheel-

ing roads. An overpass is being considered at Lake-Cook Road and Milwaukee Avenue, and Milwaukee Avenue has long been targeted for widening.

And in trying to plan for the future, Wheeling has joined with Buffalo Grove, Arlington Heights and Palatine to form the Lake-Cook Road Local Corridor Agency.

The four communities have pitched in funds to pay for a road study to determine what road improvements could be made to Lake-Cook Road to accommodate both traffic and future development through the communities.



Traffic lines the suburbs

Schaumburg and Wheeling townships were part of a Chicago Area Transportation Study documenting the number of work trips originating from northwest suburban townships. Data from the 1980 census was used for the study and this study has not been repeated since that date. Each line represents 250 trips and does not represent individual roads or amount of traffic. Rush hour trips to and from work place the greatest demand on the available transportation facilities, according to the CATS study.

Driving on congested roads takes personal toll on suburban residents

By Susan J. White
Staff writer

Anyone who lives more than a few miles from their workplace knows how frustrating a rush hour commute can be, but what effect does all this traffic congestion really have on us?

The Road Information Program (TRIP), a highway research group, reports that traffic congestion costs the average Illinois motorist 53 gallons in wasted motor fuel annually and three-and-a-half days sitting in traffic breathing polluted air each year.

"Congestion costs the average Illinois motorist nearly \$1,200 annually for a daily 20-minute delay commuting to work," TRIP said. "Of this amount \$57.77 is in wasted gasoline. The rest is wasted in time conservatively valued at \$30.55 per hour."

THESE EXTENDED TRAFFIC jams have moved from the subject of griping around the water cooler to a question of productivity.

"I think businesses are getting involved (in the traffic problem) because they see it as an employee morale issue. When people are complaining about their commute to work for the first half hour of the day they are not being productive," said Lauri Davis, Executive Director of the Northwest

Suburban Association of Commerce and Industry.

Not only is all that time spent in traffic standstills lost time at work, but it cuts into everyone's home life as well.

"I think it takes a definite toll on the work force and it's affecting the quality of life. If you are commuting for an hour each way by the time you get home you're drained, the quality time you can spend with your family is cut down," Barrington Area Council of Government (BACOG) Director Donald Klein said.

WHILE IT IS the new growth in the area that has brought on the miles and miles of traffic backing up, it is the long-time residents that may be hit the hardest.

"Those people who came on here 15 years ago are the most affected, they got used to zipping into their car and getting around without delays," Greater Woodfield Convention Bureau Executive Director Tom Rivera said.

And the quiet suburban life and cleaner air they moved away from the city for is slowly disappearing.

Chicago was cited as one of nine metropolitan areas with the greatest concentration of ozone in a proposal for alternative fuels made by President George Bush in June.

Rapid development gets the blame for clogged roads

By Susan J. White
Staff writer

So, what caused all this congestion anyway? Is it simply a case of too many overzealous Toyota salesmen or is poor planning at the root of our jammed-up highways and byways?

"I don't think it's a lack of planning, it's just a function of development. With this many businesses, we are like a city out here now. Chicago has the same problem with traffic on Michigan Avenue and Ohio Street and all through the Loop. It's just the sheer volume of cars," Northwest Suburban Association of Commerce and Industry Executive Director Laura Davis said.

Yes, the rapid pace of development in the northwest suburbs is the biggest culprit in the clogging of local highways.

"THE PLANNING that's been done is often quite good, but each town tries to compete for development and it's a competitive system for community development here and sometimes there are too many winners," Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) Executive Director Larry Christmas said.

And sometimes the development begins to overwhelm the existing infrastructure and in the case of traffic, the problems are by no means confined within municipal boundaries.

"We have a real problem right now and we keep approving developments that tax our facilities even more. I wonder if people will ever start asking questions, is there a point in the future when we will say enough is enough we can't keep pouring more people more goods and more buildings into this space," Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG) Director Donald Klein said. "I don't see that point coming and it bothers me."

Certainly there are no indications that growth and development will come to a halt or that the surge of additional cars onto already crowded highways will slow.

THE TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIP, a public and private sector partnership formed to study traffic, projects more than 200,000 new daily trips will be generated from office and commercial developments in the area in the next 10 years.

Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) Operation Greenlight predicts a 25 percent increase in



Although train and bus public transportation is available in the northwest suburbs for trips into Chicago and certain suburban areas, few

traffic in this region by the year 2010.

While residential growth in communities from Palatine to Crystal Lake is certainly part of the increase in traffic, the commercial growth has done more to impact traffic patterns.

Where a decade or two ago, three quarters of suburbanites took the train downtown to their jobs, now the overwhelming majority makes a suburb-to-suburb commute each morning and evening.

"WE HAVE found suburb-to-suburb travel increasing tremendously. Also there are more people living in the city, the Lincoln Park area particularly. The yuppies are coming out here because there are so many employment opportunities," Davis said.

The Schaumburg area is second only to downtown Chicago in terms of employment opportunities, Davis said.

"We always thought it will never happen here, the

motorists have been willing to give up driving in favor of these alternatives. (Staff photo by Bill Oakes)

traffic problems of the city will not catch up with us, they have," Klein said.

That "it will never happen here" philosophy may have led to some of the latent realization that traffic problems are here to stay.

"MAYBE IT takes us to get to the point of absolute crisis before we look for solutions," Klein said.

William Duggan, Administrative Assistant for the Northwest Municipal Conference, agreed that the traffic problem has been creeping up on the area for awhile.

"It's taken a long time to get this way," Duggan said. "In many corridors it is a bad problem mainly during peak hours, but those peak hours are expanding."

Again Duggan stressed that in areas where economic growth is encouraged, traffic follows.

Traffic jams—

(Continued from previous page)
tion Partnership report said.

Long range recommended road improvements from the partnership, including corridors like Algonquin Road, Dundee Road, Lake Cook Road, Northwest Highway and Palatine Road, are estimated at \$146 million. Short term priorities for the next two years total \$20.3 million.

The 2010 plan suggests \$13.1 billion is needed for highway and maintenance improvement through the next two decades and projects a "cautiously optimistic" estimate of \$8.5 billion in available funds or a "more optimistic" \$12.8 billion.

IDOT's Operation Greenlight lists highway needs at almost \$14 billion, with available funds at about half of that demand.

"WE HAVE to look at private dollars. I'm not sure how much more the average taxpayer can put out for a gas tax," Klein said. "I think we've almost reached the bottom on how far we can tax the little guy."

Because the state has historically fallen so far behind in road upkeep and growth projections continue to soar for the northwest region, the future highway funding picture is not as bright as most local officials would like.

The gas tax increase will help, but it will not be enough to solve the problems. Before the recent increase, Illinois was below the national average in its fuel tax rate, but it was above the national average for the portion of its highway budget dependent on fuel tax revenues, the Illinois Citizens for Better Transportation said.

"The road projects the state has

scheduled now have been on our lists for a number of years," Clayton said.

MORE TOLL ROADS, and other user fees will probably be the key to generating more highway funds. While Illinois' license plate fee is only \$48, some states like California charge more than \$150 for licenses.

Finally, regional planning is becoming a priority for all communities, and all road jurisdictions as traffic crosses everyone's boundaries and is no longer limited to the O'Hare and Schaumburg areas.

"The villages realize it's not just a concern of Schaumburg or Hoffman Estates anymore, it's a regional problem," Davis said.

"I don't think it's any big secret that even if we were to implement all these scenarios we still would see a heavy amount of traffic on the roads from development in these areas," Duggan said. "But it's coming to the point that awareness of the problem is really heightened, the press is interested, people are talking about it and municipalities are talking among themselves looking for solutions together."

ONE IMPORTANT FACT in the local traffic picture is that the Chicago suburban area is not alone in its battle to unclog highways and major thoroughfares.

"It's become a very typical phenomenon across the country and many areas are much worse. I think traffic is here to stay and people will just have to get used to it," Christmas said. "The challenge for public officials is to keep it from getting worse."

Traffic jams—

(Continued from Page 16)

And some of what private industry has done may already be helping.

"A lot of things are being done, companies are using flex time, Motorola was a pioneer and things would be a lot worse if they didn't do it," Greater Woodfield Convention Bureau Executive Director Tom Rivera said. "People traveling down Meacham may not think so, but it would be worse without it."

Traffic reduction, traffic management and viable public transportation systems are a must to cope with the growing congestion, according to the partnership.

WHILE CAR POOLING and public transportation look like great suggestions on paper, convincing people to change their habits will be a very long uphill battle.

"Suburbanites are enthralled with their automobiles. They really find it difficult to car pool," Clayton said.

"Attitudes have to change, people have to be willing to car pool. Everyone thinks 'let someone else car pool, I can't,'" Davis said.

Incentive programs like priority parking for car poolers are under consideration by many employers and state officials are looking at highway express lanes for cars with more than one passenger.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, though it is one of the first suggestions in most lists of traffic remedies is not readily available here, nor has it been marketed effectively in the past.

METRA, the major transit facility in the region, provides the equivalent of a freeway to downtown Chicago in peak

suburb travel market is not adequately served by public transportation.

"Sooner or later public transportation has to come on line out here as a solution," Rivera said.

Traffic management is another angle that has not been taken advantage of to the fullest, according to many officials.

"IN LAKE Zurich we tried very hard on Route 12 to put turn lanes in and to keep limited access. If that would have been carried on a little further east into unincorporated Cook County it might have helped," Paulus said.

"You have to look at the development going in and use demand management techniques. I think communities are requesting more improvements from developers, like upgrading turn lanes and putting signals at intersections," Northwest Municipal Conference Administrative Assistant William Duggan said.

"You are going to have in new developments more attention paid to transportation systems. A developer is going to look at how he affects the transportation system as well as how it affects him," Duggan said.

Developers and other private sector members are jumping into the traffic fray, with a realization that things are only going to get worse as the area continues to grow and an understanding that the government dollars are just not there to take care of it.

"THE NORTHWEST suburbs have traditionally received much less in transportation services and improvements than has been collected in taxes from the region. The long term expectation is that federal and state participation will drop," the Transporta-

Wheeling grants poultry distributor a tax exemption

By Mike Wilkinson 10-5-89
Staff Writer

Countrywide
Wheeling trustees, hoping to lure a poultry processor and distributor to the village, gave a tax break to the business.

Trustees voted Monday to give R.S. Anderson Co. a Cook County tax exemption to induce the business to relocate from Chicago to Wheeling. The move will bring the company and its 50 employees to a 4.6 acre site at Hintz and Wolf roads.

Corporate secretary and general manager Gary Kipnis said the company is now drawing up plans to submit to the village planning department. He said it will be next year before the company breaks ground on the new, 26,000-square foot facility.

Kipnis said the company wants to expand its poultry processing business and increase distribution into the northwest suburbs. R.S. Anderson cleans, debones and processes chicken, turkey and other products for distribution to grocery stores, restaurants and hotels, Kipnis said.

KIPNIS SAID THE proposed Wheeling facility was contingent on getting the tax break from the village.

Since the tax break legislation was adopted, the village has granted 24 tax breaks. R.S. Anderson's building ranks second in terms of cost and fourth in overall parcel size among the 24 firms granted tax breaks.

The tax break will reduce the property's assessment levels for 12 years. Rather than the standard 40 percent assessment rate, R.S. Anderson's property will be assessed at 16 percent for the first eight years and 30 percent for the final four years.

The legislation was enacted to induce businesses to stay in Cook County and not flee for lower taxes in the collar counties.

BUT IT WAS a split village board that approved the R.S. Anderson tax break. Trustees Bill Rogers and Judy Abruscato both opposed the tax break. Trustees Tony Altieri, Elizabeth Hartman, Jim Whittington and Joe Ratajczak supported the business inducement.

Rogers, pointing to an article in a Chicago business magazine, said the company indicated it never planned to leave Cook County. Because of comments made in the article, Rogers said

(Continued on page 20)

Exempti

(Continued from page 15)

the tax break would not serve the purpose of keeping the company in Cook County.

"The question I have here," Rogers said, "is if the company was not thinking of moving out of the county if we should consider an exemption."

Kipnis said the company had consid-

ered staying in the village because a number of its employees live there. But he said the company would consider moving outside the county if necessary.

"I THINK by giving us a tax exemption, you'll be doing a good thing for the community," said Kipnis, a Buffalo Grove resident. "We'll bring a lot of jobs with us."

Wheeling Fire Department adds to force

10/12/89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Fire Department is up to full staff following the recent hiring of a firefighter.

Gregory P. Brown of Wheeling was recently sworn in as a Wheeling firefighter on his 23rd birthday. Brown will start at the fire station after he completes a six-week course at the Arlington Heights Fire Academy.

The addition of Brown brings to 38 the number of firefighters, including

six lieutenants, in the Wheeling Fire Department. The department employs 42 full-time people and 14 paid-on-call firefighters.

Brown's position, which pays \$21,779 a year, was included in this year's \$2.2 million fire department budget. Fire Chief Bernhardt O. Koeppen said next year's budget also will include hiring additional firefighters, but he does not know how many.

"There will be more down the line," said Koeppen, who is planning

to retire April 1, 1990, after 36 years with the department. "As the village grows, the department grows."

Last month, another firefighter was sworn in to fill a vacancy left on the department since June. The opening was created when Richard Bayne, an 18-year department veteran, left after running out of disability pay for back problems he had suffered for about a year, Koeppen said.

Joseph J. Mariotti, 27, replaced Bayne Sept. 15. Mariotti, of Carol Stream, had worked with the U.S.

Coast Guard for nearly 10 years and was stationed in Detroit, Key West, Fla., and Chicago before joining the Wheeling Fire Department.

With the additional firefighters, the department is better able to cope with emergencies, Koeppen said.

"It gives up more people to respond to a call is what it amounts to," Koeppen said. "Our object is to at least have five persons at all times at each station."

The Wheeling Fire Department currently has two stations.

Code enforcement could require more staff, officials say

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

As Wheeling tries to cut high weeds, control animals and corral unnecessary litter, it might need more ticket writers to provide village residents and businesses with the incentive to clean up their acts.

That was part of the message sent by village staff members Tuesday as they told trustees how the village enforces the hundreds of ordinances that cover hot water heaters, parked cars and overgrown shrubbery.

Trustees suggested that at the next budget hearings, the village may consider adding staff solely to make sure those ordinances are being met.

"I'm looking at that in the budget in February, to budget more for staff and the CSO (community service officers) for the police department," Trustee Judy Abruscato said. "The town is growing."

ACCORDING TO VILLAGE officials, the police department and the community development department patrol the village looking for certain violations of building codes and other village ordinances. Other violations are pointed out through residents' complaints, said Tom Fennell, the village administrator for building, housing and zoning.

But while the traffic ticket is used as a punishment to the speeder, the enforcement notices for the violations discussed Tuesday are used to prod residents and businesses to correct violations found by the village, Fennell said.

He said his department targets certain ordinance violations each year for review. If the department sees a violation, it will send a letter to the property owner, asking for remediation.

But if offender fails to comply, he said the department will have the police department issue a ticket and a court date. Most properties are improved before the court date or are settled once a judge threatens a property owner with a fine, Fennell said.

THE ENTIRE GOAL of the process, however, is not to collect fines, but to get properties upgraded, he said. A relative lack of manpower — only one person in the community development department researches ordinance violations — limits the scope of violations the village can investigate.

Fennell and Deputy Police Chief Michael Hermes said the village relies on residents' complaints to identify potential problems. Hermes said other priorities within the department often make it difficult to catch all violations in the village.

But Walter Stryzyk, the newest member of the village appearance commission, told the board that not enough was being done. He said in one 90-minute bike ride, he found more than two pages of violations in the village's industrial parks.

He said citizens should not have to make complaints in order for the village to take action against a property owner.

Hearings set to begin on Safety-Kleen proposal for building in Wheeling

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Wheeling officials will soon begin the process of deciding whether one of Illinois' major processors of hazardous waste will be allowed to build a storage facility in the village.

As the village staff prepares to hire an environmental engineer and a real estate appraiser to study the Safety-Kleen proposal before an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency hearing Nov. 20, the village plan commission will hear a building proposal Oct. 26. The appearance commission will review the proposal Nov. 1.

Safety-Kleen first came to the village board July 24 with a plan to build nine storage tanks for hazardous waste on 10 acres of land off Hintz Road, west of Wolf Road. Officials said the facility would replace an aging and smaller facility the company now operates in Arlington Heights.

Safety-Kleen processes and recycles metal degreasing solvents, motor oil,

engine coolant, dry cleaning fluids and other cleansing solvents. The company would store the materials at the Wheeling facility before transporting it to the company's Elgin facility for processing.

IN ORDER TO gain a positive plan commission recommendation, Safety-Kleen will have to secure a special use permit. To do so, the company will have to prove the facility meets a series of subjective criteria, including what impact the facility would have on traffic and the surrounding area.

The company must also win approval from the IEPA following the Nov. 20 hearing at Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Under the proposal outlined in Safety-Kleen's request for a public hearing, the international company wants to build six above ground storage tanks and three below ground tanks. Company officials said they want to build the Wheeling facility to surpass existing safety regulations.

Wheeling studies expanding health staff

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling housing complexes and swimming pools could be inspected routinely if the village had more health officers on the payroll, Wheeling officials say.

The village health department currently is run by one employee, Sanitarian Daniel Adams. His responsibilities include inspecting village restaurants twice a year, regulating food vendors and food vending machines, exterminating rats and overseeing garbage and refuse disposal and contagious disease control.

He also responds to health and sanitation complaints and serves as a liaison between the village

and the village's board of health.

"Right now I'm the entire health department," Adams said. "Our point is that currently we're covering inspecting the restaurants as required by state statute. But there are a number of other programs I'm involved in that require my time."

Adams said his work day is spread quite thin and he would like to do more routine inspections of village apartment and housing complexes and swimming pools.

"There are a number of other complaint cases that we feel the community would be better served if we had routine inspections," Adams said. "And the only way to do that is with additional staff."

This year's budget included hir-

ing a college intern to work in the village's health department. However, by the time the budget was drafted in February, two nearby universities with environmental health programs — Illinois State and Indiana State universities — had run out of intern students, Adams said.

Adams said he will ask for additional employees for his department during next year's budget process.

"It's something that we'll certainly look at," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said.

"We would look at additional staff and see what our priorities are. It's just more of a case of, 'Do we want to do it?' and 'Can we afford to do it?'"

Wheeling's new levy to mean less taxes

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday approved a \$4.48 million levy for next year, which will mean a decrease in property taxes for village residents.

Wheeling officials plan to collect 22.5 percent less in taxes next year than were collected this year. Village trustees unanimously agreed to levy \$4.48 million in property taxes, whereas last year the levy was \$5.78 million.

The decrease is due mainly to a decrease in money needed for the village's general fund, which is used to pay for police and fire department services, administrative services of the village board,

finance and community development departments, and building and vehicle maintenance.

Last year Wheeling levied nearly \$1.83 million for the general fund, whereas the village seeks to collect only \$1 million in property taxes this year for that fund.

Although expenses are expected to increase in the general fund by six percent, additional money is unnecessary, said Robert W. Fialkowski, village finance director.

A recent doubling of the amount of state income taxes distributed to the village, and an increase in village growth, sales tax revenues and interest on investments have left Wheeling with a higher fund balance than was expected, Fialkowski added.

"It's a substantial change, but a prudent one," Fialkowski said. "Yet we're very confident that we will be able to fund the village safely. You're paying a higher level of income taxes to the state, what we're proposing here is a lower property tax."

The 1989 levy determines property taxes to be collected in 1990. A lower levy translates into decreased property taxes for village residents.

Fialkowski expects the village's current tax rate of \$1.50 per \$100 assessed valuation to decrease substantially depending on the increase in property values next year. The rate may even drop below \$1, which would be the first time for Wheeling since 1981.

WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

Company hired to replace furnaces

Wheeling village trustees have hired a Schiller Park engineering company to replace six furnaces and one old roof-mounted heating and air conditioning ventilator in the village hall.

All seven bids the village received were less than the \$23,000 officials allocated for the work.

Trustees approved Ridgewood Engineering, Inc. in Schiller Park — the lowest bidder — to replace the 22-year-old furnaces and 11-year-old ventilator for \$16,470. The next lowest bidder was from Tobie's Central Heating, Inc. in Des Plaines, which estimated the cost at \$16,495.

Chambers to get new carpeting

The council chambers in Wheeling's village hall will be getting new carpeting within the next several months.

Trustees hired Kooiker Tile in Arlington Heights for \$18,779 to place the 10-year-old carpeting in the council chambers, community development office, lunch room, front of-

fices and operation and maintenance building.

The cost of removing and replacing about 1,350 square yards of carpeting is \$13.11 per square yard.

Kooiker's bid was the lowest that met village specifications and the quote was lower than the \$25,340 allocated in this year's budget. Next year the village plans to replace the carpeting in the fire and police departments.

Firm to study clerical positions

Lake Bluff consulting firm will study Wheeling's clerical positions to provide accurate job titles and pay plans for the 20 positions.

Village trustees unanimously agreed to hire the PAR Group, Paul A. Reaume, Ltd. in Lake Bluff, to evaluate the village staff positions.

David R. Kowal, assistant to the village manager, said the village has some inaccuracies and deficiencies in classifying the village jobs and payment plans for the positions.

The study, which may cost \$7,000, will be finished in about 13 weeks. The PAR Group was the lowest of six bidders for the project.

Goodwill Industries plans curbside pick-up program

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Once only the domain of parked cars and the common trash bag, the curbs of Wheeling should soon see a new neighbor.

The village has been picked as the first community in the country to host a joint project that will have Goodwill Industries' trucks picking up reusable goods set out alongside regular garbage and recycling bins.

Conceived by Goodwill Industries and Waste Management, the project was presented to village trustees Monday who appeared to support the plan to provide village residents with curbside pick up of unused clothes and other items.

Goodwill Industries, a not-for-profit company, resells donated items and uses the money generated to provide vocational training for the underprivileged.

"I THINK this is a superb idea and I look forward to the village participating in your plan," Trustee Elizabeth Hartman said.

Waste Management, whose subsidiary company Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal handles the main trash and recycling pick up in the village, selected Wheeling because of its high participation rate in the recycling and its broad demographics, said Lee Addelman, a Waste Management official.

Since the recycling program began May 1, Addelman said 87 percent of the village is participating, one of the highest rates in the area.

Addelman said the company wants to start a three- to six-month pilot program in the village by Dec. 1 to study the effectiveness of the program. He said pick up would be on the same day as the regular trash and recycling day in the first full week of each month.

DEL EDWARDS, A Goodwill Industries consultant, said the program would give the company the information it needs to determine whether similar projects would work in other areas.

Although the village would be allowing Waste Management and Goodwill to combine forces, Village Manager Craig Anderson said the plan would not preclude other companies from making curbside pick ups of reusables in the village.

Goodwill would distribute large plastic bags to every home to start off the project, and whenever a bag was left for pick up, a replacement bag would be left behind, Addelman said. He said the waste company would pick up any items left behind that weren't collected by Goodwill employees.

Edwards said the goods would be taken to a Chicago processing plant and then sent out to the various resale shops throughout the area. Addelman said Goodwill officials have said the program will make it easier for people to donate items to the charitable organization.

ANDERSON SAID THE company will have to provide the village with proper legal protection against any lawsuits stemming from the pick ups.

EDITORIALS

COUNTRYSIDE 10-19-89 Pie in the sky voting

In the years of debate and discussion about how to give Wheeling's downtown area along Milwaukee Avenue a facelift, the recipe for success always included liberal doses of calls for upgrading the business clientele.

When it came to forming a Tax Increment Finance District (TIF) to help generate revenues to spruce up some of the "dilapidated" businesses or those that didn't fit in with what was planned to be the new facade, village officials had little problem identifying the outcasts.

A florist, an auto shop, a donut emporium and others were all targeted for removal or told they would have to adhere to the edict to shape up their store fronts, i.e. become part of the plan, or ship out.

In light of a decision made Monday by the village board to allow a popular pizzeria to relocate to the TIF district, the biggest change in the local facade may well have nothing to do with the Milwaukee Avenue business district.

The biggest facade now appears to be the integrity of trustees who glad-handed a popular pizzeria owner through village channels in approving his special use permit to relocate to the TIF district that has been billed as a blueprint for upgrading the Milwaukee Avenue business district.

As much as they may like to play up what a fine businessman the applicant is and many of the undeniably fine things he has done for the village, trustees who granted the special use permit clearly looked the other way as they ignored the very standards they imposed on themselves for this commercial district.

Instead of adhering to the standards they have articulated in public meetings, the board Monday seemed to justify its action with the notion that a carry-out pizzeria would be an improvement over the gas station now on the site. The same could be said of video arcade or a body shop, but presumably the trustees would not have settled for businesses of this ilk.

If they were looking for guidance in trying to address this issue fairly, the trustees didn't have to look far. Village staff pinpointed six of nine criteria the pizza business failed to meet to qualify for the special use permit.

Unfortunately, these criteria were not addressed with the diligence and thoroughness the trustees have consistently exercised in many other business requests. As for why that is, the trustees owe residents — and perhaps more importantly the other business owners in the TIF district — an explanation.

Village approves relocation of Wa Pa Ghetti's pizzeria

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

10-19-89
CountrySide
While village staff and one trustee opposed the relocation of Wa Pa Ghetti's pizzeria, a majority of trustees Monday gave the Wheeling pizza maker the nod to move his business onto the village's famed Restaurant Row.

Village trustees will allow Joe Mastrototaro to move his Wa Pa Ghetti's pizzeria into a new building at Mors and Milwaukee avenues, replacing an old gas station that officials and residents called an "eyesore".

"He has outgrown his space," Trustee Jim Whittington said. "This would be an upgrade for everybody."

"I have to move from where I am now," Mastrototaro said. "I cannot operate on the 1,000 square feet that I have now. I need 2,000 square feet."

Mastrototaro said the lease for his existing store in a small strip mall on the northwest corner of Dundee and Wolf roads expires next year. He said he wanted to build and occupy the Milwaukee Avenue facility by next March or April.

"This does nothing to upgrade Milwaukee Avenue. To compare (Bob Chinn's) CrabHouse to a pizza joint is like comparing the White House to a tin shack somewhere."

**— William Rogers
Wheeling Trustee**

BUT THE VILLAGE staff found numerous flaws with the project and said approving it went against the goals of the village to upgrade Milwaukee Avenue. Trustee William Rogers said the plan contradicted efforts the board has made to improve the roadway, considered the gateway to the village.

In a report given to trustees, the staff said the pizza restaurant "is not compatible with the upgrading of Milwaukee Avenue." Further, the report stated "a carry-out restaurant in the approved center is not in keeping with that upgrading, and changes the character of the approved building from office to a retail strip center."

The report said the village desired "quality restaurants, office buildings,

and appropriate retail centers" along Milwaukee Avenue. The entire roadway has been included in a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district intended to use village powers to foster positive change in the area.

"This does nothing to upgrade Milwaukee Avenue," Rogers said. "To compare (Bob Chinn's) CrabHouse to a pizza joint is like comparing the White House to a tin shack somewhere."

"HE'S GETTING a lot (more) consideration than someone who would come into the village for the first time," Rogers said.

Trustees Joe Ratajczak, Tony Altieri, Elizabeth Hariman and Jim Whittington voted in favor of granting Mastrototaro

a special use permit for his sit-down, carry-out and delivery restaurant. Trustee Judy Abruscato voted against the plan, but said she was in favor of the project. Rogers opposed the plan and Village President Sheila Schultz did not vote.

But before Mastrototaro can begin making dough on Restaurant Row, village trustees asked him to go before the plan commission to knead some site problems out of the plan, including scaling down the size of the building. He will also have to solve a lack of parking on the site.

Mastrototaro and his architect said they would comply with those requests and would work with the plan commission and village staff on the new building. In addition to the pizzeria, Mastrototaro said he will lease office space in the building.

THE PIZZERIA PROJECT came before the village board after a developer failed to build a planned office center on the site. That project was approved early this year but was never

(Continued on page 16)

Wheeling slashes tax levy by 22 percent for next year

10-19-89
CountrySide
Village spending in Wheeling will increase next year, but the burden on local property taxpayers to fund local services will be eased.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Wheeling residents who fear that a tax hike will follow on the heels of their property reassessment this year got some good news Monday when trustees decided to substantially reduce the village tax levy.

With the village receiving an unexpected raise in state income tax, and with village spending below budgeted levels last year, trustees approved a tax levy 22 percent below last year's property tax request.

Although village spending is still expected to increase overall, village Finance Director Bob Fialkowski said alternate revenue sources will relax the burden on property owners.

"We feel it's a drastic change, but we are confident it's a prudent one," Fialkowski said.

THE LARGEST drop in the levy came in the general fund, which supports the police and fire departments, the general administration of the village and the vehicle maintenance fund.

Because of the increases in sales tax generated by village businesses and the addition of the state income tax money, which doubled with the 20 percent hike in the state income tax rate, Fialkowski told the board the village would need

\$800,000 less for the general fund. Trustees approved a \$1.02 million levy for the general fund in 1990, down from the \$1.83 million requested last year.

Overall, the village will ask for \$4.48 million in taxes, down 22 percent from the \$5.8 million requested last year.

Because of the coming property reassessments, the village was unable to project how much lower village property taxes will go. While the local tax base is expected to grow with the first reassessment of Wheeling Township in five years, Fialkowski said he could only estimate the effect the growth will have on the tax rate.

MONDAY'S ACTION ONLY affects the portion of tax dollars paid to the village. It does not include those tax dollars paid to local school districts, the park district, the county and other taxing bodies.

The largest portion of the village tax request, and the portion trustees have the least say over, goes toward retiring bonds used for major capital projects. That amount rose less than 1 percent to \$2.48 million.

Private actuarial studies requested by the village also proved profitable to taxpayers. While the state suggested certain tax contributions to the police and fire pension funds, Fialkowski said an independent actuarial study urged

(Continued from page 5)

built.

While two of the site's neighbors urged trustees to grant Mastrototaro the necessary approvals, the owner of the apartment building to the north said automobile headlights from late night customers would be a detriment to residents.

Although the plan commission, by a 3-2 vote with two members absent, supported the plan, the village's community development department argued for the project's defeat. Staff members said the proposal, in their opinion, failed to meet six of the nine special use criteria necessary for approval.

In his letter to Village Manager Craig Anderson, Community Development Director Mike Klitzke said while the restaurant could be built elsewhere, the special use would "alter the essential character of the locality as previously discussed," and that it was not in harmony with the surrounding business district.

ABRUSCATO SAID SHE voted against it because she thought the project shouldn't be returned to the plan commission.

"A man of that caliber for what he wants to do to that corner and enhance the beauty of the street, he should have it," Abruscato said. "It will enhance the aesthetics of the corner that looked like slop for the last 20 years on and off with that gas station there."

But Rogers said the proposal would have been a regression for the village. He agreed that the existing gas station was not attractive, "but I think we have to remember that the... district is something we have worked on for 10, 15 years," Rogers said. "We have worked

very diligently and very hard to upgrade Milwaukee Avenue."

Rogers pointed out the argument that Klitzke made indicating the other tenants of the facility could become other retail businesses and not offices, which have a lower traffic impact on the surrounding area.

"I HAVE some great fears about this type of establishment, a special use type restaurant, from going into this area," he said.

Schultz said the board should consider what type of development it would approve on Milwaukee Avenue. But she said the perception was that trustees, by giving partial approval to Mastrototaro, were eliminating the gas station.

Ratajczak said one of his reasons for voting in favor of the restaurant was to remove that gas station and improve the site. "There was an all-pervading desire to improve the property," Ratajczak said.

But Schultz said the board could look at other alternatives. "I think to lose sight of the development that we are looking for that corridor would be unfortunate," Schultz said.

BESIDES THE WHEELING facility, Mastrototaro has opened stores in Libertyville and Rolling Meadows.

At last year's Familyfest, Mastrototaro said he sold an estimated 18,000 slices of pizza. A portion of the sale price of the pizza, and all food sold at the festival, went to St. Joseph the Worker church as part of its fundraiser. Church officials said this summer that Mastrototaro's stand was one of the busiest at Familyfest.

aged to gain an interest in poetry.
(Staff photo by Geoff Scheerer)



Fire district referendum plan is dropped from ballot

COUNTRYSIDE
10-19-89

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

After Wheeling village trustees formally opposed the consolidation of the Wheeling and Prospect Heights rural fire protection districts, an agreement was reached last week to drop the ballot proposal in exchange for discussion on fire protection in Prospect Heights.

Representatives from the two fire protection districts, the City of Prospect Heights and the Village of Wheeling met Oct. 11 and came up with the compromise. A Cook County Circuit Court judge was set to decide Monday whether Wheeling's objections to the ballot question were valid.

But instead, the judge accepted the removal of the ballot request, Village Attorney James Rhodes said.

"WELL, THERE won't be a consolidation and that's, in fact, what the village wanted," Rhodes said.

Wheeling had objected to petitions filed with the county to have the consolidation effort put on the ballot. Rhodes said some circulators, including acting Prospect Heights Mayor Jerome Meyer, signed their own petitions in violation of Illinois Election Code. The village also charged that some of the circulators did not legally reside in the Wheeling rural fire protection district.

Prospect Heights officials and officials from the Prospect Heights fire district have pushed for consolidation of the districts to allow for city residents to get united service. Officials claim that Prospect Heights tax dollars are going into Wheeling to build up a fire department that provides only emergency services to the city.

Rhodes said the decision to abandon — at least for this year — the consolidation effort allows for all sides to discuss concerns over the move. Petitioners began the drive to put the issue on the ballot before contacting either the village or the Wheeling rural district.

"WE WANT to ensure that if someone is considering consolidation that they know what the heck it means," Rhodes said. "I'm not sure anyone knows what a consolidation means."

Anthony Buckun, attorney for the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District board, said his group wants to make sure all issues surrounding fire service are discussed.

"The board just wants to make certain ... that whatever is considered is in the best interests of the residents the

district serves," Buckun said.

The Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District provides fire service to more than 5,000 parcels of land in Prospect Heights, unincorporated Wheeling Township and portions of unincorporated Vernon Township. A district without employees or equipment, the Wheeling rural district raises taxes and contracts with the village fire department to service most of the district.

THE PROSPECT HEIGHTS Rural Fire Protection District is a paid-on-call fire department that has a station on Camp McDonald Road in Prospect Heights. It services more than half of Prospect Heights.

But Wheeling officials said the consolidation effort was done without Prospect Heights providing enough information about what would happen following a consolidation.

"We want to make sure that fire protection within the area that we're now protecting is maintained at the same level," Rhodes said. "We want to make sure that the residents get proper fire protection and ambulance protection."

Stephen Daday, attorney for the Prospect Heights fire district, said the decision was an equitable one. Instead of paying for legal and administrative fees surrounding the consolidation, Daday said the village, city and fire districts will discuss fire service without the consolidation effort "hanging over their heads." Daday said the Prospect Heights fire protection board has directed Fire Chief Donald R. Gould Jr. to meet with officials from the other groups as soon as possible.

THE VILLAGE OF Wheeling is expected to receive \$375,000 from the fire protection district this year, about 17 percent of its annual \$2.24 million budget, village officials said. Village Manager Craig Anderson said the village has capital invested in its own fire department to provide service for the Prospect Heights area.

In order for the two fire protection districts to combine, voters in both district's have to agree on the move. In March, 1988, Prospect Heights voters overwhelmingly supported the consolidation. But a Cook County Circuit Court judge ruled last January that the narrow vote in the Wheeling district went against the plan.

Wheeling examines pizza parlor move

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The owner of a Wheeling pizza parlor may relocate his carry-out business to a future Milwaukee Avenue office center if he reduces the size of his proposed building, Wheeling trustees say.

Joseph Mastrototaro, owner of Wa-Pa-Ghetts at 46 W. Dundee Road, plans to move his pizza carry-out, delivery and sit-down restaurant to the northwest corner of Mors and Milwaukee avenues.

Despite staff recommendations to deny the request, trustees in a 4-2 vote agreed to allow a carry-out pizza business on the property, which was approved for office use in April. However, trustees object-

ed to the size of the building that Mastrototaro proposed because there would not be enough room for the delivery and carry-out traffic.

Mastrototaro now must go back to the village plan commission, which narrowly approved his request last month, to work on par-

ing down the size of the building. Village planners said the pizza parlor would be a nuisance to adjacent houses with its late hours, noise, increased traffic, cooking odors and delivery vehicles.

"For the life of me I can't see any problems with this," Mastrototaro said. "I really don't think I'll make that much impact on the traffic that you guys are worried about. The delivery drivers are not

reckless drivers."

Mastrototaro said he bought the property — which has been unused for about 20 years and currently houses a vacant gas station — to expand his decade-old business, which has outgrown its current location.

"It has been an eyesore and it's something we've wanted to change for many, many years," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said of the Milwaukee Avenue property. "The petitioner has been a wonderful resident of the village and we all want to keep him here."

Trustee William A. Rogers, who voted against the proposal, said the pizza parlor does not fit in with plans for an office center.

Goodwill, trash hauler team up for pickup

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling is on its way to becoming the first village in the nation to combine the collection of recyclable and reusable goods from residents' curbs.

Village trustees have informally agreed to a plan for Waste Management of North America Inc. and Goodwill Industries of Chicago to start a monthly curbside collection program in Wheeling.

Under the plan, Goodwill trucks would "piggyback" on recycling trucks from Wheeling/Bufalo Grove Disposal — the village's trash hauler — on the first full week of each month. Residents would pack reusable

goods, such as clothes, accessories, shoes, toys, books, knick-knacks, tools, kitchen utensils and small working appliances, into recyclable plastic bags provided by Goodwill. The disposal company would collect recyclables, including newspaper and inserts, clear and colored glass and aluminum and tin.

Goodwill employees would pick up the bags immediately after the recycling trucks pass through town. The employees would leave a receipt for the donations and a new bag in each orange recycling bin.

"I think this is a superb idea," Trustee Elizabeth L. Hartman said. "And I really look forward to our village participating in the

plan."

Waste Management, Goodwill and village officials will work out an agreement so that the program could start the first week of December because "around Christmas, people are starting to think about those less fortunate," said Lee E. Addleman, Waste Management's recycling coordinator.

Waste Management has agreed to assume responsibility for the program and guarantee that nothing would be left on curbs after collection day.

If Goodwill trucks break down or residents set out their collection bags on the wrong day, Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal will pick up and hold the bags for Goodwill, Addleman said.

Volunteers sought to spread word on 911

10-23-89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger is seeking volunteers and local business owners to help distribute information about a 911 emergency telephone system.

Voters in Wheeling will be asked on the Nov. 7 ballot to approve paying 75 cents a month for the installation and maintenance of the enhanced 911 system, which was approved by several surrounding Northwest suburbs in April.

The enhanced 911 system, which includes the familiar nationwide three-digit number, allows callers to dial a central location that dispatches calls to the appropriate

public safety agency.

Haeger and Barbara Kobishop, a community service officer, have been speaking to various community groups including homeowners associations, senior citizens and business owners about the benefits of the emergency system.

"Many of us have children in our homes ... if an emergency occurs the last thing we remember is a seven-digit telephone number," Haeger said. "As a citizen, I would be willing to pay 75 cents for 911 service. If it saves one life, it's paid for itself."

Based on Illinois Bell estimates, Wheeling officials say the 75-cent monthly tax will generate an additional \$283,500 over 18 months for the village. The money would cov-

er the start-up costs of the system. Telephone users with more than one main phone number would be charged 75 cents for each number.

Installation and equipment would cost about \$157,000 and monthly maintenance would run about \$3,500, village officials say.

Once the system is installed and paid for, the surcharge may be reduced to 25 cents a month, Haeger said.

Haeger is seeking local business owners who will help pay for posters advertising the 911 referendum. He also plans to ask Boy Scouts and other youth groups to distribute informational fliers about the emergency telephone system.

Fire district withdraws referendum plans

Oct. 24-89

By KEVIN DOUGHERTY
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Prospect Heights Rural Fire Protection District has withdrawn its request for a Nov. 7 referendum in hopes of negotiating an agreement with Wheeling, which opposed the ballot question.

Fire district officials plan to meet with Wheeling village officials this winter to try and negotiate an agreement which would enable the Prospect Heights fire district to consolidate with the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District. Prospect Heights Fire Chief Donald R. Gould Jr. and Wheeling Fire Chief Bernhardt O. Koeppen are expected to meet soon to open the talks. No date has been set.

"We are going to try and negotiate," Gould said, "but history has shown me that negotiating with Wheeling hasn't been successful. We are going to give it a good try."

Timing was as much a factor be-

hind the cease-fire as the desire to avoid another court battle. With the election less than three weeks away, neither side would have had enough time to marshal their troops in the event the question was placed on the ballot.

"If we can't (reach an agreement), I guess all we have lost is some time," Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said. "The cleaner, neater thing would be if we can reach an agreement."

"We didn't feel," said Robert W. Arends, a Prospect Heights fire district trustee, "that the urgency of the situation was such that we actually had to get it on the ballot in November."

Wheeling filed an objection with the Cook County Circuit Court last month to prevent the Prospect Heights fire district from asking voters in the two fire districts to consolidate. Prospect Heights fire district officials want to merge with the Wheeling Township fire district to give them jurisdiction over, and

property taxes from the entire city of Prospect Heights. A consolidated district would also include several unincorporated areas between Prospect Heights, Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

Since it has no men or equipment, the Wheeling Township fire district contracts with local fire departments for service. While two-thirds of the district is located in Prospect Heights, practically all of the district is protected by the village of Wheeling.

For the fiscal year ending April 30, 1990, the village will make about \$370,000 from the Wheeling fire district for contractual services, Wheeling Finance Director Robert Fialkowski said. The Prospect Heights fire district stands to make \$12,000, Gould said.

Wheeling officials argue the Prospect Heights fire district does not have the men or equipment to protect both districts and say the fire district is merely trying to establish a full-time fire department.

"Obviously, we are geared up in terms of personnel and equipment to serve more than the village of Wheeling," Anderson said.

Prospect Heights tried but failed to consolidate the districts in 1988, but the result was tainted because vote totals in two key precincts were not separated by district, obscuring the results.

That referendum was delayed for about a year because of a court challenge by Wheeling. The Wheeling fire district board backed the referendum, but its support was not strong.

While Arends talks about convincing the Wheeling fire district board on the need to consolidate, Gould is more interested in winning the village of Wheeling over. Gould says Wheeling seems to have a "chip on its shoulder" when it comes to the Prospect Heights fire department.

"They have never welcomed us with open arms," Gould said. "Never."

SUBURBAN REPORT

Wheeling may fine owners for false alarms

Oct 24-1989

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger wants to start charging residents and business owners a fee for excessive false intruder alarms.

Of the 1,031 alarm calls recorded at the police stations from January through June, 985 were false alarms, Haeger said Monday.

Each false alarm can take up to 30 minutes of a police officer's time, which also ties up a patrol car that could be used for other police calls, Haeger added.

Haeger estimates the false alarms have cost the village about \$50,000 this year in man hours and equipment. The proposed fines

would make up for the losses, he added.

In his proposal, Haeger asks that the village warn residents and business owners after the first five false alarms and then start charging \$50 for each false alarm after six. After ten false alarms, the penalty would rise to \$100 each.

Alarm owners would not be fined for accidental false alarms caused by weather-related problems, power failures or an officer checking a business' security.

But the most common reason for a false alarm, for which an alarm owner would be charged, is caused by an employee error when setting the alarm or shutting it off, Haeger said.

"We find that we're going back

time and time again," Haeger said. "The purpose of the alarm ordinance would be to educate the public in thinking responsibly in having an alarm and once we find we can't remedy a problem, we would then fine them."

In addition to the fines, Haeger proposes that the village require every alarm owner to apply for a permit for \$25 a year. The information included on the owner's application would be used to help identify who police should contact to shut a false alarm off.

However, some trustees, including James Whittington, say the \$25 a year application fee is excessive and that alarm owners should be notified of all false alarms, including the first four.

SUBURBAN REPORT

Omni takes headquarters to Buffalo Grove

10-26-89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Omni Youth Services is closing its Wheeling headquarters to move into a larger building in Buffalo Grove.

Harry Wells, Omni's executive director, said the youth agency is expanding its adolescent substance and alcohol abuse program and needs additional space.

The new location, which has not been disclosed pending a closing on the property, is three times the size of the current three-story Omni building at 222 E. Dundee in Wheeling.

Initially, Omni will use only three-quarters of the available space and likely rent the extra

room until Omni needs it for its own purposes, Wells said.

Omni, which is funded by state agencies, townships, villages, private business and contributions, works with youths and their families through counseling, education, support groups and intervention.

For 17 years, the non-profit agency has stationed its headquarters in Wheeling. It began as a crisis hotline service for teen-agers and grew into a \$2 million operation. Before moving to the current location between Sportmart Inc. and McDonald's in the fall of 1985, Omni's main offices were located at 57 S. Wolf Road in Wheeling for 11 years.

The new center will house administrative offices and volunteer

and counseling services for Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, Mount Prospect and Prospect Heights. It will serve as a central location for the agency's other centers in Arlington Heights, Lake Zurich, Mundelein and Prairie View.

"It will allow us to provide more services to clients," Wells said. "It's not an attempt to run away from Wheeling. Our commitment to providing responsive services to Wheeling will not change."

A \$160,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Alcohol and Substance Abuse will help pay for renovations to the building, which should take about six months, Wells said. Part of the expansion is the addition of four full-time substance abuse specialists.

ELECTION '89

Referendum issues



911 system is up to voters

Oct. 26, 1989 - Herald

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Following the lead of many surrounding communities, Wheeling village officials will let voters decide whether they want to pay 75 cents a month for a 911 emergency telephone system.

The Enhanced 911 system, which includes the familiar nationwide three-digit number, allows callers to dial a central location that dispatches calls to the appropriate public safety agency.

In addition, it immediately provides dispatchers with a caller's name and telephone number, eliminating the need to trace calls that may become disconnected.

Unlike "basic" 911, which was introduced in many towns in 1968, Enhanced 911 also can automatically clear the line of a prank call or automatically hold the line.

Based on Illinois Bell estimates, Wheeling officials say the 75-cent monthly tax would generate an additional \$283,500 over 18 months for the village. The money would cover the costs of setting up system.

Installation and equipment would cost about \$157,000, and monthly maintenance would run about \$3,500.

If approved by voters on the Nov. 7 ballot, the system would be available to residents in 18 to 24 months. However, they would begin paying for the 911 system about three months after its approval.

If the costs turn out to be lower than village estimates, the surcharge would be reduced, Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

Voters in several nearby suburbs, including Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove Village, Arlington Heights and Mount Prospect, approved the system in last April's election.

Wheeling officials say they held off putting the question to voters to further inform residents and work out details of an agreement for the system with Illinois Bell.

Gearing up for the election, village and police officials have been distributing information and speaking with members of local organizations and homeowners associations about the proposed emergency system.

Suburbs team up against gangs

Task force to tackle problem

By JOHN CARPENTER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Saying they want to smother the suburban gang problem before it becomes "an epidemic," six Northwest suburban communities have formed a gang of their own.

Multi-jurisdictional Task Force is the name of the new group, and although it may not sound as tough as El Rukn or Latin King, police and municipal officials say the task force will help them in their efforts to keep control of suburban streets.

Wednesday morning, representatives from Des Plaines, Wheeling, Elk Grove Village, Mount Prospect, Glenview and Niles met to discuss their commitment of manpower and teamwork to combat what they say is a potentially dangerous situation.

"We see it," said Elk Grove Village President Charles J. Zetek. "What we want to do is contain the problem of gang activity before it grows. By the mere fact that you neglect it, it will grow."

"You read all the stories about police trying to take back the streets," said Des Plaines Police Det. Kevin O'Connell, head of the department's juvenile investigations division. "But why give them up in the first place? That's what this is all about."

The task force, which grew out of informal discussions among police officials dealing with gangs, will work as a team to develop information about gang activity. They will share information with school officials.

While insisting the problem is not nearly as serious in the sub-



Des Plaines Sgt. Dave Hachmeister looks at some gang-related graffiti, a sign of the growing presence of street gangs in the suburbs.

Daily Herald Photo/Kent Kriegshauser

urbs as it is in Chicago or other major cities, police and community officials nevertheless acknowledge that if it didn't exist, neither would the task force.

"I think it's rather obvious that there are enough incidents that have occurred to prompt us to do something," said Des Plaines Mayor D. Michael Albrecht.

Albrecht said there have even been reports of a "drive-by" shooting attempt somewhere in unincorporated Des Plaines. O'Connell and others said they have heard similar reports. But Cook County Sheriff's Police Investigator Peter Washington said he was not aware of such an incident.

See GANGS on Page 4

Suburban task force on gangs

The problem: Police say they see more signs of "serious" gang activity in the suburbs, such as drug dealings and other criminal activities. In past, most suburban gangs were "copycats," merely imitating behavior of more serious city gangs. Now a few "hard-core" gang members are beginning to be seen.



The goal: To devote more manpower to the problem and to share information. Suburban gangs, police say, are more mobile and tend to cross municipal boundaries.

Members: Each community — Des Plaines, Elk Grove Village, Mount Prospect, Wheeling, Glenview and Niles — will devote at least one officer to full-time investigations of gang activity.

Hotline: Call 647-2333 to report any gang-related activity to the task force.

Daily Herald Graphic

GANGS: Suburbs unite to combat gang problems

Continued from Page 1

But Albrecht said officials are concerned that suspected gang members are more frequently found to have guns.

"What we're concerned about," he said, "is that there seem to be more guns on the street."

But even in Des Plaines, where the suburban gang problem seems to be the worst, officials say the number of "hard core" gang members — those committed to violence and criminal activity, usually drug dealing — are few. Most suburban teenage gangsters, they say, are "copycats," mimicking what they see as glamorous aspects of gangs, like colors and spray-painted symbols.

"We have seen some instances of graffiti or vandalism," said Arlington Heights Police Commander Richard Reid. "It's not any great problem."

But Des Plaines officials worry that with more and more families moving away from Chicago to es-

cape gang violence, more and more children will bring gang backgrounds to the suburbs.

"I call it the seeding affect," O'Connell said. "The kids get to the suburbs and they feel left out. They want to be someone and a lot of them have been involved with gangs."

Des Plaines Police Captain Robert Sturlini, who will be one of the coordinators of the task force, said he fears these small numbers of gang members could grow, particularly with the demand for illegal drugs in the suburbs.

"Gang activity and drug trafficking are hand in hand," he said.

"There is a gang situation here in the suburbs," Albrecht said. "It certainly is not of epic proportions and we don't want to scare our residents. But we want people to know that gangs are not welcome here."

Daily Herald Staff Writer Vicki Speer contributed to this story.



Des Plaines Mayor D. Michael Albrecht is one of the leaders of a new suburban task force on gangs.

Daily Herald Photo/Dave Tonge

Residents meet to put lid on solvent recycler

10-27-89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Nearly 100 residents jammed Wheeling's village hall Thursday to object to plans for a storage center for hazardous waste to locate in the village.

Representatives of Safety-Kleen Corp. in Elgin presented plans to the village's plan commission to relocate and expand an Arlington Heights storage center in Wheeling. The proposed center would be located on 10 acres on the south side of Hintz Road just east of Glenn Avenue.

Safety-Kleen, which is the world's largest recycler of used solvents, recycles hazardous waste and processes solvents from clean-

ing machines, typically used for car parts and dry cleaning.

Although the Wheeling center would be used only to store the solvents, which are transported from customers to the processing plant, residents were concerned about the hazardous waste.

"Why would Wheeling want to have that fear and potential danger in its community that we heard tonight?" Wheeling resident Noel Dennis asked. "We feel it's not safe for our children. We feel it would not benefit Wheeling one iota."

The plans include a two-story building to store paint waste and used dry cleaning solvent.

Twelve above-ground sealed storage tanks and three under-

ground tanks would store used antifreeze, coolants and dirty solvents. The 20,000-gallon tanks would be surrounded by a 3-foot high concrete wall.

Commission members and residents questioned the potential for leaks, fires, fumes, traffic and accidents.

Project Manager Raymond M. Karass said that if leaks occurred, the waste would be contained in the concrete pool and, if necessary, in an adjacent retention pond.

"We're not talking about things from a nuclear plant," Karass said. "We're talking about things that are generated there in your community. You people sitting here are the generators."

Wheeling may charge for accidental false alarms

Wheeling village officials are considering a system of charges which would be billed to homes and businesses which trigger unnecessary false alarms.

Countryside
By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

On any given day, Wheeling police will speed across the village in search of burglars who don't exist. Even though they know the chances of a finding a burglary in progress are remote, two squad cars and two officers respond to each of the more than 2,000 alarms that are activated in the village each year.

Although many of the alarms are triggered by unknowing employees and not thieves, officers still respond to the call, leaving their cars and their eyes off the street during the time it takes to investigate the report.

Hoping to stem the rising cost and increasing frequency of answering those alarms, Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger wants the village to charge alarm owners for the mistakes.

"We're finding that we're going back time and time again (to the same addresses)," Haeger told village trustees Monday night. He said some alarms are erroneously set off 20 to 30 times each year.

HAEGER PRESENTED trustee with a proposed alarm ordinance that would fine businesses and home owners who frequently trigger their alarms unnecessarily while making every alarm holder pay a yearly \$25 fee to the village.

The police chief said the program could generate more than \$50,000 in fines and license fees each year from the more than 325 alarms in the village.

Although village trustees appeared supportive of the concept, the details of the plan drew questions that could delay the adoption of the proposed law.

Several trustees and Village Attorney James Rhodes said the \$25 license fee may be too high and might not be fair to residential alarm owners. After Haeger told the board that a majority of the problems come from businesses, Rhodes said the license fee — and the potential \$500 fine for not buying one — was sending the wrong message.

"IT SEEMS to me we're penalizing the residential owners for the problem the police department is having with businesses," Rhodes said.

Whittington said the police department also must notify alarm holders before they face a penalty, and not once they are issued a "service charge" of \$25.

Under the plan proposed by Haeger, alarm holders would get five "free" before facing a \$50 service charge for the next five alarms. Once an alarm holder had its tenth false alarm in a given year, each additional would cost \$100.

Whittington, like other trustees, said the license fees might be questioned by property owners who pay taxes for police protection.

"WE JUST lowered taxes and now we're raising a service fee," Whittington said. "People get upset about these things."

Because of the number of questions, Haeger said he would ask the Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) to conduct a survey of its members to see how other communities handle false alarms. Neighboring Buffalo Grove does fine repeat offenders.

In the first half of 1989, the Wheeling police department recorded 1,031 alarms. Of those, six were valid. Another 40 were triggered by phone line problems, weather or power outages, leaving 985 false alarms — more than five each day.

"That's horrendous," Trustee Bill Rogers said.

HAEGER SAID HE is pushing for a false alarm ordinance to reduce the number of alarms by educating alarm holders how to properly operate their alarms. He said the \$50,000 in fines and license fees would cover the administrative costs of the system.

If false alarms were reduced, he said the police department could react better each alarm goes off. He said the repeat offenders may not get the same reaction because of a "cry wolf" syndrome.

"We want to discourage false alarms so that there can be the belief that it is a valid alarm and not a false alarm," Haeger said. "We want to avoid complacency."

Haeger will return to the board once the results of the NWMC survey are complete, he said.

Wheeling Briefs

Countryside 10-26-89 Waste storage hearings set to begin

A proposal to bring one of Illinois' largest haulers and processors of hazardous waste to the village will face opposition from a group of residents and questions from plan commissioners tonight (Thursday).

In the first of several hearings on the plan to bring a hazardous waste storage facility on Hintz Road, the plan commission will hear arguments for granting a special use permit and site plan for the facility.

The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. at the village hall, 255 E. Dundee Road.

Safety-Kleen, Inc., is proposing to build a nine storage tanks for hazardous waste on 10 acres of land off Hintz Road, west of Wolf Road. Officials said the facility would replace an aging and smaller facility the company now operates in Arlington Heights.

Safety-Kleen processes and recycles metal degreasers solvents, motor oil, engine coolant, dry cleaning fluids and other cleansing solvents. The company would store the material at the Wheeling facility before transporting it to the company's Elgin processing facility.

At least one local resident, Bob Brower, will present a litany of questions regarding the facility. Brower owns and operates the Circle M Day Camp on Hintz Road, near the proposed site.

Brower has sent out material to a number of school officials and homeowners trying to stir up concern.

In addition to the plan commission, Safety-Kleen will also have to successfully navigate an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency siting hearing set for Nov. 20 before village trustees.

Boyd case—

(Continued from page 19)

Boyd's confession in 1983 and the Cook County State's Attorney's office dropped its murder charges, Boyd sought \$23 million in compensation from Wheeling police, a trained hypnotist, and a Cook County State's Attorney, claiming his civil rights had been violated during the murder investigation.

A federal jury ruled in February, 1988, that Boyd was not entitled to compensatory damages. A U.S. appellate court later upheld the jury's findings.

"I am relieved to have the case put behind us and that people can go on with their lives and have the assurance that it's over," Village President Sheila Schultz said. A friend of the Kosinski family, Schultz said they were relieved by the news.

The Supreme Court denial ends a legal odyssey for the Boyd and Kosinski families. With the decision, Boyd learned he will not receive any compensation for

Police search to fill vacancy

The Wheeling board of fire and police commissioners has authorized a search to replace an officer set to resign Nov. 10.

After accepting 10-year veteran Ron Hines' resignation, the board sent eight candidates for psychological and polygraph tests. If they pass those tests, the candidates will then be interviewed by the three-member board, said David Kowal, assistant to the village manager.

The eight candidates come from last year's police tests. Five new officers were hired earlier this year from the list.

Hines has decided to move out of the Wheeling area, Kowal said.

Court will not hear Boyd case

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

It's finally over. More than eight years after 14-year-old Mary Kosinski was found dead in her neighborhood, the U.S. Supreme Court will not hear the civil rights case of the man originally charged with, but never tried for, her murder.

The U.S. Supreme Court Oct. 10 denied William Boyd's request for a hearing in his civil rights suit.

AFTER COOK COUNTY Circuit Court Judge Nicholas Pomaro tossed out
(Continued on page 95)

the events. His family had earlier turned down settlement offers from the defendants in the case, said attorney Elizabeth Brown, who defended the village.

"I'M GLAD it's finally over," Village Attorney James Rhodes said. "I think the Supreme Court and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals found there was no error in the decision of the jury."

In 1983, Pomaro ruled that Boyd's confession may have been coerced from him by hypnotist Clarence Trausch, a former Wheeling police officer, and other officers. The Cook County State's Attorneys office then dropped charges against Boyd, who was 14 at the time of Kosinski's slaying.

According to autopsy reports, Mary Kosinski was found dead, the victim of strangulation, after spending a night in a fort behind the Boyd home.

Traffic study points out intersections that need help

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

10-26-89

COUNTRYSIDE
Motorists beware: The intersection of Wolf and Palatine Frontage roads could be dangerous to your car and your patience.

According to a recently received traffic study sponsored by the village, the intersection has one of the highest accident rates in Wheeling and creates the longest traffic delays for commuters.

For motorists who brave the intersection each day, that may be old news.

BUT TO THE village, that was one piece of information provided by a study conducted by James J. Benes and Associates, Inc. The village hopes the study will identify solutions to village traffic problems, Village Manager Craig

Anderson said.

Authorized early this year, Benes and Associates studied traffic flows and accident rates at 17 intersections throughout the village. In a preliminary report, the authors recommend that signals be added or changed at eight intersections, with a potential price tag exceeding \$596,000.

But before the village spends hundreds of thousands of dollars on red, yellow and green lights, it will have to ask the state, county and neighboring Buffalo Grove to contribute funds to improve the intersections.

Over the past three years, 116 accidents have occurred at the intersection at Wolf and Palatine Frontage roads, making it one of the most dangerous in the village. And the report found that motorists, besides risking a

collision, also can expect to wait as long as 90 seconds before going through the intersection, more than double what highway design standards suggest.

TO SOLVE THE problem at the intersection, the study suggests the village push for added right turn lanes and improved signalization at a cost of at least \$194,000, the report said.

While the Wolf Road intersection was rated as the crossroads in greatest need of change, Anderson said the village will also focus on other intersections identified in the report. The consultants recommended changes for nine of the 17 intersections, while the remaining intersections did not show traffic problems great enough to warrant change.

Anderson said he will likely use the report to recommend a traffic signal for

the intersection of Lexington Drive and Old McHenry Road, less than a mile north of Dundee Road. The report, combined with complaints from residents, shows the intersection in need of a traffic signal, Anderson said.

"If you go up there in the morning, it's just crazy," Anderson said.

RESIDENTS WHO EXIT from apartment, condominium and mobile home complexes along Old McHenry Road have long asked for traffic signals. The study also suggested signals for the intersection of Whippetree Village/Addolorata Village.

Lexington Commons homeowner Debbie Stewart said the report corroborates what the state had found earlier, that the intersection at Lexington Drive

(Continued on page 8)

Wheeling to join force to fight gangs in suburbs

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

10-26-89

COUNTRYSIDE
Wheeling officials Wednesday pledged support and resources to a police task force designed to battle the growing number of gangs in the northwest suburbs.

At a Wednesday morning meeting in Des Plaines, village officials agreed to join Des Plaines, Elk Grove, Glenview, Mount Prospect and Niles in a multi-jurisdictional effort to monitor and solve the gang activity that previously was considered the problem of more urban areas.

But Wheeling police officials have said the gang activity in and around the village has increased. By creating the task force and stepping up activity by the department itself, Police Chief Michael Haeger said earlier that the village is trying to undercut the gangs before they become a bigger problem.

"The goal of the task force is to assess and analyze the impact of gangs in the communities involved in the group to determine what, if any, problem there is," said Wheeling Police Deputy Chief Gary O'Rourke.

O'ROURKE WILL JOIN Des Plaines Capt. Robert Sturlini and Des Plaines Sgt. David Hachmeister in coordinating and supervising the task force.

Each department will assign at least one officer to the task force on a full-time basis, O'Rourke said.

The task force was developed as area municipalities began dealing with the same problem, gangs. O'Rourke said the communities decided to share information and resources because the gangs cross municipal boundaries, causing problems in more than one location.

"We want to identify the problem and take the appropriate steps to take care of it," O'Rourke said.

OVER THE PAST year, police and school officials have identified a number of gang related incidents. In September, a group of youths brandishing baseball bats and other weapons were involved in a clash just east of Wheeling High School. No blows were struck, but school officials said the incident involved rival gang members from neighboring communities.

At Familyfest in July, there were gang-suspected activities, including a confrontation between two groups in which a Des Plaines man was charged with aggravated assault after he allegedly threatened a Prospect Heights youth with a handgun.

And throughout the village, gang-related graffiti can be found on phone booths, buildings and signs.

Village President Sheila Schultz, who attended the Wednesday meeting, said the problem is one the village board will support the police department on.

"OBVIOUSLY IT'S something the department recognizes and called to the attention of public officials," Schultz said.

O'Rourke said the department will not hire additional officers to take the place of the officer assigned to the gang task force.

As part of the task force's assignment, O'Rourke said the group will try to determine if area gang activity is legitimate or just a form of imitation.

O'Rourke declined to discuss specific gang problems the department has identified.

Traffic accidents at Wheeling intersections

Intersection	1986	1987	1988	Total
Wolf Road at Palatine Frontage Road	26	36	54	116*
Municipal complex at Dundee Road	13	13	17	43
Lexington Drive and Old McHenry Road	6	6	19	31
Whippetree/Addolorata Village and Old McHenry Road	10	7	8	25

* This intersection exceeds the statewide average accident rate. Over the past three years, the intersection has averaged 3.7 accidents for every one million vehicle approaches, nearly twice the Illinois average of between 1.5 and 2 accidents. Source: Traffic signal study, Village of Wheeling.

Traffic study—

(Continued from page 5)

needs a signal. She said Anderson has told her that a temporary signal will be up within three months.

"It's impossible to get out if you're turning left," Stewart said. She said motorists can wait as long as 10 minutes trying to turn left onto Old McHenry Road in the morning. "I think it would not only improve the lives, but the quality of the lives. It would reduce a lot of tension."

Because the Lexington Drive intersection has no signal, Anderson said the Illinois Department of Transportation would allow the village could absorb the cost of a temporary signal and wait for

the state to reimburse it.

THE REPORT ALSO said new signals could be added at Wolf Road and Marquardt Drive; Buffalo Grove Road and Cobbler Lane or Dundee Road and Huntington Lane; and, Elmhurst Road and south Dennis Road.

The village will use the study, which will be updated before a final version is presented to trustees, to determine how much and where the village wants to spend on traffic signals, Anderson said.

In order for IDOT to approve traffic signals for an intersection, the village must prove that the intersection meets one of 11 traffic criteria, including traffic volume and accidents.

Daily Herald

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Sat. 10/28/89

Wheeling to flush fire hydrants

The village of Wheeling Water Division will begin flushing fire hydrants throughout the village Monday. The flushing will begin in the Old Town area on Oct. 30. Hydrant flushing will be done between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. and will continue in other areas until the system has been completed. The flushing is needed to remove particles and corrosion from the system. Residents may notice a slightly lower pressure and discoloration of their water during flushing, but it is completely safe to drink. Residents should check the color of water before doing laundry. Signs will be posted in designated flushing areas one day in advance. For more information call 459-2824 between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Wheeling tax district gets state OK

11/2/89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Illinois Department of Revenue has confirmed that Wheeling's controversial tax-supported redevelopment district fits state criteria to continue receiving state sales tax money.

However, that bit of news should have no bearing on the village's legal dispute now being considered in a state appellate court in Chicago concerning Wheeling's tax increment financing district.

A circuit court judge last year ruled that Wheeling did not meet state guidelines to set boundaries for the 177-acre TIF district, located at



the northwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road. Wheeling

is appealing that decision.

The revenue department's confirmation is different from the court case in that the legal dispute deals with the 1986 condemnation of land within the district, which was challenged by four unhappy business owners who did not want to move.

State law requires the revenue department to review the 103 communities with TIF districts to ensure they meet certain standards. Last year, 27 communities were notified that their districts met the criteria, but the state agency required additional information for the remaining communities, including Wheeling.

Tax increment financing districts

are usually created for underdeveloped or blighted areas, where improvements, such as renovating property or repairing streets, would attract business.

In TIF districts, property taxes are frozen at their pre-development rates and money generated by the improvements is used to repay money borrowed for the work.

Wheeling officials said the revenue department's notice was not surprising and would not affect the pending court case.

"I wasn't surprised," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said. "It confirms my belief that we had done it (created the TIF district) properly."

Local redevelopment area meets TIF criteria: State

After earlier raising objections to a portion of Wheeling's Tax Increment Finance District along Milwaukee Avenue, the Illinois Department of Revenue now agrees that the plan meets state criteria for such redevelopment projects.

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

After watching both the courts and the state challenge Wheeling's tax increment finance district, village officials were somewhat vindicated last week when the Illinois Department of Revenue gave its approval to the district.

"It's a positive statement that we're happy we received," Village President Sheila Schultz said. "I think that vindication is absolutely right."

The village has convinced the revenue department the district does meet state criteria for the districts, giving the village a boost to its attempts to bring redevelopment along Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

In receiving the certificate of eligibility from the state revenue department, Wheeling will continue to receive sales tax dollars for the district. Last year, the state returned \$206,000 in sales taxes to the village for the TIF district.

LAST JUNE, THE revenue department asked the village to alter the TIF district's boundaries by cutting out the quadrant on which the village hopes to build a \$10 million shopping center trustees consider the keystone of redevelopment plans.

The village reacted swiftly, developing information that has now proved to revenue officials that its June claims were unfounded.

"I think someone can look at that area — you don't need to be an expert — and see that it needed some help," Schultz said.

Under state TIF legislation, municipalities can designate blighted areas and make them more attractive to private development by financing public improvements. While the land is incorporated in the TIF district, tax levels are frozen. Once developed, the incremental increases in property and sales taxes generated by the properties would go toward retiring the public debt.

WHEELING ADOPTED ITS TIF boundaries in 1985, targeting most of Milwaukee Avenue and portions of Dundee Road for improvement. To date, only the Arbor Court apartments project has been completed.

The village's second attempt at initiating change has been upheld as six property owners have successfully blocked the condemnation of their property, located at the northwest corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

The village wants to build a large retail shopping center on the corner to anchor a redeveloped Milwaukee Avenue.

Pete Gudmundson, TIF coordinator for the revenue department, said the village did prove its boundaries were correct. Although he said the revenue department still felt some of the areas did not meet "blighted" conditions, they were allowed to be included in the district because of their "substantial benefit" to the plans of the entire district.

"THEY CAME back to us and indeed convinced us that some factors had been overlooked and should be included," Gudmundson said.

In proving the legitimacy of the district, Village Planner Bob Sullivan said the village produced more evidence for the district being blighted.

But the village must still overcome a December, 1988, decision by Cook County Circuit Court Judge Alexander White, who at least temporarily sidetracked plans for the 130,000-square foot, \$10 million shopping center the village wants to have built.

White ruled that the village had not adequately proved that the TIF district met state criteria. In doing so, the judge threw out condemnation suits against several property owners in the affected area.

THE VILLAGE IS now waiting for a hearing date for its appeal.

When the revenue department's challenge came in June, officials and attorneys said a negative review by the department could have hurt the village's court case. But now, with the state reaffirming that district and its intentions, Sullivan said it could help the village.

"It couldn't hurt, because it is a certification by a state agency," he said.

Plans for the shopping center have been put on hold until the resolution of the court case.

911 referendum proposal heads local ballot issues

When Wheeling residents go to the polls Tuesday, they will be confronted with a number of choices in local school board races. But one of the more important choices they will make could help save lives.

While many area communities agreed last April to pay larger phone bills in exchange for a 911 system, Nov. 7 will mark the first chance Wheeling voters will have to get the system.

Wheeling trustees are asking village voters to approve a 75-cent surcharge on their monthly phone bills to support the cost of starting up the new emergency response system that is expected to drastically speed up emergency response time.

If adopted, Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said the system would allow the police department to know the address and phone number of every emergency caller, even if the caller was unable to talk. Haeger said the three-digit emergency number would make it easier for callers to reach the police department.

After the system is running, Haeger said village trustees would lower the monthly rate to between 25 and 35 cents, depending on what the operation costs are.

High School District 214

In the race for High School District 214, five candidates are vying for four open seats on the board.

Incumbents X. Daniel Kafkas, Lester Jensen and Stanley Eisenhammer are seeking reelection.

Miriam "Mimi" Cooper, 39, is looking to join the board and has advocated

following the same paths as the current board. Terry Schultz, 43, is making his second bid for the school board, having run unsuccessfully in 1985. All five candidates are Arlington Heights residents.

While the incumbents are running on their records and the need to use the district's stability to finish work on the education system, Schultz has called for changes in the financial running of the district. He said he would push for the creation of an internal auditor who would be responsible to the school board and not to the top financial officer.

Schultz has also asked that the district study the subordinate administrative positions within the district to determine whether any could be eliminated. He cited the position of architect as one that might be unnecessary.

But Jensen and Eisenhammer said the district already has enough internal financial controls and said the school board reevaluates administrative positions each year. They said the architect's position has helped save the district thousands of dollars during the course of the district's recent building projects.

Community Consolidated Dist. 21

Wheeling residents will have to choose between eight candidates for four four-year terms on the Community Consolidated District 21 school board.

Incumbents Barrett Peterson, Lari Ratajczak, Joy Fisher and Phil Pritzler will face a challenge from Brian Portnoy, David Yoshinari, Cari Beech, and Marla Topliff.

Residents pack meeting, condemn Safety-Kleen proposal

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

COUNTRYSIDE
Norma Johnson, of 1120 W. Palm Drive, has family members who, as painters, need someone to take away their used paint thinners and cleaners. She knows that the Safety-Kleen Corp. provides a valuable service by disposing the waste products.

But as a Wheeling resident, Johnson said she also knows that she does not want Safety-Kleen's trucks driving through the village to take hazardous waste to the company's proposed storage facility on Hintz Road at Glenn Avenue.

"We like you, we enjoy the services you perform," Johnson told Safety-Kleen officials last week. "But please go away."

Johnson was one of more than two dozen concerned citizens and businessmen who attended a four-hour hearing last Thursday before the village plan commission. More than 110 people packed the village council chambers as

the plan commission heard testimony from Safety-Kleen officials, village staff and residents.

SAFETY-KLEEN WANTS to build a series of tank farms that would allow the company to abandon a smaller facility in Arlington Heights and expand its business in the northwest suburbs.

Safety-Kleen processes, recycles and disposes metal degreasing solvents, motor oil, engine coolant, dry cleaning fluids and other cleansing solvents. The company would store the material at the Wheeling facility before transporting most of the products to the company's Elgin processing plant.

If the tone of Thursday's meeting is any indication, Safety-Kleen may have difficulty securing a special use permit from the village. The company must also gain approval of its building plans.

But the company must also gain the nod of the village board following an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency siting hearing, originally scheduled for Nov. 20 but now cancelled.

THE VILLAGE HAS hired an independent environmental engineer and a real estate appraiser to help it gather information for making the decision. Although hired by the village, Safety-Kleen will pick up the cost of the consultant's work.

See related story on Page 18

Officials for the international company said last week they want to build the new facility to exceed existing safety standards. Although the facility would house dozens of different chemicals, many of them considered hazardous, officials said the design provides numerous impediments to accidents.

According to Safety-Kleen project engineer Ray Karass, the by-products of automobile repair, industrial cleaning and dry cleaning would be picked up by Safety-Kleen employees and brought to the Wheeling facility. After either being stored in one of the 15 20,000-gallon tanks or in the 12,400-square foot building, the

products would later be transported to Elgin.

Karass and environmental engineer Paul Pederson told the plan commission that provisions were made to prevent damage from leaks and spills of any material. Karass said the retention system both on trucks and at the transfer pads would control most spills.

"THIS WOULD be a state-of-the-art facility to meet all of the latest and greatest designs," Pederson said.

Pederson and Karass said Safety-Kleen is recycling the by-products that everyone generates. Without their services, they said waste oil and other products would get poured into backyards and down sewers.

"If it's going to be out there and somebody has to collect it, take a look at what we proposed ... and weigh it on its merits," Pederson said.

Last week, however, the opening salvo of opposition was voluminous, if not polite. Plan commissioners asked

(Continued on page 18)

Consideration of Safety-Kleen plan will be delayed until at least February

Consideration of Safety-Kleen's proposed facility on Hintz Road will be delayed until at least next February and the village board won't decide whether to approve the siting of the facility until April at the earliest.

Village Manager Craig Anderson said the village learned late Monday that Safety-Kleen officials plan to reapply for an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency siting hearing. A hearing had been scheduled for Nov. 20.

Anderson said Safety-Kleen has notified the village that it will reapply because some information was inadvertently left off its initial

application. Safety-Kleen told the village that the information could have an effect on future court hearings, Anderson said.

"You have to make sure the paper work is absolutely proper and completed," said Rick Miller, public and community affairs manager for Safety-Kleen. He said future challenges to the permit could be successful if there are errors in the original application.

At the siting hearing, the village board will use IEPA guidelines to determine whether the Safety-Kleen facility should be located in Wheeling.

(Continued from page 5)
dozens of questions about whether Wheeling needed the facility.

PARENT-TEACHER organization leaders, business owners and residents all stepped to the podium to show their displeasure with the Safety-Kleen proposal.

C. Gregory Ingold, of Talisen Management Company, said the proposal to put the facility next to the industrial building his company owns was "unneighborly." He condemned plans to put the above-ground storage tanks along the property line his building shares with Safety-Kleen.

"That's just wrong," Ingold said. "That's grossly irresponsible."

Opposition also came from homeowners living along Hintz Road. Noel Dennis, president of the Eastchester Homeowners Association, said his group opposed the plan.

"WE'VE HEARD of the potential danger. Why are we willing to take the risk?" Dennis asked. "Wheeling cannot benefit one iota by this type of industry."

In order to get a special use permit from the village, Safety-Kleen must prove that the facility meets six criteria, including whether it is necessary for the public convenience. Among other things, Safety-Kleen would have to prove the facility would not alter the essential character of the locality, that the site would be in harmony with the development of the area.

Officials hope residents will respond with 911 victory

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

COUNTRYSIDE
Next Tuesday, for the cost of a flashlight, Wheeling voters can buy themselves a better emergency response system.

Wheeling officials are supporting the push for a 911 emergency response system for the village, which local residents will vote on next week. If passed, residents and businesses would pay \$9 a year extra for phone service, with the money going toward the start-up cost for the system.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger and village trustees are roundly supporting the referendum, which Haeger hopes will result in a 911 system for the village within two years.

"It's got to become the universal number so people can dial wherever they are," Haeger said.

UNLIKE THE EXISTING Chicago system, the 911 program proposed for the village would allow the police department to immediately know the address and phone number of the caller. If the caller was unable to talk or did not know the address from which he called, police would still be able to dispatch help.

"If there is a person who benefits from 911 the most, it's the kids," Haeger

said. In addition, he said senior citizens would also benefit from the system.

Wheeling trustees are asking village voters to approve a 75-cent surcharge on their monthly phone bills to support the cost of starting up the new emergency response system that is expected to drastically speed up emergency response time.

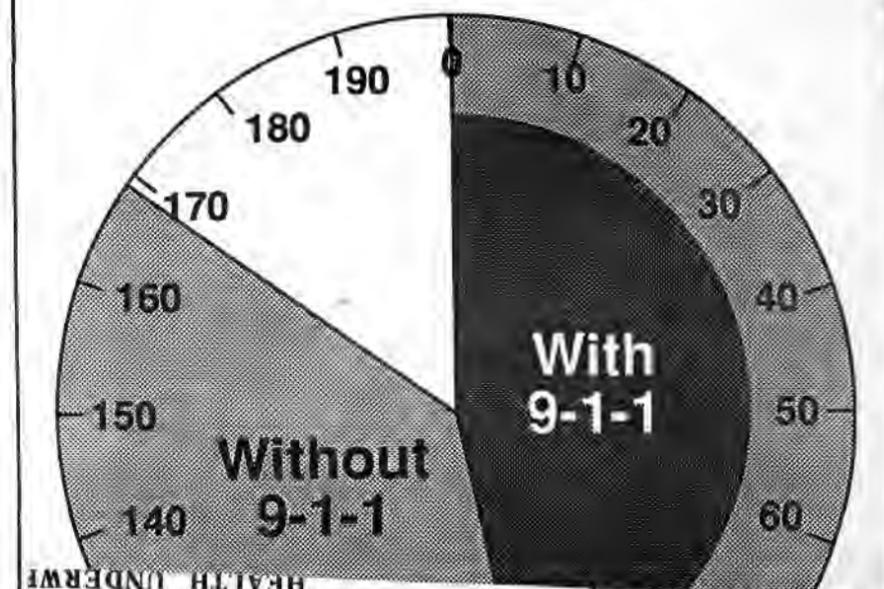
"I think it's one of the best things to come along and one that can be wholeheartedly supported that benefits everybody," Village President Sheila Schultz said.

AFTER THE SYSTEM is running, Haeger said village trustees would lower the monthly rate to between 25 and 35 cents, depending on what the operation costs are.

If approved, Haeger said Illinois Bell would begin charging customers the additional 75 cents. The village would use the money to buy the equipment necessary to install the system, Haeger said. It would be operational in between 18 and 24 months, he said.

Besides hooking police up with emergencies faster and with more information, Haeger said the new system will also reduce the number of prank phone calls the department receives. Each fake caller would automatically be identified by the system's computers, he said.

Response time (in seconds)



Presenting "How to Get Help" at the meeting, Libertyville, who is currently in private practice in Highland Park. Martin will focus on parenting techniques which can help the adolescent after the cycle of underachievement and techniques designed to improve a student's self-esteem. For information and \$20 for guests. Call She for the luncheon and reservations. Wendy Stebbins offices in Chicago. Schaumburg has been in private practice

Palwaukee pilots try to oust commissioner

11-4-89
 BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Members of a Palwaukee Municipal Airport pilots group are calling for the resignation of airport Commissioner William A. Rogers.

The 20-member executive board of the Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association believes Rogers is "totally negative" about the airport, said Charles Greenhill, PAPA political chairman.

"There's no question that Bill Rogers is an airport opponent," Greenhill said. "This airport will never progress with this sort of attitude."

Rogers, also a Wheeling trustee, said he has no intention of resign-

ing. He says the pilots must have a "vendetta" against him.

"I will not resign under any circumstances," Rogers said. "It's just too bad they can't see beyond the positive votes. I vote my conscience."

The airport, which is jointly owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights, is governed by an airport commission, comprised of four residents from each community. The commission makes recommendations concerning the airport to each of the towns' governing boards, which make final decisions on airport issues.

The 250-member pilots group has sent letters to Rogers and Wheeling Village President Sheila

H. Schultz requesting that Rogers step down from the commission. Schultz, who appoints Wheeling's commissioners with village board approval, said she will take the matter under advisement.

But, she added, "I do not intend to ask Mr. Rogers for his resignation."

Rogers voted against a second intergovernmental agreement between Prospect Heights and Wheeling, which contained the commission-recommended relocation of the intersection of Wolf and Hintz roads.

The proposed relocation, which is necessary for safety requirements at the airport's main runway, absorbs too much of Wheeling's property, Rogers said.

company has withdrawn its application to build a storage center that has come under fire from nearby Wheeling business owners and residents.

However, representatives of Safety-Kleen Corp. of Elgin say they will submit a new application to the village within the next few weeks. The corporation withdrew its first application because it was missing a date on the form used to advise residents of meetings on the proposal.

Richard Miller, Safety-Kleen public affairs manager, said the new application would help the

Chemical firm seeks to expand into village

11-6-89

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

company avoid legal problems if a future decision on the proposal were appealed on a technicality.

Safety-Kleen wants to relocate and expand an Arlington Heights storage center on 10 acres on the south side of Hintz Road, just east of Glenn Avenue in Wheeling.

Safety-Kleen recycles hazardous wastes and processes solvents from cleaning machines typically used for car parts and dry cleaning.

The Wheeling center would be used only to store used solvents, waste oil and antifreeze, which are considered hazardous wastes, before transferring them to the Elgin plant. All processing takes place at the Elgin plant.

In addition, a Nov. 20 public

hearing with the village board and Safety-Kleen has been canceled. The hearing is a prerequisite to gaining permits from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Wheeling Community Development Director Michael Klitzke said the earliest a new public hearing could be held is next February.

Plans for the proposed center include a two-story building and 12 above-ground and three underground storage tanks surrounded by a concrete wall. The two-story building would store paint waste and used dry cleaning solvent and the tanks would store antifreeze, coolants and dirty solvents.

Residents are concerned about the potential for leaks, traffic and accidents from the center.

Best route lets Wheeling recycle, give to Goodwill

11-6-89
 BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

On a typical Wednesday, a mail truck driver travels 110 miles from Chicago to Arlington Heights, Schaumburg, Elk Grove, Des Plaines, Wheeling and Oak Grove before heading back to the charity's home base in Chicago.

The scheduling nightmare" just adds up a few small appliances, old clothes, says Kathleen O'Connell, Goodwill's director of eval-

uation. Bob McMahon, Goodwill's president of operations: "There's a dollar point where it's just not possible."

The time-consuming method may become obsolete as Goodwill tries to expand the program to include the curbside collection of reusable materials. Efforts to start a new way of collecting used goods from suburban areas in December.

The village of Wheeling is on its way to becoming the nation's first to test a novel plan that eschews the curbside collection of reusable materials. In Wheeling, Goodwill hopes to expand the program to Northwest suburbs and is covered by Waste Manage-

ment.

"Recycling is something we as a society take for granted," said Vernon Hills Trustee Richard J. Cashman. "And why not recycle a product that still has value to somebody who is needy? Why bury it in a landfill when somebody can use it?"

Wheeling was selected as the test site not only because the disposal company is located there, but because the village boasts broad demographics and has a high participation rate in a recycling program that began last May, said Tom Mazzenga, general manager of Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal.

"I think it sounds like it's going to work really well," said Wheeling Village President Sheila H. Schultz, whose board will vote on the proposal in about two weeks. "While we don't expect it to cut the amount of waste stream, it raises the level of awareness."

Indeed, reducing the amount of trips to landfills was not the incentive for starting the program, said Mazzenga, a Wheeling native. Mazzenga does not expect a drastic reduction in the amount of trash the disposal company is now hauling to landfill sites.

"It's not that we're getting this kind of material now," Mazzenga said. "People have been saving it up

and taking it to charities. It's a matter of making it more convenient for them."

"I see this thing in Wheeling, God willing, that we will eventually go to all the suburbs we cover," Goodwill transportation manager David Hudson said. "If it works out for us, other people may jump on the bandwagon."

Some Northwest suburban leaders applaud the concept and hope the program spreads to their communities.

"It's a wonderful idea," said Thomas W. Oas, director of public health services in Arlington Heights. "We all have extra clothes and items we could donate."

Under the plan, Goodwill trucks would "piggyback" on recycling trucks from Waste Management's Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal, Wheeling's trash and recycling hauler, on the first full week of each month.

Truck drivers from Goodwill would follow the disposal company trucks on recycling collection days, which in Wheeling are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

After the disposal company picks up recyclables from the bright orange bins, Goodwill drivers would collect the white charity-labeled plastic bags containing reusable items



Jirn Abele of Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal sorts out recyclable items in Wheeling. A Goodwill truck may soon follow recycling trucks from the Waste Management Inc. affiliate for the curbside collection of reusable goods.

Daily Herald Photo/Rich Chapin

such as old clothes, accessories, shoes, toys, books, knick-knacks, tools, kitchen utensils and small working appliances. The recycling bins hold newspapers and inserts, clear and colored glass and aluminum and tin.

Drivers would replace the containers and leave a receipt for the tax

deductible donations. Goodwill donations are resold in the non-profit agency's chain of retail stores in Chicago. Money generated from the sales is used for vocational training programs for the disadvantaged and disabled — employees like those at Waste Management's processing centers.

"I think it has a lot of merit," Buffalo Grove Village Manager Charles Willis said. "The concept of making it convenient for the general public to donate their used items is a good one. It is a logical outgrowth of recycling efforts that are going on in the area."



They're here

Herald 11-6-89

Christmas came early to the Pavilion Senior Center in Wheeling when Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived Saturday to hear the Christmas wishes of young visitors. Willie Franta plays the part of Mrs. Claus, while Joe Rusek doubles as Santa Claus. They listen to the Christmas wishes of Meredith, left, and Carolyn Gaffkey of Wheeling.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Welsh

Wheeling approves 22% drop in tax levy

11-7-89

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents can expect their village property taxes to decrease next year in light of trustees' approval Monday of a \$4.48 million levy.

Trustees unanimously approved the \$4.48 million property tax levy, which is down 22.5 percent from last year.

"That is a nice thing to be able to do," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said of the decreased levy.

Property taxes will drop for some portions of residents' tax bills next year, due to a higher-than-usual balance in the general fund, Wheeling officials said.

That fund is used mainly to pay

for police and fire department services, administrative services of the village board, finance and community development departments and building and vehicle maintenance.

Last year, Wheeling levied \$5.78 million in property taxes. Although this year's levy is decreasing, expenses in the general fund will increase by 6 percent. However, additional money for the fund is unnecessary, village Finance Director Robert W. Fialkowski said.

A recent doubling of the amount of state income taxes distributed to the village, a 15 percent to 20 percent increase in sales tax revenues, an increase in village growth and interest on investments have left Wheeling's general fund bal-

ance higher than expected, Fialkowski said.

The 1989 levy determines property taxes to be collected in 1990.

The \$1.50 per \$100 assessed valuation may drop below \$1, which would be the first time for Wheeling since 1981, Fialkowski said.

With the \$1 tax rate an average homeowner in Wheeling with a house with market value of \$85,000 would pay about \$119 in property taxes next year with the approved levy.

This year, a Wheeling resident with a house valued at \$85,000 paid about \$180 in property taxes to the village with a tax rate of \$1.50.

Study to assist village in easing traffic woes

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 1989

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

One of the most dangerous intersections in Wheeling is Wolf and Palatine/Frontage roads, a new village traffic study shows.

The study, conducted from June through September by James J. Benes and Associates Inc. in Oak Brook, includes the number of accidents and rates of congestion for 17 intersections throughout the village.

Coupled with growth in the area and commercial development in Wheeling, traffic in the village is increasing, village officials say. The study of the congested and dangerous intersections could help guide village officials on ways to smooth the traffic flow.

The study, conducted on the request of residents and village officials, will help officials list in priority which intersections require immediate attention, he added. The village budgeted \$50,000 for the study.

Two of the intersections included in the study, which have existing traffic signals, were recommended for changes to improve the flow of

traffic, such as adding more turn lanes or modifying signals. Eight intersections did not meet criteria to warrant traffic signals.

However, seven of the 17 intersections met the conditions to warrant traffic signals. Those intersections include: Wolf and Palatine/Frontage roads; Wolf Road and Marquardt Drive; Buffalo Grove Road and Cobler Lane or Dundee Road and Huntington Lane; Lexington Drive and Old McHenry Road; Elmhurst and South Dennis roads; and Whippletree and Old McHenry roads.

Last year, 54 accidents were reported at the intersection of Wolf and Palatine/Frontage roads, while 62 accidents have occurred there in the two years prior to that, according to the study. The study suggests that the addition of three right turn lanes and upgrading the traffic signals will significantly improve the flow of traffic at the intersection.

The intersection is also one the most congested included in the study. Traffic at Wolf and Palatine Frontage roads had "considerable congestion and delay" during peak traffic hours, the study states. Those

Wheeling intersection analysis report

Intersections that meet traffic signal warrants	Total accidents from 1986-1988	Estimated construction costs*
Buffalo Grove Road and Cobler Lane	0	\$78,100
Huntington Lane and Dundee Road	0	\$78,100
Wolf and Messner Drive	16	\$42,100
Wolf Road and Marquardt Drive	8	\$99,800
Lexington Drive and Old McHenry Road	31	\$64,500
Whippletree and Old McHenry roads	25	\$64,500
Chelsea Cove and Old McHenry Road	3	0
Wolf and Palatine Frontage roads	116	\$194,700
Elmhurst and South Dennis roads	14	\$94,700

* Construction cost estimates do not include additional right-of-way, if needed, engineering design or construction inspection.

hours are from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

In addition, Wheeling Village Manager Craig Anderson said he will ask village trustees to approve installing a temporary stop light at Lexington Drive and Elmhurst Road near Old McHenry Road.

Anderson said a temporary traffic light, which hangs from wires, likely would be installed rather than a per-

manent light because the state has plans to improve Elmhurst Road. The project may include a permanent signal. A temporary light would cost about \$25,000, whereas a permanent signal may cost double that, Anderson added.

"There's been a lot of public demand for a signal there," Anderson said. "This study confirms there's a problem."

WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

Time ticking away for old clock tower

The old clock tower in front of the Wheeling's Woodland Creek Apartment Complex at Palatine and Wheeling Frontage roads is coming down.

Managers of the apartment complex plan to remove the clock tower and the five-foot sign identifying the complex. The obstacles will be replaced by a six-foot sign that would make it clear that units are available for rent.

The managers say the current sign and clock tower do not help advertise the complex consists of apartment buildings. Instead, passersby think Woodland Creek is condominiums, thus causing a loss in

potential apartment dwellers, said Linda Jacknow, district manager for Woodland Creek Apartments.

Trustees unanimously agreed to replace the sign and clock tower with the smaller sign, which will be visible from all corners of the intersection and will not look so much like a billboard, Jacknow said. The sign will read "luxury rental apartments," she added.

Education Week to begin Nov. 12

Wheeling trustees unanimously proclaimed the week of Nov. 12-18 as "American Education Week" in the village.

A proclamation of the week states that "proper education of these

young men and women is of paramount importance to insure the continued social, economic, scientific and technological advancement of our country."

Wheeling Township Elementary District 21, Northwest Suburban High School District 214, Prospect Heights Elementary District 23, St. Joseph the Worker school and other nearby schools provide excellent educational opportunities for the children in the village and should be supported, the proclamation states.

Parkway trees to get a trim

An Evanston tree company will trim parkway trees in Wheeling for \$8,000 following the unanimous ap-

proval of village trustees.

Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc. in Evanston estimated the cost to trim 188 trees at about \$5,848, the lowest of three bids the village received. The tree company will be paid on a per-tree basis, or up to \$8,000.

According to the contract, all municipal trees in areas indicated by the village must have a clearance of at least 12 feet over the street and eight feet over public walks. Trees will be trimmed in areas north of Chamber Park, east of Wolf Road and in an area south of Heritage Park, west of Wolf Road.

All debris from tree trimmings must be removed within 24 hours after trimming and the project is to be completed by Dec. 15, according to the contract.

Wheeling, Long Grove approve enhanced 911

Wed. 11/8/89 - Herald

Wheeling and Long Grove residents voted Tuesday to bring enhanced 911 telephone emergency systems to their villages.

Voters in Wheeling unofficially cast 1,851 votes in favor of 911 and 167 votes against it.

In Long Grove, residents will get to latch on to the countywide system that voters throughout Lake County approved. The county referendum unofficially received 11,810 votes in favor of 911 and 5,334 votes against it.

Officials estimate both systems will cost residents 75 cents a month for the two years it will take to establish the hot lines. After that, officials estimate the surcharges will be lowered to pay for the less expensive operational and maintenance costs.

Residents should expect to see the surcharge on their telephone bills in about three months, officials said.

"I wouldn't say we expected it (the referendum's success)," Wheeling

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said. "We hoped for it. Now that we have the direction of the voters, we'll work very hard to get it in place as quickly as we can.

"We tried to reach as many segments of the community as we could. We put out just the right amount of information so the voters understood what the question was," he said.

Haeger especially commended the last minute efforts of a handful of residents and a Cub Scout pack from Eugene Field Elementary School to pass out fliers informing residents about the 911 referendum.

"There's no question the voters wanted 911. I guess we did things right," he said.

The enhanced 911 system automatically provides dispatchers with a caller's address and phone number, allowing them to trace calls that sometimes last only a few seconds.

Truck leasing company denied access to Wheeling intersection

Saturday - Nov. 11, 1989

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN Daily Herald Staff Writer

A truck leasing company may not move along a traveled Wheeling intersection because the trucks could not safely enter and exit the business, Wheeling officials say.

Representatives of Rollins Leasing Corporation want to move and expand a Schaumburg leasing center to 8.2 acres on the south side of Palatine Road, west of Wolf Road, in Wheeling.

After viewing videotapes of trucks traveling west on Palatine Road and attempting to turn into the proposed

center, trustees, in a 4-2 vote, denied the request for a special use permit to operate a truck leasing business at the location.

But representatives of Rollins said the vacant land is inappropriate for any other use and realtors have been unable to attract tenants to the property, which is zoned for industrial use.

"I'm appalled," real estate developer Randy D. Podolsky said of the board's decision. "They came in here with only an ordinance to deny us a permitted use. In our case, they didn't give us any justifiable reasons" for denying the request.

Podolsky said he likely will seek legal action against the village in an effort to prove the trucking company was entitled to locate on the property. Because village laws for the industrially-zoned land do not exclude truck leasing companies, Rollins should not be excluded from moving there, he added.

However, Wheeling officials said the truck leasing business would increase traffic and may cause delays at the intersection, which recently was found to be one of the most accident-prone intersection in the village, according to a village traffic

study.

In addition, the only access for trucks to enter the business is to make two relatively tight 90-degree turns from Palatine/Frontage Road to Wolf/Frontage Road, Community Development Director Michael J. Klitzke said.

A videotape made by the Wheeling Police Department showed a 64-foot truck was unable to make the turns without crossing over cement curbs at the corners. However, a videotape supplied by Rollins' representatives showed a 65-foot truck made the turns without touching the curbs.

Balefill opponents charge review was illegal

Saturday - Nov. 11, 1989

By DAVE MCKINNEY Daily Herald Staff Writer

A group fighting a proposed garbage balefill near Bartlett has filed a complaint with Illinois Attorney General Neil F. Hartigan that alleges state environmental officials acted illegally in their review of the project.

Citizens Against the Balefill Friday charged the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) are "in collusion" to violate the anti-balefill group's due process rights.

SWANCC and environmental officials Friday denied the charges, calling them a "slam."

"We've acted consistently with the law every step of the way. It's totally unreasonable for anyone to argue that their due process is being violated," said Buffalo Grove Village Manager William R. Balling, chairman of SWANCC's executive committee.

Tension is high as both sides await an IEPA decision — perhaps by later this year — on whether to allow the balefill to be built at Gifford and West Bartlett roads in unincorporated Hanover Township. Lengthy hear-

ings concluded in September, though public comment was accepted until Oct. 19.

The latest wrinkle in the dispute centers on IEPA officials seeking comments from SWANCC on six new balefill deficiencies — something critics claim occurred after the Oct. 19 deadline and thus was improper. That deadline was extended this week until Wednesday.

"Once again, the citizens' rights are being violated and we object vehemently," said Mary Byrne, vice president of the anti-balefill group. "It appears IEPA and SWANCC are

in collusion together."

Byrne says Citizens Against the Balefill should have been made aware of the IEPA's concerns the same time as SWANCC. According to Byrne, the IEPA believes leak detection and ground water monitoring plans are deficient.

IEPA Hearing Officer John D. Williams would not comment Friday on the group's claims or on the action before Hartigan's office. A flood of new letters from both sides, he said, is why written comments again are being accepted. Officials from Hartigan's office could not be reached for comment.



Philip Herman, a teen counselor from Prospect Heights, lives alongside street gang members.

Daily Herald Photo/Rich Chapman

Do we have a gang problem here?

Sunday Nov. 12, 1989

First of two parts

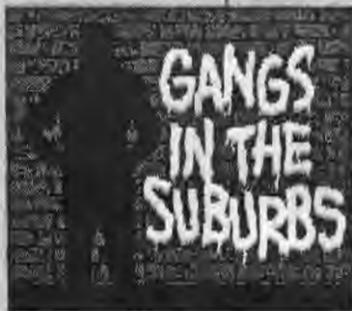
By VICKI SPEER
and DIANE DUNGEY
Daily Herald Staff Writers

The half-dozen teen-age boys and girls shift between the brightly-lit sidewalk outside a suburban 7-Eleven store and the video games inside. This is their turf, they say, and they meet here all the time.

Banded together, they are brave in their scorn for others. A woman wearing a suit walks a wide circle around the group and looks the other way as the teenagers laugh and loudly ridicule her appearance. A man leaves the store, then guns his car out of the parking place when a teen-age girl with frosted lipstick shouts after him, "You're ugly."

In the autumn evening's darkness, the group gathered outside the convenience store is mildly intimidating. It's an image these boys and girls want to cultivate. They say they are members of a street gang.

"The other kids are scared of us. When we walk down the hall



at school, they all move to the side. That's respect," said one of them, a 17-year-old Rolling Meadows High School student.

The youth says he's been a member of the Latin Kings street gang since he was 6 years old. He shows fading scars on his wrist and chest from self-inflicted gang symbol tattoos. Just a few days ago, he was put on probation for stealing a car, he says.

When police worry about suburban street gangs, this is who they mean.

How widely have gangs permeated the suburbs? It's difficult to say.

Some police officers fear gang membership is spreading and will entangle suburban youths in drug sales, gang warfare and organized crime.

Others say suburban gangs are poorly organized imitators of Chicago gangs with few ties to those they are mimicking. They say "street gang" is but a new name for the toughs or delinquents of decades past.

"We have juvenile problems, I don't want to say we don't. We have vandalism from juveniles," Vernon Hills Police Chief Gary Kupsak said. "But they have not yet called themselves a gang, nor do we call them a gang."

Some Lake County officials say their towns are too undeveloped and too far from Chicago to have more than sporadic gang activity, although gangs are active in Waukegan and North Chicago,

Lake County Sheriff's Lt. James Christophersen said.

"We're watching for it," Lake Zurich Police Chief James Glogovsky said.

But closer to Chicago, seven Cook County police agencies are concerned enough that they formed a special task force last month to combat gangs. To the west of the city, the DuPage County suburbs of Addison, Carol Stream, Glendale Heights and Wood Dale have an informal alliance to share information about suspected gangs.

Even though it's hard to say how serious the problem is, police point to some disturbing incidents:

■ A 17-year-old Glendale Heights youth was hospitalized with stab wounds after he and three other boys fought last February in the parking lot of Glenbard North High School in Carol Stream. Police believe the fight was gang-related and said the victim and another youth were seen flashing gang signs earlier that day.

Schools ready to fight back — Page 5

See GANGS on Page 5

Wheeling discusses expanding recycling

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Plastics and landscape refuse are the next targets in Wheeling's effort to reduce the amount of waste dumped in landfills.

Representatives of Waste Management of North American, Inc. discussed with village officials Monday plans to begin two new programs in Wheeling on April 1 next year.

One plan includes adding plastics to the village's list of recyclable material already being collected by Wheeling's trash hauler, Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal. In addition, the garbage collection company, which is affiliated with Waste Management, would begin collecting yard waste next spring and hauling the refuse to a state-approved site in Batavia.

Although the addition of plastics to the curbside recycling program may increase residents' collection fees by at least 50 cents a month, the plan would include recycling plastic milk, water and laundry detergent containers and 1-, 2- and 3-liter soda pop containers.

Lee E. Addleman, Waste Management's recycling coordinator, said he will determine the cost of adding plastics to Wheeling's recycling program after reviewing a similar program set to begin Jan. 1 in Arlington Heights.

Wheeling residents now pay \$1 a month for the village's six-month-old curbside recycling program, which includes newspapers and inserts, colored and clear glass and aluminum and tin.

Under the landscape waste hauling plan, the garbage collection company would pick up grass clippings, leaves, twigs and branches. The yard waste would be collected along with recyclable materials on residents' designated collection day.

Thus, the pick-up of trash in Wheeling would be reduced to one day a week, rather than two days. That way, Addleman said, residents would not face an extra charge for an additional collection day for yard waste.

Under a new state law that takes effect July 1, 1990, landfills no longer will accept landscape waste. Municipalities must come up with an alternative to dumping the materials in landfills.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz said the village officials must decide whether residents will use garbage cans or plastic or paper bags to store the yard waste.

Wheeling votes to support suburban gang task force

Saturday - Nov. 11, 1989

Wheeling has formally pledged to support a Northwest suburban crime task force organized to combat criminal and gang activity.

Trustees recently adopted a resolution to sign an intergovernmental agreement endorsing the Multi-jurisdictional Task Force, which was started to deter gang activity in the suburbs.

Local law enforcement officials, including one Wheeling police officer, meet regularly to share information about dealings with gangs. Although gang activity is not as se-

rious a problem in the suburbs as it is in Chicago, gang activity has surfaced in some suburbs, police and community officials say.

The task force attempts to halt the spread of criminal activity by banding together with surrounding suburbs and attacking the problem as a team.

The task force also includes Des Plaines, Elk Grove Village, Glenview, Mount Prospect and Northbrook. Prospect Heights, which just recently joined the group, also has approved a resolution endorsing the task force.

GAINGS: indications of activity concern area officials

Sunday Nov 12, 1989
Continued from Page 1

Des Plaines police arrested 27 teen-agers — many of them admitted gang members — and seized baseball bats, golf clubs, tire irons, wooden clubs, lead pipes, metal chains and a knife after a brawl in November 1988 on the west side of town. A 16-year-old and an 18-year-old were taken to Holy Family Hospital after they were struck in the face, police reports show.

Shots were fired last March at a town house in Prospect Heights. Police attribute the 3 a.m. shooting to gangs because "there's no other explanation," Cook County Sheriff's Detective Randall Mueller said. A month later, a car full of teens who apparently were not involved in gangs was fired upon by riders in another car.

Rolling Meadows police seized a sawed-off semi-automatic shotgun in May from an apartment where five young men were arrested for suspected drug use, Police Sgt. Harvey L. Greenway said. Police believe all five are gang members.

A 17-year-old Wood Dale youth was stabbed in the chest by a 16-year-old during a July 1988 fight. The boy was hospitalized with a "very serious" wound, Wood Dale Police Commander Dennis Koletsos said. Police identified both youths as gang members.

Those towns are not alone. In an informal survey of 31 suburban police departments, only nine reported they have seen no trace of gang members within their borders.

Latin Kings, Spanish Cobras, Spanish Lords, Simon City Royals, Disciples, Vice Lords, Imperial Gangsters and Italian Playboys have left their mark in the suburbs, usually in spray paint on businesses, schools and viaducts.

"To say there aren't gangs out here is ridiculous," said Captain Robert Sturlini of the Des Plaines Police Department, a coordinator of a new gang-fighting task force that includes Mount Prospect, Wheeling, Elk Grove Village, Glenview, Niles and the Cook County Sheriff's Department.

"These aren't social groups," he said. "They're bent on criminal activity. That's their ultimate goal."

Police and social workers paint a profile of suburban gang members: They have little direction in life. They are misfits who don't get good grades, don't do well in sports and aren't involved in clubs or activities.

Some are city-bred transplants who try to impress others with their gang affiliation and street smarts. Or they are life-long suburban kids drawn into a gang because they want to belong.

"You get fads, thanks to the media or the movie 'Colors.' You get a bunch of kids who get together, give themselves a name. Often, these are kids with delinquent backgrounds," said Irving Spergel, a University of



Chicago professor who has studied gangs for four decades.

Des Plaines Police Sgt. Bernie Wolter traced the city's gangs to a trio of Chicago gang members who moved to Des Plaines with their families in the late 1970s and recruited "normal, middle-class kids."

"Because, you know, kids look up to them," Wolter said. "They were cool, they were gang members."

Juan, 15, proudly displays a score of gang hand signals. His friends and a social worker point to him as a member of the Disciples, but he denies it. The Prospect Heights boy, who has never lived in Chicago, was arrested last month for beating a rival gang member.

Juan explains why teen-agers join gangs: "Just in case someone beats you up, you get everyone together and get them."

Street gangs flourish in Chicago's meanest neighborhoods, where hopeless poverty and a need for protection propel youngsters into joining, Spergel said. Some of Chicago's closest suburbs, such as Evanston and Maywood, as well as older cities such as Aurora, Elgin and Waukegan, have burgeoning gang activity, police said.

In Waukegan, street gangs are responsible for two or three attempted murders each year, Waukegan Police Lt. William Biang said. So far, there are few signs the gangs are spreading throughout Lake County. Gang-related deaths are rare, but Waukegan's gangs are involved in drug sales, assaults and gang fights, he said.

But in most suburbs, so-called gangs lack the hallmarks of a true street gang, Spergel said. Often, they have little leadership and no traditions. Criminal acts usually are initiated by an individual rather than being planned for the benefit of the group, he said. Typically, there are few ties to Chicago gangs, he said.

"Essentially, what's going on in the suburbs is copycat activities. Those are some problems we'd like to have here," said Sollie Vincent, commander of the gang crimes section for the Chicago Police Department. "You have drive-by shootings, but they're missing. Here in Chicago, we have a body count."

Art Pavelski, a teen counselor who works in a Rolling Meadows apartment complex where street gang members live, believes Chicago and suburban gangs share little more



Gang graffiti mars a door in a Prospect Heights neighborhood.

Daily Herald Photo/Dave Tonge

than their names.

"When they steal a car, they don't take it downtown and strip it. They drive it until it runs out of gas and then leave it. That would show me they don't have close ties to the city. If they were tied in, they'd be making money off of this," said Pavelski, youth guidance director for Wheaton-based Youth for Christ.

"I see kids who do cocaine," he said, "but if they were tied to the city, there would be much heavier drug trafficking."

Relatively few suburban street gang members show up in the files

of three Metropolitan Enforcement Groups, according to the drug agencies that cover Chicago's suburbs.

But suburban gangs mimic their Chicago counterparts, sometimes dangerously. One teen-ager faced threats when he tried to leave a gang.

"The family was even considering moving," said Tammy Brown, a crisis intervention supervisor who met the boy through The Bridge Youth and Family Services in Palatine.

The Rolling Meadows Latin Kings say they are at war with rival Spanish Cobras centered in Prospect

Heights — a conflict that so far has led to spray-painted turf markings and the "drive-by" gunfire.

Gunshots are infrequent. Mueller said the drive-by shootings last spring were the first in Prospect Heights and haven't been repeated. Gunfire occasionally is reported in a Rolling Meadows apartment complex where police believe the town's gang activity is centered. But police rarely can locate the shooter and have no evidence the gunfire is related to gangs, Deputy Police Chief Timothy Lonergan said.

Police in some suburbs believe gang activity is increasing. They fear well-established gangs are traveling to their towns to entice suburban youths to join. Or teens encounter gangs in jail and bring the habit home, they say.

Some are middle-class teen-agers. Many others are from low-income homes and, because of that, many are minorities, Spergel said.

"You can't say it's just the Mexicans, you can't say it's just the poor kids. It's the kids who want to be involved, want to hang with a group," Wheeling police Investigator William Stutzman said.

In some neighborhoods, gang life is pervasive. A 14-year-old Des Plaines girl easily translates for visitors the graffiti in her apartment complex. A 15-year-old Rolling Meadows boy wears gang colors and is the cousin of gang members. "I'm not no gangster, but I hang with them," he said.

Stutzman believes gang activity is increasing. More youths are wearing gang colors, more are using gang hand signals "and the kids themselves seem to know more about gangs," he said.

"In the next five years, it's not going to improve, it's going to get worse," Rolling Meadows' Sgt. Greenway said. "They come out and recruit from the city."

Roselle Police Sgt. Patrick Dempsey echoed their concerns. A month ago, police found a .38-caliber revolver in the home of a Roselle boy after rival gang members told police the boy had a gun.

The suburban teens "were recruited. The kids from the city just drive out and recruit them," Dempsey said. "The parents were shocked."

In at least two cases, however, suburban youths sought out city gangs and asked to join.

Two years ago, a group of Carol Stream area youths "went into an area of Chicago and kind of solicited themselves as trying to be gang members in the suburbs," Carol Stream Police Detective Sgt. James Linane said. "There was some pressure put on them to come into Chicago when they were summoned, and they found out they really didn't want to do this."

When the Carol Stream youths tried to pull out, "the Chicago gang members came out here, for intimidation mostly," he said.

About a dozen Barrington-area teen-agers apparently approached the Spanish Cobras about a year ago, seeking ties with them, Barrington Police Lt. Jeff Lawler said.

"It looked like they were trying to mimic street gangs you'd see in the city," Lawler said of the group, which called itself the Off-Roaders. "I think they're just a bunch of insecure punks."

While some fear gangs will escalate in the suburbs, others believe gangs are limited in how much they can expand here.

"It seems to be a popular notion that Chicago gangs have an ability to franchise their activities to other cities. I don't think that's the case," said Vincent, of the Chicago Police Department. "Some people seem to think gang members sit down with a map and a box of pins and say 'Well, we don't have a franchise in Arlington Heights. Let's have one there.'"

Gangs depend on neighborhoods that are poor, where single parents or couples spend too much time working to keep close track of their children, Vincent said.

Those neighborhoods exist in many suburbs, sometimes in the shadow of expensive homes or town houses. At the same time, most suburbs have greater resources to reach out to troubled youths, Spergel said.

"I wouldn't expect to see gangs in middle-class communities, and if it's there, it's self-limiting," he said.

"When I get a picture of the suburbs and the people there," Vincent added, "it would seem to me the kids there have some options to keep them out of this hopeless state."

Just as police have differing opinions about the extent of gang activity, towns have different attitudes about disclosing the problem. A town that doesn't publicize its street gangs might nevertheless have a serious gang problem. And a town that discloses gang activity might be no worse off than its neighbors.

"They're a little worried you'll portray us as a gang town," said a police officer in one DuPage County town who was reluctant to discuss the issue.

Others might overstate the problem, Spergel said. "It could be a way of expanding the police force," he said.

The controversy means little to Hipolita Banvelos, who fears her five children are being corrupted by "bad friends" in their Rolling Meadows neighborhood. Already, two of her teen-age sons are in juvenile detention centers for stealing cars.

"The gangs want them. Their friends, many friends, are stealing cars. I all the time talk to my children — don't do it," said Banvelos, who hopes both boys will be released by Christmas. "They told me, everything will be changed. I think when they come back, they'll be good boys."

Monday: What does the future hold?

IEPA delays may threaten balefill project

WLD, 11-15-89

BY DANIELLE ACETO
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Backers of a proposed balefill near Bartlett said Tuesday the project's future would be in jeopardy if state environmental officials don't act soon on a permit application to build the dump.

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC), which has applied to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for permission to build the balefill on 142 acres in unincorporated Hanover Township, must file for final development approval with Cook County by Thursday.

Failure to do so would result in SWANCC having to repeat a preliminary approval process which during the first go-around took two years to complete, said SWANCC Executive Director William Abolt.

Blocking SWANCC's path is the IEPA, which has yet to render a decision on the permit application. And though state environmental officials say the balefill proponents will know either way by the Thursday deadline, SWANCC officials are no less wary of the implications a delay would cause.

"It's a serious concern for us," Abolt said. "Any uncertainty at all

See BALEFILL on Page 5

BALEFILL: County is firm on Thursday deadline for approval

Continued from Page 1

causes problems for the project. The only clear resolution to our problem is securing permit approval."

Gunning for just the opposite are a strong contingent of citizens united in opposition to the project, which they say is unsafe and would pose serious threats to a nearby underground water source.

The state EPA once before denied SWANCC's permit request, citing 25 flaws and potential violations of the Environmental Protection Act. It is SWANCC's revised application which now sits before the state for consideration.

If approved, the balefill — called that because garbage is compacted into bales before being buried — would be utilized by 28 North and Northwest suburbs.

"I don't know what more we can do to resolve the concerns of the EPA," Abolt said. "I hope this results in an approval, but I don't have a crystal ball."

IEPA spokesman Bob Casteel said Tuesday a final decision will be issued late Thursday. Public commentary, meanwhile, is being accepted by the state through midnight Wednesday.

"Every effort is being made to review all comments," Casteel said.

SWANCC officials declined to comment on what their next step would be should the IEPA deny their request, or respond subsequent to Thursday.

Bartlett 'balefill' gets crucial OK from state EPA

Friday-11-17-89

BY DANIELLE ACETO
Daily Herald Staff Writer

State environmental officials approved plans Thursday for a 142-acre landfill near Bartlett, clearing the way for construction of Cook County's first garbage dump in at least 10 years.

In issuing its decision, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency brought a quick end to a tumultuous five years of debate over the project — the brainchild of 28 North and Northwest suburban communities belonging to the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC).

"There's no doubt about it, this was a major step," SWANCC Executive Director William F. Abolt said. "If this goes through, at least one region in this state is going to have solved their solid waste problem."

However, other agencies — including Cook County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — must approve the landfill, though EPA approval was considered crucial to getting the project started by next summer. It has a June 1991 completion date.

Also, several municipalities and citizens groups that have loudly protested the landfill as a potential health hazard vowed to sue to stop the project. They also pledge to attempt to block it at the remaining levels of the approval process.

SWANCC is proposing to build the balefill, so called because garbage is baled before buried, at West Bartlett and Gifford roads in unincorporated Hanover Township.



Daily Herald Map

Lauded as a potential solid waste savior, the hotly-debated balefill would be the dumping ground for waste generated by the 800,000 residents living in the agency's 28 member communities in the North and Northwest suburbs.

"This is obviously a big step forward for the project," Abolt said. "We're a lot closer to solving the solid waste crisis than we've been in a long time."

Six months ago, SWANCC had its initial permit application denied by the IEPA, which cited 25 flaws and potential violations of the Environmental Protection Act. The major concern was an inadequate system to monitor and prevent groundwater and other contaminants from seeping into and out of the balefill.

An emotionally charged set of public hearings, featuring the likes of hundreds of sign-toting "Balebus-

See BALEFILL on Page 5

BALEFILL: State approval is just first step

Continued from Page 1

ters," followed, as SWANCC presented to the state its revised application.

"We tried to do the best we could to respond to the public's concerns and the EPA's concerns," Abolt said. "We thought we deserved approval, but the review process is not over yet. We've taken an important step forward, but we have a long way to go."

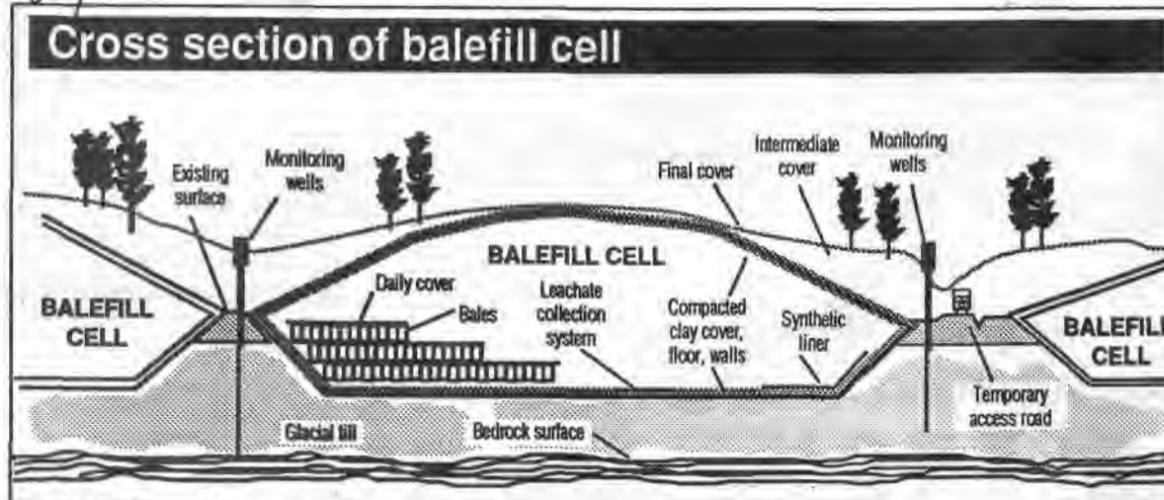
Before construction can begin on the \$55 million balefill project, SWANCC still must obtain a permit from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and secure final approval from the Cook County board — steps anti-balefill activists vow to see squelched.

"We believe this decision by the IEPA was politically motivated and borders on collusion with SWANCC," Bartlett Village President John A. Stark said. "We are not budging one iota on our position that the site is geographically unsuitable for a landfill."

Stark said the villages of Bartlett and Wayne, as well as the cities of South Elgin and Elgin and Hanover Township will file suit in Cook County circuit court today challenging the zoning approved by the Cook County board in 1987.

"The IEPA has really prostituted itself," said Mary Byrne, vice president of Citizens Against the Balefill. "They have dismissed all the evidence that this was the worst possible site to put a garbage dump."

Protesters allege the IEPA and SWANCC were in cahoots earlier this month, when the state extended a public comment period on the application and notified SWANCC of



Daily Herald Graphic

six flaws that still existed with the balefill design.

That prompted Citizens Against the Balefill to file a complaint, which is pending, with Illinois Attorney General Neil F. Hartigan's office.

"We will fight this all the way, no matter what the means," said Byrne, whose organization has been fraught recently with financial problems. "Our constitutional rights of due process have been violated. We will fight this and we will win."

But state officials say the balefill project has been subjected to one of the most intensive reviews in IEPA history.

"I know of no other solid waste facility that has undergone more scrutiny by the agency and citizen groups involved," said Robert Casteel, an IEPA spokesman.

Getting the balefill started

Now that the IEPA has approved plans for a landfill near Bartlett, the following steps remain before it can open in June 1991.

1. File for final development approval with Cook County board on Thursday
2. Issue additional \$2 million in bonds on Nov. 21
3. Announce sites for two additional garbage transfer stations in December.
4. File for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit in January, 1990.
5. File for development permit for Rolling Meadows transfer station in January, 1990
6. Break ground for balefill and Rolling Meadows transfer station in June, 1990**
7. Balefill opens June, 1991

**SWANCC's option to buy land expires June, 1990

Daily Herald Graphic

Recycling finds place for charity

By Daniel London

The saying "One man's garbage is another man's gold" may soon be a rule to live by in Wheeling.

The village is planning to become the first in the nation to combine curbside collections of reusable goods with garbage and recycling pickups.

Under an arrangement approved informally, Goodwill Industries of Chicago would tag along with Wheeling/Buffalo Grove Disposal, the village's garbage collector and a division of Waste Management Inc., to make the curbside collections.

Beginning in early December, residents would be asked to place reusable items, such as clothes, toys, books and small appliances, into recycling bags provided by Goodwill.

Goodwill employees would follow the garbage haulers on their routes during the first week of each month, picking up the bags.

With each collection, Goodwill would drop off a new bag for the next month's collection, along with a receipt for the donation.

Village President Sheila Schultz says the program, which she expects to be formally approved by the trustees this month, is "one more piece of the recycling puzzle."

Schultz conceded that the proposed solution for what to do with "all those things in the attic" is not likely to significantly lower the village's waste stream in the near future. Still, "it leads to the right mentality," she said.

Just how prepared Wheeling residents are for the approach will take some months to determine.

But a possible indicator may be residents' receptiveness to the curbside recycling of newspapers, cans and bottles, which began last spring.

According to Schultz, 58 percent of households have participated in that program, a figure with which she says she is "delighted."

That rate of participation led Waste Management and Goodwill to establish the pilot collections of reusables, she said.

If successful, the Wheeling program could lead to similar programs in other northwest suburbs next year, according to Lee Addleman, Midwest regional recycling coordinator for Waste Management.

Addleman said he is optimistic that the program could eventually lead to a reduction in landfill waste.

Waste Management has pledged to pick up the goods with its own trucks in case Goodwill's trucks are unable to cover a particular route, Addleman said.

Jim Wadsworth, president of Goodwill Industries of Chicago, said the program could lead to a dramatic increase of donations, because it would provide donors with the convenience of stuffing items in a bag and dropping them in the recycling bin.

"You couldn't make it much easier," he said.

Goodwill and Waste Management plan to begin distributing literature explaining the program soon.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE
11-8-89

Sunday Herald 11/19/89

Seniors express thanks to village of Wheeling

"The Senior Center is a warm place which I enjoy visiting. The people in charge always make me feel welcome, as though I were one of their family. They are friendly, helpful and compassionate, always there for us, smiling. Keep up the wonderful spirit you transfer to us."

"The center gives us opportunities to meet new people and to make friends of people we would not be likely to meet at any other place. The center provides a pleasant place in which to carry out all kinds of activities of interest to seniors and it provides opportunity for leadership to those so inclined."

"I have been a widow for many years and recently joined the Pavilion Craft Group. It has opened up a whole new way of life for me. It is such a pleasure to work with the other ladies every week. They are pleasant and companionable and I look forward to spending time with them."

"It is my great pleasure to be part of the Senior Center. I'm still a newcomer and thought I'd never make new friends at this age — NOT TRUE — There is a family feeling at the Center and always something going on. Barbara is a super director and cares for each person. Her staff is also up on the top of the list. Thanks to President Shultz and the Board for a fine Center."

"There are so many wonderful activities going on all the time, they keep me out of mischief!"

...These are a few samples off the thank-you letters from Wheeling senior citizens to Village President Sheila Schultz and the village board which will be read today at a special "Thank-You Wheeling" program. The Pavilionaires Chorus will perform songs and a skit, and refreshments will be served. The event is open to the community and will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the Wheeling Senior Center Pavilion, 199 N. First St., Wheeling.

"My feelings were that all of the seniors that attend the Pavilion enjoy it so much, and never have a chance to say thank-you for all the benefits we have for being seniors in Wheeling," says Adelle Becker, director of the Pavilionaires Senior Chorus and member of the Wheeling Senior Commission. Becker and her husband, Bernard, have lived in Wheeling for almost 15 years. It

Lisa Schab
Wheeling



was Adelle's idea to have some kind of "thank-you" program, so that seniors in Wheeling could express their thanks to the village for the facility and activities which are carried out at Pavilion Senior Center.

"We really feel fortunate to live in an area that has so much to offer," says Adelle. "I feel grateful that it was our fortune to come to a place where retirement could be so enjoyable."

Adelle, who says that she's been "singing all my life," will direct the Pavilionaires Chorus today in their program of a "Musical Tour Around the World." Songs will include, "A Foggy Day in London Town," "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," "Lady of Spain," "Chinatown," "Russian Lullaby," and "Edelweiss." The last selection will be "The Senior Happiness Song," written by former chorus director Ivy Dale.

After the musical program, the Chorus will present a humorous skit written by senior Don Hammer, former chairman of the Wheeling Senior Commission. The skit is a parody on the construction of the Pavilion building. Senior Joe Ochs will accompany the Pavilionaires on piano.

The Pavilionaires Chorus, which boasts from 25 to 30 members, is choreographed by June Lippert. The Chorus takes their musical show to area nursing homes, and are regular pen-pals with a class of fourth grade students at Walt Whitman Elementary School. They perform their first program of each season at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling.

The Wheeling Pavilion Senior Center invites all seniors, their families and friends and interested community members to attend for today's concert and join with 11 459-seniors in thanking the village Wheeling for a wonderful facility.

For more information, call 459-2670.

White, plastic bags will be distributed throughout Wheeling today, marking the start of a novel program that combines the curbside collection of recyclables with reusable materials.

Wheeling trustees Monday approved the joint venture between Goodwill Industries of Chicago and Waste Management of North America, Inc. Under the plan, truck drivers from Goodwill will follow trucks from Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal — the village's trash and recycling hauler — on recycling days once a month.

Goodwill employees will collect reusable items, such as old

clothes, accessories, shoes, toys, books, knick-knacks, tools, kitchen utensils and small working appliances. Residents will use the plastic bags, which will be delivered today, to store the items.

Drivers will replace the plastic containers and leave a receipt for the tax deductible donations, which are resold in the charity's chain of retail stores. Money generated from the sales is used for vocational training programs for the disadvantaged and disabled.

On recycling days, which in Wheeling are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, the disposal company will make its usual rounds, collecting items from the orange recycling bins, including newspaper and inserts, clear and colored

glass and aluminum and tin.

While other village officials lauded the six-month trial program, Wheeling Trustee Judy Abruscato voted against it, saying it would leave the village "messy."

"Right now we have a problem getting the garbage out on the right day," Abruscato said, adding that residents might set their Goodwill items out on the wrong pickup days. "I don't really find this as a plus for our village."

However, under the agreement, the disposal company assumes responsibility for any items left after the pickup, and the program will be evaluated by next May to determine its success. A collection schedule will be included in the distribution today.

Tues Nov 21 1989

Wheeling initiates curbside Goodwill pickup

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Herald Sun 11/19/89

THE WEEK AHEAD

Reusable goods could part of recycling plan

Wheeling trustees will vote this week on a pilot program that combines the curbside collection of recyclables with reusable materials.

Under the program, truck drivers from Goodwill Industries of Chicago would follow Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal trucks on recycling days once a month in Wheeling.

Goodwill drivers would collect items such as old clothes, accessories, shoes, toys, books, knick-knacks, tools, kitchen utensils and small working appliances. The village's orange recycling bins, which the disposal company collects, hold newspapers and inserts, clear and colored glass and aluminum and tin.

Wheeling was selected as the test site for the plan because of its broad demographics, high participation in recycling and convenience for the disposal company.

Waste Management of North

The top meeting

Who: Wheeling village board

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

When: 8 p.m. Monday

America, Inc., the parent company of Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal, has agreed to assume all responsibility for the program. For example, if something gets left behind after the collections, the disposal company will pick it up.

Wheeling officials have applauded the idea of combining the two services, and other suburban leaders have shown interest in starting similar programs.

If approved Monday, the program would start the first full week in December and residents would begin receiving information about the program and white plastic bags to store the materials for Goodwill on Tuesday.

Study traces cause of sewer overload

Monday, Nov 20, 1989

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Private businesses and houses are responsible for most of Wheeling's sewer overloads, village officials said.

A seven-month study conducted by R/JN Environmental Associates Inc. of Wheaton shows that 76 percent of houses and businesses in Wheeling are causing the village's sanitary sewers to overload.

The rest of the overload is caused by deficiencies in village manholes and sewers, said Scott Shirley, Wheeling's assistant director of operations and maintenance.

Village officials began the study in February in an effort to identify where storm and ground water is leaking into the village's sanitary sewers. When water other than domestic waste overloads sanitary sewers, it results in sewer back-ups and added cost for upgrading the sanitary treatment plant.

Wheeling is exceeding the sewage flow standards set by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, where the village's sewage is discharged.

The village must meet a July 1990 deadline set by the district to rehabilitate the village sanitary system. Private sewage line rehabilitation must be completed by July 1991.

After inspecting sanitary systems in 3,100 homes and businesses, engineers found that most of the systems tested had multiple violations, ranging from gutters leading directly into the ground to faulty foundation drains.

And all 3,100 buildings were cited for a suspect building lateral violations, or possible cracks in the last

pipe that runs from the house to village lines. A faulty service line could allow rain water to run into sanitation lines.

Village officials determined that violation would not be worthwhile to repair since it could cost up to \$5,000 and still not remedy the overload problem, Shirley said.

However, the village will request that some violations be corrected by the owners, which might cost up to \$300, depending on the violation, Shirley said. Residents aware of violations may want to correct the problem now rather than wait for the village to require it, he added.

Village officials are compiling a list of homes that will require further inspections to determine whether repairs would be cost effective enough to improve the village's sanitary system. The report is expected to be presented to village trustees tonight.

Engineers had planned to inspect 3,208 houses and businesses, but 108 had either not complied or had not responded to village requests. Village officials had said they want 100 percent compliance and will continue to attempt to gain access to the buildings which do not comply.

If that fails, a building will be placed on a violation list and the village may seek legal action against the residents, Shirley said.

Subdivisions included in the inspections were Mallard Lake, Tahoe Village, Malibu, Lake Side Villas, Orchard Lakes, Pleasant Run and industrial buildings along Wolf and Wheeling roads. Inspections were also conducted in the Dunhurst, Poplar Grove and Hollywood Ridge subdivisions and commercial buildings along Dundee Road.

Wheeling's sanitary sewer inspection results

Description of illegal hookups	Number of households or businesses
Illegal storm sump pump that leads ground water into sanitary sewers	134
Suspect storm sump pump in which the pump runs underground, outside and leads to an unknown destination	308
Combination sump pump which leads storm and sanitary water into sanitary sewer	73
Suspect combination sump pump in which the pump runs underground outside to an unknown destination	22
Unsealed sanitary sump pump which may have a gravel bottom that allows ground water to mix with sanitary water	366
Suspect down spouts, such as gutters piped underground	270
Suspect area drains, such as driveway or patio drains that may not be piped into the storm sewer	1,234
Suspect foundation drain in which homes with basements that may have drain system pumped directly to sanitary sewers	438
Suspect sump pit, in which any drain outside may lead to an unknown destination	116

WHEELING VILLAGE BOARD NOTES

W.V. Nov 22, 1989

Village renews prosecutor's contract

Attorney Steven J. Handler will remain the village prosecutor for Wheeling.

Trustees have agreed to renew his contract, which expires Jan. 1, for two years. His fees will increase from \$800 a month to \$975 a month, based on the number of times he may appear in court on the village's behalf, or 11 times a month.

The increase is needed to cover the cost of two court calls added to the village's assignment because of an increase in the number of tickets Wheeling police are writing.

For each additional court call assigned to the village that Handler must attend, the attorney will be paid an additional \$55 a month. Any calls deleted will result in a \$55-a-month reduction in fees.

Sandwich shop making a move

Owners of a sandwich shop which received village board approval two months ago, will move into a different unit in the Center Plaza Shopping Center.

Village trustees unanimously agreed that Subway Sandwiches

and Salads restaurant may move into the western end of the center at 8 W. Dundee Road instead of 16 W. Dundee Road, as they approved in September.

The move is needed to accommodate a large potential tenant, which may be occupying 8 W. Dundee Road as well as several other adjoining units. Earlier this summer, trustees rejected a request for a Little Caesar's Pizza restaurant to move into the same shopping center unit. They said it would increase traffic problems there.

Village updates sprinkler ordinance

Village trustees have approved several additions to the village sprinkler ordinance.

Under the revisions, an automatic sprinkler system must be installed in any existing building when the degree of fire hazard of the building is increased, the allowable occupancy load in the building is increased or an addition is made to the building.

An exception to the sprinkler requirements is buildings used exclusively for the transmission or distribution of electrical power. The exception for utility companies is necessary because water only would aggravate fire conditions, Fire Chief Bernhard Koeppen said.

Palwaukee airport improvements amended

11-25-89

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials have agreed to amend Palwaukee Municipal Airport's five-year improvement plan to include several items for funding which were omitted from the original plan approved last month.

Called the Transportation Improvement Proposal, the ambitious plan outlines projects planned for the airport, which is owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights, through 1995.

The provisions that were left out of the plan include funding for environmental assessments of the Wolf/Hintz intersection relocation and the construction of paved areas by the Twin Drive-In Theater property.

The plan, updated annually, seeks \$46.4 million from the Federal Aviation Administration over five years and includes land acquisitions, building improvements and equipment purchases.

Besides omitting the environmental assessments, which are necessary for the intersection and Wheeling Drainage Ditch relocations, the plan

also was missing the \$2.2 million cost to pave areas after the drainage ditch is moved.

The ditch, which runs through the airport, would be rerouted through the drive-in theater property because the current route would cause too many restrictions for airport development and run too close to the airport's main runway.

In addition, the intersection will also be moved west to create a "clear zone" because the roads are too close to the airport's main runway.

The FAA funds 90 percent of the the airport improvement projects,

while the Illinois Department of Transportation pays 5 percent and the airport pays the remaining 5 percent.

Wheeling Trustee William A. Rogers, who is also an airport commissioner, said the move points to expansionism since the airport would need to buy additional property for the relocations. He added the airport might run out of money in a few years if all of the projects in the plan are funded.

"This seems to be occurring at a rapid pace," Rogers said. "We seem to be buying up so much land."

Wheeling adopts new floodplain ordinance

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's new floodplain ordinance not only allows the village to retain its federal flood insurance eligibility, but should also help expedite minor home improvement projects, a village official says.

Wheeling is one of the first municipalities to adopt an ordinance that incorporates federal and state guidelines outlining how the communities deal with flood water. The federal plan was revised in 1986 and the state plan was updated this spring.

The village's ordinance was recently approved by the Illinois Division of Water Resources, well

before the Jan. 6 deadline for communities to submit their revised plan. Compliance enables municipalities to retain their eligibility for federal flood insurance, which residents may purchase.

Wheeling's ordinance incorporates federal and state flood management guidelines that control developments in floodways and floodplains. A floodplain typically is land adjacent to a body of water that is prone to floods after heavy rains, while floodways provide a path for water to be carried to and from the flooded area.

"What it (the ordinance) really does is incorporate a lot of technical language that wasn't there before," Wheeling's Community Development Director Michael J.

Klitzke said. "We've basically brought it up to the requirements. We've been very cognizant of what's required."

The ordinance also gives the village authority to issue permits for minor projects on floodplains, such as garages, storage sheds, patios and parking lots. Residents will no longer have to secure state permits for those types of projects, expediting the permit process.

"In addition to all the other zoning requirements," Klitzke said, "this (ordinance) tells us what we can and cannot do in floodplains."

Klitzke says residents do not have to live near a floodplain to purchase flood insurance. "The floods don't always read the map," he said.



Schultz wins endorsement for county board

BY ANNE BURRIS GASIOR
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz is one of seven suburban Democrats endorsed by a suburban committee as candidates for the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

Though Schultz's nomination still must be approved by the 80-member Democratic Central Committee, the long-time Wheeling official is gearing up for what is likely to be an uphill battle in next year's general election.

Republicans dominate the suburban spots on the county board, with only one suburban Democrat — Jeanne Quinn of Oak Park — elected to the board in recent history. She served one term after being elected in 1982.

Despite the record of GOP control, Schultz and other county Democrats maintain things have changed.

"Voting patterns would indicate the situation is changing," said Schultz, who admitted many of her constituents in Wheeling may be surprised to find out she's a Democrat since local elections are non-partisan.



Sheila Schultz

"Non-partisan local elections are appropriate," Schultz said. "But as you move into other areas, you align yourself with the party you are most comfortable with and most in agreement with."

Anne Elliott, who will be in charge of a soon-to-be opened Cook County Democratic Party office in Arlington Heights, said the numbers of

Democrats are up in suburban Cook County.

"There are more Democrats out in the suburbs than people realize and they are gaining increased visibility," Elliott said.

The other candidates proposed by the 30 suburban committeemen are Lawrence Zdarsky of Berwyn, Ed Reinfrank of Evanston, Rich Township school treasurer Thomas M. O'Donnell, Hickory Hills attorney Patricia Kane McLaughlin, Hickory Hills Mayor Ervin Kozicki and Pat Capuzzi of Bremen Township.

Schultz, who has been village president in Wheeling for nine years and a village trustee for two years before that, said she decided to seek countywide office because of her experience in local government.

"I've been working in the regional area all the time I've been in the village, out of necessity because everything is so inter-related," she said. "I think I can translate my experience to the county level."

Schultz is head of circulation for the Indian Trails Public Library and is a member of the Northwest Mu-

nicipal Conference, chairman of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, and is north Cook County commissioner of the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission. She is vice president of the Illinois Municipal League, and an appointed member of the Cook County Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee.

Schultz said the issues she will pursue as she campaigns are very similar to those she followed in her quest for the village's highest office.

"The issues travel with you and are very basic," she said. "The government needs to be responsive to the people it represents and provide services."

Schultz said she will resign from her position as village president if she is elected to the county board next year.

Township trustee may seek Wheeling post

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Township Trustee Edward Main says he will consider seeking the top elected post in Wheeling if Village President Sheila H. Schultz is elected to the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

Schultz, village president since 1981, has received the endorsement of the 30 suburban Democratic committeemen who represent suburban townships for next year's Cook County board race. As one of seven suburban Democrats receiving the committeemen's support, Schultz will run for one of seven open suburban seats on the board that now are dominated by Republicans. If elected, Schultz

said she would resign her job as village president.

Her resignation would force village trustees to appoint an acting village president until a special election could be held, or until the next municipal election in spring 1991.

"I'm interested if Sheila does win her election bid," said Main, who has made no secret of his aspiration to attain the top post in Wheeling. "I would be more than happy to throw my name in. My interest has always been there."

However, Main, 45, says he wants to talk with other village officials and wait for the outcome of the county race before making any definite political plans.

"I will talk to some other people

and will be entertaining the idea," said Main, who also serves as chairman of the village's fire and police commission. "It's not out of the question, but it's a long way away."

Main, who has been a township trustee for nearly three years, ran an unsuccessful bid for village president against Schultz in 1985. This past spring, Main worked as campaign manager for Schultz, who ran unopposed on a village board slate lined with incumbents.

After 20 years as a bowling alley manager — 18 years at Striker Lanes in Buffalo Grove — Main recently accepted a new job as director of business development at the 1st National Bank of Lincolnshire.

Department to get new computer system

11-26-89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's finance department will receive a new computer system and trustees are pleased with the village staff's choice of the provider.

The current system, which is at least 10 years old, must be replaced because of numerous terminal, equipment and printer problems and failures.

In addition, the the village has

been faced with "a continuing inability to receive prompt, reliable service from our software maintenance vendor," said Robert Fialkowski, director of finance.

Although bills are paid and checks go out on time, the system would not meet the village's needs with future growth, village officials said.

Village board members have unanimously agreed to negotiate with Hewlett Packard Corp. and Pentamation-Count Systems for the new computer system. Trustee Wil-

liam A. Rogers said he was pleased the village would purchase the system from a well-known company with a reputation for good service.

Nine vendors submitted proposals to the village and officials narrowed the candidates down to three before choosing Hewlett Packard. Advantages the Pentamation-Count System held over the other vendors included the ability to provide the most training and implementation hours and solid vendor references. Plus, the proposal met all village require-

ments, according to an evaluation conducted on the vendors by the Conlon Group, Inc.

Hewlett Packard's fees would be based on the time it requires to complete the installation of a new system. The average billing rate will be \$75 an hour, plus 10 percent for employees' traveling expenses.

Fialkowski said he will seek board approval to use money from the village's 1987 capital projects fund to purchase the system.

Palwaukee Airport drafts safety codes

11-27-89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Palwaukee Municipal Airport may have its first formal set of rules to regulate commercial operations and safety on the field.

For years, the airport, which is owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights, has operated with no written rules. Airport officials have trouble controlling hazardous activity at the airport because they have no authority and no rules to enforce, Airport Manager Fred E. Stewart said.

Now, after working on the codes for the past three years, airport commissioners have agreed to hold a public meeting to discuss the draft. The meeting, which is

for pilots, residents and all those interested, is set for 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5 in the Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

"We are faced daily with incidents, and tenants complain that we cannot correct them (the problems) because we have no authority to do so," Stewart said. "If a guy walks out on the airport, I run out there and chew him out and tell him not to do it again."

The proposed rules list what is expected of pilots and tenants and how they should operate aircraft safely at the airport. In addition to outlining who may use the airport and what size planes may be flown there, the proposal includes enforcement and penalties for violations.

Palwaukee's first draft of rules was drawn up by Airport Corporation of America, a New Jersey-based consulting firm hired by the municipalities in 1986 to manage the airport. Those rules, which were not adopted by the municipalities, were revised at least six times in committees before being sent two years later to the commission.

Commissioners appointed a committee to review the rules, and copies were circulated to the Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association members for suggestions.

Under the proposed rules, violators could be fined up to \$500, and police departments from the two communities would enforce the airport regulations.

Trustees deny tax break for manufacturer

11-29-89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees have rejected a request to give a Schaumburg electro-plating manufacturer a tax break to relocate in Wheeling.

Owners of the company, Three J's Industries Inc. in Schaumburg, wanted to expand the business in Wheeling at 724 Glenn Ave.

The Schaumburg Park District has purchased the property and building, which Three J's may continue to lease for two years. The company plates, or puts coating on, metals such as seatbelts.

Representatives of Three J's said they have looked for places to move the business in Lake and DuPage counties and chose Wheeling for its convenience. The 16-member work force at Three J's would increase to 20 over the next 10 years, representatives said.

A move to Wheeling would have cost about \$500,000, and owners had requested village trustees approve a tax exemption, known as Cook County Class 6(b).

With the exemption, property is taxed at a lower rate for a number of years and then gradually brought up to the current rate, with the village receiving a one-time \$500 application fee. The incentive typically is offered by municipalities to attract new business or keep existing business in the county.

However, trustees followed the recommendation by village officials to deny Three J's request for environmental concerns. The move would not have required a tax break for the company to locate in Wheeling, officials said.

"I do have some reservations about the need to encourage Three J's to locate in Wheeling," Village Manager Craig Anderson said. "Not giving them a 6(b) exemption would not necessarily preclude them from Wheeling."

Wheeling's Community Development Director Michael J. Klitzke questioned the process for electroplating, the use of a cyanide compound at the plant and how waste is disposed of at Three J's.

"I still feel strongly that this should not be allowed since I don't feel we should be encouraging certain types of businesses from coming into the village" when they could move into Wheeling without a tax incentive, Village Trustee William A. Rogers said.

MADD gives new meaning to 'tie one on'

12-2-89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Mothers Against Drunk Driving will pursue its campaign for a safe holiday season with a suburban candlelight vigil Sunday for families and friends of drunken driving victims and ongoing distribution of reminder ribbons.

The Candlelight Vigil, jointly sponsored by the North Suburban and Northeast Suburban branches of Chicagoland MADD, will begin at 7 p.m. Sunday at Kingswood United Methodist Church, 401 E. Dundee Road, in Buffalo Grove.

About 400 drunken driving victims from northern Cook, Lake and McHenry counties and community leaders have been invited. Participants may bring photos of victims to display during the vigil.

"A lot of people are more and more concerned today about

drunken driving," said Joan J. Messenger, vice president of the North Suburban MADD. "It's just a silly, foolish way to die."

Since September, the North Suburban Branch of Chicagoland MADD has distributed 20,000 red ribbons for drivers to attach to their cars. The ribbons, available through local MADD chapters and some police departments and village halls, remind residents to drive safely during the holiday season.

As one of 43 suburban police chiefs contacted by MADD, Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger "tied one on" Friday to all department squad cars.

"We're going to change the meaning of 'tie one on,'" said Messenger, whose two daughters died after their boat was struck in 1986 by a drunk boater on Fox Lake. "Instead of getting drunk, we're saying drive safe and sober."



Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger ties one on his squad car.

Wheeling gets set to name first woman police sergeant

12-2-89
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Police Officer Theresa Delahanty is on her way to becoming the first female sergeant in the village's police department.

To some village officials, Delahanty's proposed hiring represents a "sign of the times." The appointment hinges on the formal approval of the village board Monday.

"In general, there are more and more women who are becoming police officers and as the numbers expand, there's going to be more women supervisors," Village Manager Craig Anderson said. "We just looked for the best candidate."

Delahanty, a four-year member of the police department, would be the seventh sergeant on the force. Her hiring would fill a vacancy left on the department since the June 1987 resignation of Sgt. Stephen Weber. Delahanty's annual salary would increase from \$36,552 to \$43,567.

Police Chief Michael F. Haeger

downplayed the significance of Delahanty's possible promotion, saying she is next in line for the position.

"She took the test and she finished second on the test," Haeger said. "She did very well and she's been a good police officer since she's been here. I think she's got all the desire and capability to make an excellent supervisor."

The officer who scored first on the test, John Stone, was recently promoted to fill a new sergeant's position added to this year's budget.

Delahanty would fill a vacancy left by Weber, who sought to be reinstated after he resigned. Village officials denied his request. Although Weber's lawsuit against the village is still pending, village officials said it was time to fill the vacancy rather than wait for the outcome of the court case.

Delahanty's promotion creates another opening for a police officer in Wheeling. In addition to the recent resignation of Ronald Hines, the department remains short two officers.

Officer becomes Wheeling's first female sergeant

12-5-89
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Becoming Wheeling's first female police sergeant may not be an issue for Theresa Delahanty, but other village officials see her promotion as a "progressive" move for the village.

The 27-year-old Delahanty was sworn in as Wheeling's first female police sergeant Monday before the village board.

"It's not an issue," said Delahanty, a four-year police department veteran. "It's no different from a male officer being promoted." She declined further comment.

"I think it shows that we're progressive," said Edward Main, chairman of the village fire and police commission. "Wheeling is very proud of its female officers. She was the first to take the initiative and take the test. It's open, and everybody's got an equal opportunity."

Delahanty's hiring fills a vacancy left on the department since the June 1987 resignation of Sgt. Stephen Weber. Her annual salary will increase from \$36,552 to \$43,567

as Delahanty joins the ranks of seven other sergeants in the police department.

"I think it's significant," Village President Sheila H. Schultz said. "But what's more significant is the way Sgt. Delahanty tested to meet the high standards that have been set here. I think the fact that she is the first is an honor and we're proud. Hopefully, in more areas, it will not be a novelty."

Delahanty scored second on the comprehensive test for police sergeants. The top scorer, John Stone, was promoted recently to fill a new sergeant's position added to this year's budget.

Delahanty fills a vacancy left by Weber, who sought to be reinstated after he resigned. Village officials denied his request and Weber's lawsuit against the village is still pending.

Besides the opening created by Delahanty's promotion, the resignation last month of Ronald Hines leaves the police department short two officers.

TCI planning upgrades for suburbs

12-4-89
BY MELISSA REISER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

TCI of Illinois is working on an \$8 million project which company officials say should improve the reception quality to cable customers in the 10 suburbs it serves.

TCI General Manager Mark Hess said the improvement project has two parts: first, to upgrade the electronic components in all the communities it serves, and second, to install new high-tech wiring in the outskirts of its service area.

The company is working with the Northwest Municipal Cable Council, which represents eight towns, on the possibility of converting the current 120-channel system in those communities to a 60-channel system.

Originally, TCI, which has come

under fire in the past for poor quality performance, had planned to wait until after the new system was approved to begin the upgrades. But, Hess said, company officials decided the improvements are needed now.

"We weren't satisfied with the quality and decided to go ahead with the upgrades," Hess said.

The work should improve the picture quality and reliability, Hess said.

Six Northwest suburbs — Wheeling, Des Plaines, Mount Prospect, Park Ridge, Arlington Heights and Prospect Heights — will begin receiving the new electronic equipment after the first of the year, Hess said.

Bartlett, Hanover Park, Streamwood and Schaumburg already have

received the electronic upgrades, he said.

The cable company will work in two towns at a time and Arlington Heights is in the final group to receive the improved parts. The entire project should be completed in six to seven months, Hess said.

The project will cause some disruptions in service and the cable company has begun an informational campaign to tell customers when their street is targeted for work.

The company is distributing fliers to customers scheduled for work and running a message about the project on channel 52. The project will cause each customer's service to go off for periods during one day, Hess said.

TCI also will be installing about 40 miles of fiber-optic wiring in specified areas of most of the towns it

serves. The company currently is installing the new wiring in Schaumburg and then will move to other communities. The project is expected to be finished in the spring.

Areas farthest from TCI's Mount Prospect base will receive the new wiring because they have the worst reception problems, Hess said.

Fiber optics work by scrambling satellite programming signals into beams of light and transmitting them via hair-like wiring. The signal then is unscrambled, so it can be viewed on television.

The new wiring can go for longer stretches than the current system without needing an amplifier to resend the signal. Because the wiring has fewer interruptions, it sends a clearer signal, Hess explained.

Palwaukee owners near vote on airport rules

12/6/89
BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Just a few wording changes and review of an insurance policy are all that are needed to make Palwaukee Municipal Airport's proposed rules and regulations ready for the airport owners' vote.

Members of the airport commission's rules and regulations committee discussed the proposal Tuesday with pilots, airport tenants and residents. Commissioner Robert E. Strauss said that with the changes the airport's first formal set of rules and regulations could be in effect next spring.

For years, the airport, which is owned by Wheeling and Prospect Heights, has operated with no

rules or regulations. Airport officials had trouble controlling dangerous activity on the field because they had no authority.

The rules "are sorely needed so we can have better safety and efficiency for users of the airport," Strauss said.

Although some pilots raised concern over fines included in the proposal for violations, airport officials said the penalties are necessary for enforcement. The municipality where the violation occurred would have jurisdiction over prosecuting the violator.

"In a sense it's putting pilots in the role or guise of criminals," said Barry Axelrod, president of the Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association. "Frankly we take excep-

tion to that. To be fined \$500 a day and be imprisoned for parking an airplane in the wrong place, we think is a little harsh."

However, the violators would not necessarily face a fine because they would go through the usual court procedures, which includes a system for appeals.

Airport officials also plan to review a section on insurance required for airport users because the wording was unclear. After about two more meetings with commissioners, the airport board likely will make a recommendation for the municipalities to approve the rules, which are in its ninth draft since 1986, Strauss said.

Wheeling picking up Goodwill with trash

12-6-89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Pat Drewes of Wheeling normally places aluminum cans and newspapers alongside her household trash on Tuesdays.

But this Tuesday, several different items appeared on Drewes' curb.

"I put a bag and a bike out," said Drewes, who lives on Nancy Lane. "I placed a dress out with a bow that a little girl would like."

The Drewes were one of more than 2,000 Wheeling families who participated Tuesday in a novel program that combines the curbside collection of recyclable materials by Waste Management Inc. with the collection of items people typically donate to Goodwill Industries.

The program is believed to be the first of its kind in the nation. If successful in Wheeling, the program could be expanded to any of the 27 other Chicagoland communities Waste Management serves.

"It makes it easier for our residents to express their generosity," Wheeling Village President Sheila H.



Norm Lewis of Waste Management, Inc. and William Phillips of Goodwill Industries collect recyclable and reuseable materials Tuesday during a pilot program in Wheeling.

Daily Herald Photo/Rich Chapman

Schultz said. "It encourages people to give and not just throw things away."

Schultz was one of many Wheel-

ing, Waste Management and Goodwill officials who celebrated the kickoff of the program on Wheeling's Meadowbrook Lane. Following

brief introductions, Schultz cut the ribbons which tied the companies' trucks together, officially welcoming the program to town.

Although Goodwill officials say Tuesday's 10 percent participation rate was less than they had expected, recycling officials are optimistic the numbers will increase once the program catches on.

"I think the output is excellent when you consider it a new program," said Lee Addleman, recycling coordinator of Waste Management's Midwest region.

"Ten percent was less than I had guessed," said Robert P. McMahon, vice president of operations for Goodwill. "I expected 25 percent participation. We overkilled and we were ready for anything."

Wheeling was chosen for the six-month pilot program because of its broad demographics and high participation in a recycling program.

The program represents an effort to instill more efficiency in the city's collection of donations. Goodwill trucks will follow the trucks of Waste Management.

Goodwill pickup program begins

Several hundred Wheeling residents contributed to the holiday season a little earlier this year when they helped kickoff the Goodwill Industries curbside pickup Tuesday.

On the inaugural day of picking up used clothes and toys from Wheeling curbs, Goodwill Industries workers grabbed nearly 300 bags of donated goods.

In November, village trustees agreed to a program that allows Goodwill Industries trucks to follow Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal recycling trucks once each month. Residents were given special plastic bags for recyclable goods that Goodwill will pick up.

The Wheeling program is considered the first of its kind in the country. Kathleen Bradley, recycling coordinator for Goodwill, said Tuesday's first run went well, with about 15 percent of the 2,000 homes passed leaving something at the curb for the organization. Goodwill resells goods donated to it and uses the money to sponsor vocational job training for the disadvantaged.

Pilots raise objections to proposed rules at Palwaukee

12-7-89

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

COUNTRYSIDE
Pilots from Palwaukee Municipal Airport Tuesday objected with provisions in yet another draft of airport rules that have been debated for more than 18 months.

They said certain provisions are causing "panic" among pilots that could force them to leave the airport.

Claiming they could be considered common criminals for misplacing their airplanes, several members of the Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association said the rules and regulations sent a "negative" message to airport users. The association members also said that they could not comply with certain rules

outlined in the draft.

Among the rules being considered, the commission is looking to regulate ground traffic, business ventures on the airport site and flight training.

IF ADOPTED BY Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which jointly own the airport, the rules would be enforced by municipal police departments, with police from each community authorized to write tickets that would be taken to court. Violators could be subject to \$500 daily fines and imprisonment if convicted of the misdemeanors.

"To be fined \$500 a day, to be imprisoned for maybe parking your airplane in the wrong place, I think is going a little too far," said Barry

Axelrod, president of the 300-member pilots group.

Axelrod and other pilots and aviation officials said the rules and regulations at times exceeded federal guidelines and did not help the airport improve safety.

But airport officials say the rules they have been trying to adopt are necessary for the safe operation of the municipally-owned airfield. Airport attorney Steve Moore said the rules and regulations provide guidelines that promote safety and control business ventures on the field.

MOORE SAID ALMOST all public airports have rules for safety and business in order to protect themselves against liability.

"It's just good operating practice," Moore said.

But although the airport commission, whose rules and regulation committee held a public meeting Tuesday in Wheeling Village Hall, has solicited comment from the airport's users, they continued to object to the rules and regulations.

In response to some of those concerns, the rules committee changed several of the regulations Tuesday, including the caps on insurance coverage required for pilots. After learning that the amounts in the rules did not match with industry standards, the committee agreed to change those amounts.

Pilots

(Continued from page 5)

BUT WHAT THE committee did not change were requirements that certified flight instructors (CFI) be on the airport field when their students fly solo. Although PAPA officials said that provision would not help the student and could scare flight instructors from the airport, the committee did not appear likely to change those rules.

Axelrod and PAPA director Barry Dainas said that provision would not make flying safer for student pilots. They said control tower personnel would be the only ones to help a student pilot in trouble.

But Charles Priester, president of Priester Aviation, said that provision would provide the supervision necessary to conduct safe flight training at the airport.

Because flight conditions at Palwaukee are affected by O'Hare International Airport and Glenview Naval Station, Priester said Palwaukee is a unique airport that needs extra supervision for its student pilots. Some airports, because of their flight patterns, don't allow flight training, he said.

WENDY WINK DEETER, a pilot and aviation insurance agent, also told the commission that the insurance requirements for CFIs — in which they would have to add the airport and the two municipalities to their policies — could make flight training cost prohibitive.

"It's making it very restrictive for the instructor to come here and teach flying," Deeter said. She said several pilots have called her operation in a "panic" after reading preliminary drafts

Consultants to test police candidates

Thurs., Dec. 7, 1989

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Virginia consulting firm will test 10 candidates to fill two new positions for commanders in the Wheeling Police Department.

The village has hired the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Arlington, Va. for \$7,200 to develop and direct the assessment center, which is what the process for hiring commanders is called.

The commanders, exempt from a rank, will provide additional supervision for department sergeants and supervise the department when the police chief and deputy chiefs are off duty, typically on nights and weekends.

Under exempt rank, the village board oversees the commanders, who will be hired by March 1 by Village Manager Craig Anderson with recommendations from Police Chief Michael F. Haeger.

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

The assessment center, which will be held Jan. 10-12, includes reviewing the commanders' job descriptions to understand what the village is looking for, testing the candidates through a series of experiments to determine how the

candidates handle certain law enforcement situations and ranking the applicants according to their performance.

Some of the situations may include speaking, handling investigations and making decisions on various topics. In addition, an outside vendor will administer polygraph and psychological tests to the candidates.

The commanders will be paid \$45,079 a year — in between a sergeant's maximum annual salary of \$43,567 and a deputy chief's annual salary of \$52,614.

The village originally received 124 applications from residents of other states and some members of the Wheeling Police Department

Cops hope 'Tie One On' effort will curb drunk driving

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

COUNTRYSIDE
As holiday celebrants turn into motorists, Wheeling police, the local Jaycees and Mothers Against Drunk Driving are working to convince those motorists not to drink before they put their cars in drive this holiday season.

The police department, along with MADD and the Jaycees are sponsoring the "Tie One On" program that will feature red ribbons tied to cars of drivers watching what they drink when they drive. MADD of Illinois administrator Marti Page said the program will hopefully bring about a "less violent holiday season" on the state's highways.

In the United States last year, Page said 2,432 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve. In Illinois in 1988, 850 people lost their lives in alcohol-related "crashes", Page said.

Page said MADD refers to traffic incidents as "crashes" whenever alcohol is involved.

"MOST PEOPLE understand that it is not an accident," Page said. "There is a cause for this and the cause is drunk driving."

For the first time since the program began four years ago, the Wheeling Police Department is putting the ribbons on its squad cars and offering the ribbons in the department lobby.

"It's just a reminder to everyone of the program," Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said. It goes along with the department's policy "that people not

(Continued on page 16)



(From left to right) Sharon Rubly of the Wheeling Jaycees, Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger and Kathy Clements of Mothers Against Drunk Driving

show their support for the Tie One On program aimed at getting drunk drivers off the road this holiday season. (Staff photo by Bill Oakes)

Drunk —

(Continued from page 9)
drive drunk."

The ribbon program, sponsored in part by the Wheeling Jaycees, got some unusual help. Page said second-time drunken driving offenders were used to cut the ribbons and staple them to cards.

ALTHOUGH THE POLICE department hopes people do not drink and drive this holiday season, Haeger said the department will increase its patrols for drunk drivers in the village. And a red ribbon will not stop police from stopping anyone they think is driving drunk, he said.

Page, who was struck by a car driven by a drunk driver 20 years ago, said programs such as the "Tie One On" program will help in raising awareness that drunk driving, unlike other tragedies, can be avoided.

The Buffalo Grove Police Department has participated in the Tie One On program for the past two years, according to Cmdr. Gary Del Re. The police department in Buffalo Grove, Del Re said, takes drunk drivers "pretty seriously," scheduling an extra patrol of officers during the holiday season during what he called the prime-time DUI hours of 10 p.m. to 3 a.m.

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT also prepares area liquor merchants on how to deal with the holiday drinking season. On Dec. 20, the department will host an alcohol awareness program for all establishments in Buffalo Grove that sell liquor.

Village narrows choices for police commander posts

COUNTRYSIDE
Wheeling trustees Monday decided on a testing agency to evaluate the final 10 candidates for the two newly-created commander posts within the Wheeling Police Department.

The board's decision sets in motion the process that will produce the extra layer of administration the department hierarchy and trustees have wanted since they approved the new positions last summer.

Nearly 125 officers from the village, state and around the country have applied for the two positions, police Chief Michael F. Haeger said. A preliminary review has whittled that number to 10 final candidates, he said.

The board Monday tapped the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) to administer the exercises and evaluations that will be used to determine those officers that will be hired.

HAEGER SAID THE tests will be given next January and that he hopes the new commanders will start by March 1.

The commanders are expected to relieve the pressure on deputy chiefs Michael Hermes and Gary O'Rourke while providing supervision over the eight sergeants. They will earn salaries between \$45,000 and \$48,000 a year, Haeger said.

Although Anderson took the commander positions out of Haeger's 1989-90 budget requests last February, the board approved the positions this summer after a number of disciplinary actions were taken against several police officers.

As part of the agreement approved Monday, the village will pay the IACP \$7,200 to analyze the job description, administer the tests, train the public safety officials who will assess the candidates and score the candidates.

Army Corps helps balefill protesters

Monday, Dec. 11, 1987

By DANIELLE ACETO
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Shifting their fight to the federal arena, opponents of the proposed Bartlett balefill project are calling on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to hold public hearings and conduct an in-depth study assessing the potential impact on wildlife and the environment.

It is the latest in a series of attempts by some federal, state and local officials to squelch plans by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County to build the garbage dump on 142 acres near West Bartlett and Gifford roads in unincorporated Hanover Township.

"What we're hoping for is, if we keep saying it long enough and loud enough, someone is going to hear us," said Mary Byrne, vice president of Citizens Against the Balefill. "... we will see justice — and we will find this justice through the federal agencies."

State environmental officials last month awarded SWANCC a construction permit, leaving the agency with one last major hurdle to overcome before actual work can begin at the site.

That hurdle — approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — now is the target of protesters who maintain the balefill will contaminate a nearby water supply, as well as threaten endangered species of

birds and plants they say exist at the site.

"Now this battle moves to the U.S. Army Corps," said U.S. Rep. J. Dennis Hastert, who organized the call to arms. "I am confident any environmental study will turn the site down on its wetland impact and threatened and endangered species impact."

But SWANCC officials are confident an approval will be forthcoming once a permit application is submitted to the Corps next month. They called opponents' latest strategy an attempt to delay the project.

"They are more concerned with delaying the project than with any search for an environmental truth," SWANCC Executive Director William Abolt said.

Once SWANCC submits its application, the Corps will consult with state and federal environmental agencies, review the data, entertain public commentary and conduct an environmental assessment.

Neither public hearings, nor the Environmental Impact Statement — a longer, more-detailed version of the assessment study — that opponents are requesting, are required of the Corps by law, though officials believe a round of hearings are likely to follow.

"We're not going to drag our feet, but we're not going to rush into anything either," Corps spokeswoman Evelyn Schiele said.

Village scrutinizes plans through special use criteria

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

COUNTRYSIDE
12-7-89
After residents complained about the increasing number of shopping centers being built in the village, Wheeling trustees last year asked the village staff what it could do to limit the future construction of the centers.

After looking at its options, the planning staff knew it could not abolish shopping centers. That would be against the law.

Instead, the staff proposed, and the board approved, putting shopping centers in a new zoning classification that now makes developers jump through an additional six hoops if they want to get village approval.

The special use permit, increasingly employed as a positive planning tool, has allowed municipal leaders to take a more subjective look at developments to determine whether the community needs them.

And as Wheeling prepares to review one of the most controversial proposed facilities in recent memory, the special use permit will allow trustees to take a close look at whether they feel Safety-Kleen Corp.'s hazardous waste storage plant is welcome.

With the Safety-Kleen facility again set for review after a brief delay, the plan commission and trustees will force the company to prove its site meets a host of conditions established by the village.

IN PUTTING THE shopping centers in this category, the village now requires that developers prove that such a facility, among other things, is convenient for the community, does not have a negative impact on traffic and does not alter the area in which it exists.

"If they didn't have a special use, people would be a lot more likely to offer the minimum of the village code," said Bob Sullivan, Wheeling's village planner.

And that minimum may be far below the standards the village wants when it comes to approving restaurants, taverns, private health clubs and day care centers.

Rather than just make sure it is the required distance from property lines, the village now decides the project on more subjective qualities. In doing so, communities like Wheeling and Buffalo

Grove can be more selective in which projects are built — and how.

SEVERAL TIMES OVER the last six months, Wheeling trustees have either approved or denied businesses applying for special use permits. A carry-out pizza restaurant and a truck leasing operation were both denied permits. The board members argued they did not provide for the public convenience, one of the six additional criteria a developer must meet.

In another instance, the board granted a special use to a carry-out pizza restaurant on Milwaukee Avenue, but ordered restrictions in the building size that is now scheduled for discussion before the plan commission.

Next year, the village board will decide whether Safety-Kleen Corp. will be allowed to build its proposed hazardous material storage facility on Hintz Road. The company wants to build a tank farm where it could temporarily store waste oil, anti-freeze and mineral spirits before being sent to other plants for recycling.

Because of the nature of its operation, the Safety-Kleen facility must face additional scrutiny from the village. At the first public hearing on the facility, plan commissioners and residents argued that the company was not convenient for the public.

"**IN THE** general, overall plan, we found there were things that weren't the best for the village but we weren't able to regulate (them)," Village President Sheila Schultz said.

In the case of the shopping centers, which are allowed uses in most business zones but now a special use in others, Schultz said the new rules make it easier for the village to control development.

Before the board's recent action, trustees still had the right to question a particular shopping center. "But if they met the zoning requirements, we had no choice but to approve it," Schultz said.

THE SPECIAL USE provides another layer of "control" whereby trustees can demand that certain aspects of a project, from landscaping and parking to hours of operation, be changed to meet the criteria. (For a listing of those criteria, see related story.)

Special use criteria holds developers to set of pre-established standards

In order to secure a special use permit from the village, and thus get approval to build, the prospective developer must prove that his plan meets six additional criteria.

Those six factors are the teeth of the special use ordinance, allowing the village to demand changes in a development so that those criteria are met.

- A developer must prove that:
- The special use is necessary for the public convenience at that location.
 - The special use will not alter the essential character of the locality in which it is to be located.
 - The location and size of the special use, the nature and intensity of the operation involved in or conducted in connection with it, the size of the site in relation to it, and the location of the site with respect to streets giving access to it, shall be such that it will be in

harmony with the appropriate and orderly development of the district in which it is to be located.

- The location, nature and height of buildings, walls, and fences, and the nature and extent of the landscaping on the site shall be such that the use will not hinder or discourage the appropriate development and use of adjacent land and buildings will not impair the value thereof.

- Parking areas shall be of adequate size and for the particular use, properly located, and suitably screened from adjoining residential uses, and the entrance and exit drives shall be laid out so as to prevent traffic hazards and nuisances.

- The property in question cannot yield a reasonable unless the special use is granted.

Trustees to discuss social services funding

Wheeling trustees will meet Monday to discuss funding for local social service agencies.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Omni Youth Services received the highest contribution of \$61,000, up 4.7 percent from the previous year, while Horizon's \$25,000 request was reduced to \$13,100, a five percent decrease from the year before.

Residents: Currently agencies complete an application, which asks whether the service is available to residents. But the answer does not determine the funding.

Applications are available at the village hall and are due back by Feb. 15. In the village's \$20 million budget, trustees allocated \$45,000 for five

Shelter received \$4,600, while the Center for the Elderly received \$1,300. Salvation Army received \$5,250, rather than the \$6,000 it requested because trustees want to keep increases at less than 5 percent for each agency.

Center for the Elderly received \$1,300. Salvation Army received \$5,250, rather than the \$6,000 it requested because trustees want to keep increases at less than 5 percent for each agency.

The top meeting
Who: Wheeling village board committees of the whole
Where: Wheeling Village Hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.
When: 8 p.m. Monday

Foes make new move against bafflefill

By Mike Nichols

A coalition of longtime opponents of a proposed bafflefill in northwest Cook County urged the Army Corps of Engineers Friday to prepare a complete environmental impact statement and hold public hearings before considering a pending request for a permit from the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County.

"What we are really asking for is the record to be fully reviewed and the gaps [in previous reviews] to be filled in by the corps," said U.S. Rep. Dennis Hastert (R., Ill.), Friday at the Bartlett Village Hall.

Both the Cook County Board, which granted a special use permit for the proposed site in Bartlett in 1987, and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, which issued a permit three weeks ago, have sanctioned the project.

Called a bafflefill because garbage would be banded before being dumped, it would be built on 142 acres in an abandoned gravel quarry.

Leaders of numerous municipalities surrounding the site, as well as local environmental groups, have long been opposed to the bafflefill, claiming the garbage could contaminate local water.

However, unless there is intervention by the federal Environmental Protection Agency or a successful challenge in federal court, the county waste agency must gain approval only from the engineer corps before beginning construction. An application is to be filed in January.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE 12/9/89

Candidates filing petitions for state and county offices

U.S. Senate
 Democrats: Incumbent Paul Simon of Ma-
 kanda.
 Republicans: Rep. Lynn Martin of Loves
 Park.

Governor
 Democrats: Attorney General Neil F. Harti-
 gan of Chicago; Larry Burgess of Chicago.
 Republicans: Secretary of State Jim Edgar
 of Charleston; Burr Ridge Village Trustee Robert
 A. Marshall.

Lieutenant Governor
 Democrats: Attorney James B. Burns of Ey-
 anston.
 Republicans: State Sen. Robert W. Kustra of
 Park Ridge.

Attorney General
 Democrats: Comptroller Roland W. Borris of
 Chicago.
 Republicans: DuPage County State's Attor-
 ney James E. Ryan of Bensenville.

Secretary of State
 Democrats: State Treasurer Jerome Cosenti-
 no of Palos Heights.
 Republicans: Lt. Gov. George H. Ryan of
 Kankakee.

State Comptroller
 Democrats: State Sen. Dawn Clark Netsch of
 Chicago; State Rep. Woods Bowman of Chi-
 cago; Kane County Democratic Chairman Wil-
 liam R. Sarto of Elgin; Attorney Shawn Collins
 of Joliet.

State Treasurer
 Democrats: State Rep. Peg McDonnell Bres-
 lin of Ottawa; State Rep. Thomas J. Homer of
 Canton; Patrick Quinn of Chicago, head of Coa-
 lition for Political Honesty.
 Republicans: Former state Transportation
 Secretary Gregory W. Baise of Springfield.

U.S. House — 10th
 Republicans: Incumbent John E. Porter of
 Winnetka.

U.S. House — 12th
 Republican: Incumbent Philip M. Crane of
 Mount Prospect.

ILLINOIS HOUSE
54th District
 Democrats: Nancy Riesco of Arlington Heights.
 Republicans: Incumbent Bernard E. Peder-
 sen of Palatine; businessman James E. Wirth of
 Palatine.

58th District
 Democrats: Incumbent Grace Mary Stern of
 Highland Park.

60th District
 Republicans: Incumbent William E. Peterson
 of Long Grove.

66th District
 Republicans: Incumbent James M. Kirkland
 of Elgin.

ILLINOIS SENATE
26th District
 Democrats: Incumbent Gregory Zito of Mel-
 rose Park.

29th District
 Republicans: Incumbent Roger A. Keats of
 Glencoe.

Supreme Court — 1st
 Democrats: James Francis Collins, Schaumburg;
 Appellate Judge Dom J. Rizzi, North-
 brook; Appellate Judge Charles E. Freeman,
 Chicago; Circuit Judge James M. Bailey, West-
 chester; Circuit Judge William Cousins Jr., Chi-
 cago.

COOK COUNTY
County Board President
 Democrats: County Clerk Stanley T. Kasper
 Jr. of Chicago; State Sen. Ted Lechowicz of Chi-
 cago; attorney Richard J. Phelan of Winnetka.

State's Attorney
 Democrats: Incumbent Cecil A. Partee of
 Chicago; former Chicago School Board Presi-
 dent Raul A. Villalobos; Chicago Alderman Pat-
 rick J. O'Connor; former Assistant U.S. Attor-
 ney Ray J. Smith of Chicago.

Assessor
 Democrats: Incumbent Thomas C. Hynes;
 County Clerk

County Clerk
 Democrats: State Rep. Calvin R. Sutter of
 Skokie; Water Reclamation District Commis-

stoner Joanne H. Alter of Chicago.
Sheriff
 Democrats: Chicago Alderman Michael F.
 Sheahan.

County Treasurer
 Democrats: Incumbent Edward J. Rosewell.
Regional Superintendent
 Democrats: Incumbent Richard J. Martwick.
Board of Appeals*
 Democrats: Incumbent Wilson Frost of Chi-
 cago; incumbent Joseph Berrios; Edward J.
 Schumann.

Cook County Board — Suburbs*
 Democrats: Thomas M. O'Donnell of Park
 Forest; Sheila H. Schultz of Wheeling; Law-
 rence G. Zdzarsky of Berwyn; Pat Peter Capuzzi
 of Midlothian; Edward C. Reinfrack of Evan-
 ston; Ervin F. Kozicki of Hickory Hills; Patricia
 Kane McLaughlin of Palos Park.

Republicans: William L. Russ of Berwyn; in-
 cumbent Carl R. Hansen of Mount Prospect;
 incumbent Richard A. Siebel of Northbrook; in-
 cumbent Allan C. Carr of Cicero; incumbent
 Harold L. Tyrrell of Westchester; incumbent
 Mary M. McDonald of Lincolnwood; Aldo A.
 DeAngelis of Olympia Fields; Herbert T.
 Schumann Jr. of Palos Hills.

Water Reclamation District*
 Democrats: Incumbent Thomas S. Fuller; in-
 cumbent Frank Edward Gardner; James
 Charles Kirie; Louis Viverito; Joseph J. McCar-
 thy; Kathleen Therese Meany.

COMMITTEEMAN
Palatine Township
 Democrats: Incumbent Walter "Jerry" Ken-
 dall; James P. Sheehan.

Republicans: Donald E. Tetzlaff; incumbent
 Bernard E. Pedersen.

Wheeling Township
 Democrats: Incumbent Eugenia S. Chapman
 Republicans: Incumbent Robert H. Conway.

LAKE COUNTY
County Treasurer
 Republicans: Incumbent Jack "Red" Ander-
 son of Gurnee.
 Democrats: Tax accountant Sander Stagman
 of Highland Park.

Sheriff
 Republicans: Incumbent Clinton O. Grinnell
 of Mundelein.

Regional Superintendent
 Republicans: Incumbent Sybil Yastrow of
 Deerfield.

LAKE COUNTY BOARD*
District Five
 Republicans: Incumbent Carol Calabrese of
 Libertyville; Vernon Hills Trustee Pamela O.
 Newton; Warren Township Supervisor Robert
 W. Depke of Gurnee.

Lake County Board, District Six
 Republicans: Incumbent John P. Reindl of
 Mundelein; Incumbent E. Bruce Hansen of
 Lake Zurich; Ela Township Supervisor Robert
 L. Grever of Lake Zurich; Wauconda Fire Dis-
 trict Trustee Howard Bieze of Round Lake.

*Two seats are open on the Cook County
 Board of (Tax) Appeals and in each Lake County
 Board district. Seven suburban seats are
 open on the Cook County Board; three seats are
 open on the Metropolitan Water Reclamation
 District.

Wheeling rejects rules for social agencies

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees will continue the village's open policy for allocating money to local social service agencies.

Trustees considered adopting criteria — like other local governments — that agencies would follow in order to receive funding. But board members rejected the idea Monday so that they could continue learning about services that are available.

Each year, social service agencies submit applications and appear before the village board seeking money for the coming year. The money comes directly from local village taxes. Several agen-

cies also are funded by state agencies, townships, private businesses and contributions.

Although Wheeling's eight-page application asks agencies what services they provide for the village, how their money is spent and how the agency is funded, the answers do not determine their allocation.

Wheeling Township requires agencies provide services for needy township residents to be eligible.

"I find that having it open has been very informative," Trustee Anthony Altieri said, "and that does give us an opportunity to see if some of these agencies have been duplicating efforts and whether we should fund them."

While village board members weighed the question of criteria, Trustee William A. Rogers suggested the village simply allocate the money to the township to distribute rather than require the agencies to plead their cases before several boards each year.

"There seems to be a mass load of agencies that everyone is funding," Rogers said. "It seems like a disjointed effort."

Last year, the village allocated \$85,250 for five agencies.

Omni Youth Services received \$61,000; Horizons Children's Center received \$13,100; Salvation Army received \$5,250; Shelter Inc. received \$4,600 and Resource Center for the Elderly received \$1,300.

Rogers, pilots group meet, but can't resolve differences

By Mike Wilkinson
 Staff Writer

All is not completely forgotten between members of the Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association (PAPA) and Wheeling Trustee Bill Rogers.

After a pair of meetings between PAPA officials and Rogers designed to clear the air between the two, the trustee and the pilots group are still having their differences.

PAPA political chairman Chuck Greenhill said Tuesday that although PAPA met with Rogers to discuss the village trustee's views on the airport, he still thinks Rogers should resign from the airport commission, a PAPA contention that caused the meeting to take place.

And at a village workshop meeting Monday night, Rogers called it "regrettable" that a recent PAPA newsletter claimed that Rogers had refused to sit down and discuss airport issues with the group. He said that was untrue.

"COMMENTS LIKE this really take a smile off your face when you get them because they really aren't true," Rogers said.

The two sides met Dec. 6 at a PAPA board meeting to discuss their differences. It was the first formal meeting between the two sides since PAPA called for Rogers to resign from the airport commission. PAPA officials said Rogers' positions were "anti-airport" and were hindering the progress at the municipally-owned facility.

Greenhill also had a less formal meeting with Rogers before the Dec. 6 meeting. Greenhill said Tuesday he was "a little disappointed" with his breakfast with Rogers.

Right after the meeting, both sides said the 45-minute discussion, in which Rogers outlined his past and current positions and PAPA expressed its airport concerns, was fruitful. Axelrod said it opened up new dialogue and Rogers said he felt PAPA and he better understood each other.

BUT THE MUTUAL understanding which seemed to develop at the Dec. 6 meeting appears to have unraveled since then. At a village workshop meeting Monday, Rogers said the most recent PAPA newsletter claimed he did not want to attend the PAPA-Rogers meeting. The newsletter claims that at a breakfast meeting with Greenhill, Rogers "refused to listen to or discuss the matter further."

And Tuesday, Greenhill said that although he understands Rogers' positions, he said he still thinks Rogers should resign from the commission. Greenhill said Rogers' positions on airport development are sending bad signals to state and federal officials who approve the majority of funding for the airport.

At the center of the controversy is Rogers' positions as a member of the airport commission. The airport commission, consisting of members appointed by the municipal boards of Prospect

Developers seeking approval for construction on park land

Friday - 12-15-89
 BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Two Skokie developers are negotiating with Wheeling Park District officials for the release of two acres designated as park land.

Developers Tom Kelly and Kevin Moran bought the Wheeling property 10 years ago but never developed the vacant land.

The land, located at Buffalo Grove and Lakeview Drive, is designated for parks, which means the park district has the option to buy the land, condemn it or seek a cash donation from the developers to release the restriction for development. The park district has one year from the time the village approves a development plan for the park-designated property to make a decision.

Although the village does not have a developer donation ordinance, the park district can muscle impact fees or land donations from developers on property not designated for parks.

Moran said he and his partner had planned to build a small housing development on the land in 1980 but held off during the recession. Al-

though the park district released the hold on the property in 1986, Moran said, village officials recently said the park district still had an option on the land.

The then-park officials may have indicated they did not want the land, but officials have one year after the village approves a developer's preliminary plans to decide on the fate of park-designated land. And the Skokie developers have not submitted a plan to the village.

The developers said they wanted to start construction on 24 condominiums this spring on the property.

"In my opinion, this is very unfair," Kelly said. "We're in a bind right now. We've hired an architect and we want to proceed."

"We don't have a problem with being a good neighbor," park board President Tom R. Webber said. "We don't want to drag our feet. We'd be more than happy to agree to a decision."

Park district Manager Karop Bavouglan said the two sides are negotiating. The park district likely will seek a cash contribution in lieu of the land since it's too small for a park, Bavouglan added.

Differences —

(Continued from page 12)

Heights and Wheeling, recommends action on airport issues.

The airport was purchased from Charles Priester in 1984 by both Wheeling and Prospect Heights, a purchase that was largely made possible by obtaining federal and state aviation funds.

PAPA HAS CLAIMED that Rogers has taken positions that have hurt the airport secure the necessary funding for improvements. PAPA president Barry Axelrod and Greenhill have said a more "positive" person should sit on the airport commission.

Rogers struck back, claiming the group misrepresented his positions on airport operations. In defending himself, Rogers called for the meeting that took place Dec. 6 at the airport offices. Monday, Rogers said the meeting went well.

On Friday, Axelrod agreed, saying the meeting opened new dialogue

between the pilots group and Rogers.

"We saw that where there were some mistakes on our part (were) and there were some mistakes on his part," Axelrod said. "I'm not going to say we're going to agree on everything, but we had a good dialogue."

ROGERS SAID THE conversation provided a dialogue that showed both sides will not always agree.

"That's what I explained to them," Rogers said. "I wasn't there to approve everything that was offered." Later, he said: "I still think there are some fundamental differences and I think there will be."

But now, after the PAPA newsletter hit the street and Greenhill has again said Rogers should resign, the battle lines between the two groups remain entrenched. Rogers said he will not resign from the commission and Village President Sheila Schultz said she would not ask for Rogers' resignation.

(Continued on page 23)



Jeff Hamlet of Safety-Kleen moves a barrel of mineral solvent that is used to clean parts in auto related businesses. (Staff photo by Geoff Scheerer)

There's more than hazardous waste to Safety-Kleen story

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Throughout Wheeling's industrial parks and at the numerous automotive dealer and repair shops in the village, hazardous waste products are used and generated each day.

Mineral solvents clean dirty machine parts; automotive oil ensures that engines run smoothly; dry cleaning compounds get the dirt out of clothing.

But for years, the disposal — proper or otherwise — of those products has always been an issue, either with the generator's pocketbook or the federal government's environmentalists.

For Jeff Hamlet, an employee of Safety-Kleen Corp., his job and his company are providing a valuable service. The company picks up gallons and tons of hazardous waste each week, and recycles it into useful products for its clients.

IT IS A legal alternative to the back alley and open drain dumping that often preceded Safety-Kleen contracts.

"All we're trying to do is take care of it," Hamlet said. "There's a lot of waste generated out there."

"It was common, prior to regulation, to put it right in the alley, or put it (hazardous waste) in the waste oil and have the waste hauler take care of it, which wasn't proper," said Paul Pederson, an environmental engineer for the company.

One of the largest companies offering that service, Safety-Kleen Corp., of Elgin, has numerous accounts in Wheeling's industrial and commercial areas. With its business expanding, the company has proposed to build a hazardous waste storage facility off Hintz Road. The facility would replace an aging and smaller site in Arlington Heights.

SAFETY-KLEEN IS now asking the village to approve plans for a 10-acre hazardous waste storage facility off Hintz Road. After an initial delay, the proposed facility should gain village consideration early next year.

Those plans have caused an uproar among nearby residents and businesses who have objected to building the facility in Wheeling. The organized protesters have said the facility is a potential environmental time bomb.

At an October plan commission meeting, more than 110 residents and business people showed their disapproval of the facility when they jammed the village hall and called for careful review — and denial — of the project.

But company officials, that night and since, have argued that Safety-Kleen, started in 1968, offers recycling of hazardous waste that in the past routinely were not put in their proper place.

"WE'RE NOT talking about stuff generated from a nuclear facility," projects manager Ray Karass told the plan commission. "We're talking about things generated in your community, in homes, businesses and car dealerships."

Monday, Hamlet completed a run at the Septran company on Foster Avenue in the southeast portion of the village, exchanging a dirty drum of mineral solvent with a clean one. The petroleum distilleries are used by Septran mechanics to clean oily and dirty parts.

While Hamlet was busy replacing a filter and cleaning the solvent basin, a Septran mechanic confirmed what Pederson and other Safety-Kleen officials said: That, yes, vacant lots were the recipient of the spent waste oil and mineral solvents a machine shop would generate.

Hamlet agreed. "This is really a

(Continued on page 18)

Safety-Kleen —

(Continued from page 8)

valuable because a lot of guys would just walk along the weeds and dump it — and some of them still do," he said.

SAFETY-KLEEN PUBLIC Affairs Manager Rick Miller said that his company is not in the disposal business. After picking up solvents, waste oil or anti-freeze, the company finds recycling centers that can revitalize the product or produce a secondary product.

The greatest portion, 80 percent, of the Safety-Kleen business is the mineral solvents used at businesses like Septran. Miller said the company takes the suspended oil out of the solvents and then sells it back to the end user. The remaining "dirty" oils are combined with another fuel oil and sold to cement makers.

"What we're looking at is a

substantial portion of our waste is recycled," Miller said. The company is licensed to dispose hazardous waste, Miller said.

After listening to more than four hours of testimony in October, a tired but upbeat Pederson offered this to the audience. "We recognize, and people make it clear, that it is not a popular endeavor," he said. "(But) if it's (hazardous waste) going to be out there and somebody has to collect it, take a look at what we proposed ... and weigh it on its merits."

THAT EXAMINATION PROCESS, while it is only just beginning, could have a lot to do with whether Safety-Kleen will be able to build in Wheeling.

Village sets guidelines for social service fund requests

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Wheeling social service agencies looking to get bigger contributions from the village will again have to sign up early and prepare to sell trustees on the merit of their organizations.

At a workshop meeting Monday scheduled to discuss the continued municipal funding of social service agencies, trustees decided to continue on the current path of reviewing requests each year at budget time.

Board members also discussed the possibility of hiring a social worker for the police department, an employee that Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said the department would find invaluable.

Trustees called for the open-ended discussion after watching village contributions — and the number of funding requests — increase over the past several years.

THE VILLAGE HAS spent an additional 41 percent on social service agencies since the 1987-88 fiscal year. By the end of the current fiscal year, the village is expected to contribute \$85,250 to five local agencies, with the bulk of the money, \$61,000, going to Omni Youth Services.

Village Manager Craig Anderson conducted an informal survey of area municipalities to determine if any spending patterns existed. That survey revealed that there are no strict guidelines. Buffalo Grove contributed \$61,000 last year, all to Omni Youth Services, Niles contributed \$252,000 to

Niles Family Services, and Mount Prospect contributed \$18,500.

"I was hoping to see a magic number, like everyone gives \$100,000," Anderson said. "But that's not the case."

Trustees acknowledged that they could spend much more than they do now, given the number of agencies and the needs of those groups. But without putting a cap on spending next year, the board said it would again accept applications for funding.

APPLICANTS MUST ALSO make formal presentations to trustees telling them services they provide.

Trustee Bill Rogers said the village might consider giving its money to a larger body like the township and have township trustees distribute the money. But Anderson said that policy would not be what trustees want.

"If I'm going to give out X amount of dollars, I'd feel more comfortable having them come into here (the village hall)," Anderson said.

The potential for a social worker in the police department consumed much of the board's discussion. Haeger told the board that his office now coordinates many of the needs of people who contact the police department.

"I REALLY don't have time to be a coordinating social services worker," Haeger told the board.

The police chief also told trustees that although Omni Youth Services offers crisis intervention for youths, the department does not have an adult crisis

(Continued on page 24)

Requests —

(Continued from page 15)

social worker to turn to. He said having someone to fill that role would relieve the burden on his office while providing an invaluable service for the village.

Village President Sheila Schultz said Tuesday the board may discuss adding a social worker when it looks at the 1990-91 budget next year. But Monday, she said that worker could not be considered a replacement for the services the village gets from its contributions.

"It would have to be in addition to,

not instead of," Schultz said.

TRUSTEE JAMES WHITTINGTON, like other trustees, said the board will have to continue looking at the agencies and try to determine the benefit the village receives.

But he said the board should not try just to decide if every dollar spent saves the village another dollar it would have spent to provide the same service.

"Besides the economic benefit, we must ask ourselves how interested are we in the quality of life for all the people of Wheeling," Whittington said.

1988
HERALD - 12-15-88
PUBLIC SPEAKING

There seems to be a mass load of agencies that everyone is funding. It seems like a disjointed effort. — Wheeling Trustee William A. Rogers commenting on a board decision to continue the village's open policy for allocating money to local social service agencies. Last year the village allocated \$82,250 which was split between Omni Youth Services, Horizons Children's Center, the Salvation Army, Shelter Inc. and Resource Center for the Elderly.

Reassessments will not be out before holidays

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Wheeling home and condominium owners will be able to dig into the holiday bird knowing they don't have to fear the mailman for at least a week. The Cook County Assessor's office announced Wednesday afternoon that in a bid to ease the pressure on homeowners during the holidays, property reassessment notices won't be mailed until after Christmas.

Dick Vanecko, spokesman for Assessor Thomas Hynes, said the upcoming holidays were an "inconvenient time" to mail the notices.

But owners of commercial, industrial and large multi-family properties should get their bills by Friday, Vanecko said. The assessor's office mailed those notices yesterday (Wednesday), he said.

For Wheeling Township Assessor Dolores Stephan, Vanecko's announcement was good news.

"NOW I'll be able to enjoy the holidays," Stephan said. Fearing a deluge of complaints from homeowners, Stephan said she had been unsure when the reassessment notices would create a flood of protest.

Vanecko said the remaining notices will be mailed after Dec. 25 and before the end of January.

The property reassessments, the first in Wheeling Township since 1984, have caused widespread fear that huge increases could generate larger-than-expected tax bills next year. Although the 1984 reassessment spurred a 12 percent jump in the value of property in the Village of Wheeling, neither Stephan or Vanecko would say how much this year's assessments would go up.

Although Stephan said Wheeling Township had never waited this late in a reassessment year before getting its notices, Vanecko said this year's process, which included the reassessment of 13 townships, was ahead of schedule.

"IT'S NOT unusual, they're often not out (by the first of the year)," Vanecko said. "We're ahead of schedule."

Assessor Thomas Hynes' office has already issued reassessments for five of the 13 north suburban townships up for review this year. Last year, the assessor's office reassessed the City of Chicago.

The impact of the reassessment won't be known until the average size of the jump is determined and until all taxing bodies finalize their tax requests. If those taxing bodies ask for the same amounts of dollars as they did last year, the reassessment would boost Wheeling taxes only slightly as the township and its reassessment peers pick up a greater portion of county taxes.

Already, High School District 214 has kept its tax dollar request the same as last year, while Wheeling trustees approved a 22 percent drop in the village levy. The Wheeling Park District is seeking 6 percent more dollars. Community Consolidated District 21, the largest taxing body in the village, has asked for a 7.7 percent increase in taxes.

Wheeling's donations impress Goodwill

2-16-89
By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling residents contributed quality items to a new charity collection program started in the village this month.

Employees at Goodwill Industries of Chicago, who collected 10,000 pounds of donations from Wheeling residents last week, say the contributions also set records as being of the highest quality the charity has ever received.

Under the program, which is believed to be the first of its kind in the nation, Goodwill truck drivers follow the village's disposal company trucks on recycling days, which in Wheeling are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Once a month, Goodwill will tag along with Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal to collect white charity-labeled bags containing the reusable goods, which include old clothes, accessories, shoes, toys, books, kitchen utensils and small working appliances.

For Wheeling residents, "reusable" meant a full-length rabbit fur coat, china, toasters and many women's and children's clothes.

The clothes were "very clean," said Doyle Myles, Goodwill's production foreman. "A lot of times we get clothes that look like they were just pulled out of a closet or basement somewhere. But these looked like they were just washed."

Over the three-day collection

week, 16.4 percent of Wheeling residents participated in the program's first run. Goodwill officials say they expected a higher participation rate, but were encouraged by the quality of goods they received.

Only 12.5 percent of the donations were discarded because they were torn, broken or unusable, which is "a new record" for the charity, said Robert P. McMahon, vice president of operations for Goodwill. Typically, about 35 percent of the donations the charity receives must be thrown out.

Goodwill donations are resold in the non-profit agency's retail stores in Chicago and profits are used for vocational training for the disadvantaged and disabled.

Tuesday, December 19, 1989 Wheeling seeks to speed land annexation

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees want to annex land as soon as possible after it is acquired for Palwaukee Municipal Airport.

Owners of the airport, Wheeling and Prospect Heights, have acquired or are in the process of acquiring parcels of land on the east and north sides of the airport. The land is needed to comply with Federal Aviation Administration guidelines to provide sufficient space around runways.

However, the acquired land, which is in unincorporated Cook County, has not yet been annexed to Wheeling. Village officials say at least eight parcels could be added to the village limits.

Wheeling trustees and Prospect Heights aldermen unanimously agreed in separate meetings Monday to start condemning three parcels of land near the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection, which must be moved west to create a "clear zone" to comply with FAA rules. Airport and property owners have been unable to reach an agreement over land values.

Trustee William A. Rogers and other village board members requested to start the annexation process immediately on already-acquired land to the east and on other other land as soon as the airport acquires it.

"We have made such a point of having it annexed," village President Sheila H. Schultz said, "and not doing that as quickly as possible makes me a little nervous... as soon as we get something we should annex it."

Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said he had planned to wait and annex a "bundle" of parcels rather than "piecemeal" to consolidate the process.

Under an agreement between the two municipalities, several east-side parcels would be annexed by Wheeling. The airport also would buy other parcels of land needed for the airport improvements, use only the minimum amount of land required for the improvements and sell the remaining land for commercial use, annexing it to Wheeling.

Wednesday, Dec. 20, 1989

City stalls on airport equipment purchase

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The purchase of snow removal equipment for Palwaukee Municipal Airport will be delayed now that Prospect Heights aldermen have rejected the \$608,300 proposed purchase.

Although Wheeling trustees approved buying the equipment, aldermen questioned why the equipment should be purchased now for next winter and how they would pay for the equipment. Aldermen tabled the measure until next month.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights, which own the airport, had intended to terminate their three-year contract with Priester Aviation

Services and take over maintenance of the field by Jan. 1.

However, airport officials were unable to work out details of the change in time for next month. Commissioners will vote today to extend Priester's contract until the airport buys the equipment.

The communities pay Priester about \$250,000 a year to maintain airport grounds. Besides convenience, commissioners hope long-term costs for equipment and employees' salaries would be less than or equal to what they are now paying Priester.

The proposed equipment purchase includes two snowplows and one salt spreader from Temco Equipment for \$280,305, one multi-purpose snowbroom vehicle

from Schmidt Equipment for \$168,095 and one snowblower from Schmidt Equipment for \$159,900.

Wheeling trustees approved the purchase contingent on securing financing. The airport would borrow the money from a bank, which has not yet been determined, and repay the loan with airport revenues over a number of years.

"The city is not interested in passing a resolution that accepts those bids because when you accept those bids, you're essentially purchasing those items," Commission Chairman Carey L. Chickerno, of Prospect Heights, said. "How can we purchase those items if we don't have the financing down?"

Business rules, licenses on housing amended

Wheeling trustees have agreed to amend the village's business regulations and licenses for fair housing. The amendment eliminates sections which allow the village to license real estate service providers. Because the provision was nullified several years ago by state courts, the village changed the ordinance to comply with the new laws.

Some occupations which may be state-regulated, such as physicians, hairdressers and real estate agents, may not be licensed by local municipalities, the new law states.

In addition, a provision including handicapped persons and families with children was added to the section for persons protected by the fair housing ordinance.

W.L. Dec. 20, 1989
WHEELING VILLAGE
BOARD NOTES

Law ensures collections go to proper charity

Wheeling trustees are making sure that items donated to Goodwill Industries during monthly curbside collections go only to that charity.

Trustees unanimously have agreed to make it illegal for anyone other than Goodwill or Waste Management, Inc. employees to remove reusable or recyclable materials placed at curbs for collection.

Waste Management and Goodwill earlier this month held their first run of a pilot program in Wheeling that combines the curbside collection of reusable goods, such as clothes, toys and small appliances, with recyclables, including glass, newspaper and aluminum.

The new law, added to the village's health and sanitation code, states that violators could be fined up to \$500 for removing items placed in proper containers for the scavenger pick ups.

Commission backs approval of Wa-Pa-Ghetti's move

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

COUNTRYSIDE
12-21-89
After working with the village planning staff and the plan commission, Wheeling pizza maker Joe Mastrototaro gained preliminary approval to build a new restaurant on Milwaukee Avenue.

Plan commissioners agreed to changes that they hope will minimize the impact on neighboring apartment dwellers and the single-family home development behind the proposed office building that would house the pizzeria.

The building proposal will go to the village board for final consideration.

Mastrototaro, who operates Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza on Dundee Road, just west of Wolf Road, agreed to put his restaurant in the southern end of the building, located at the northwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Mors Avenue.

In addition, Mastrototaro said he would enclose a garbage area and place that structure at the south end of the building. Both changes reduced the impact on the residents to the north, the plan commission said.

"That makes this whole thing a lot more palatable to me," chairman Paul Eisterhold said.

VILLAGE TRUSTEES GRANTED approval to put the restaurant on Milwaukee Avenue after the village staff recommended against Mastrototaro's proposal. Trustee Bill Rogers condemned the plan, saying the pizza restaurant would disrupt village plans to upgrade Milwaukee Avenue's commercial district.

But while Rogers said the proposed restaurant did not fit the village plans for the area, a majority of trustees granted Mastrototaro approval, saying

his restaurant would be a much-needed improvement over the vacant gas station occupying the corner.

In returning to the plan commission, Mastrototaro was trying to assuage the concerns of the village staff and the trustees who approved the location of the restaurant.

Gary Zuck, owner of some of the townhomes to the north of the property, said the changes in the plan helped minimize the light, noise and garbage odors his tenants would have been exposed to.

"I'M NOT necessarily in favor of the proposal, but it's better than it was," Zuck said.

Zuck's attorney told the board that Mastrototaro's drawings did not accurately represent the distance between the proposed restaurant and the apartment buildings. He also said the project included a trash area that appeared "too big."

When the changes were finally hammered out, that trash area was reduced, made part of the building and put on the south side of the proposed structure.

Before Mastrototaro can begin building, he must first gain final approval of his site plan from the village board. That review will likely come in January, Village Manager Craig Anderson said.

MASTROTOTARO'S DUNDEE Road lease runs out next year. The pizza maker said he wants to begin operating by next spring. He said he needs to expand to the proposed site, which will include space for offices, because his current store is too small.

Wheeling Shopping Center may put on a new facade

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

COUNTRYSIDE
12-21-89
Wheeling's oldest shopping center could finally be in line to get a little lift and tuck.

Plan commissioners last week approved plans to upgrade the facade, signs and landscaping at the Wheeling Shopping Center.

After 33 years on the southwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, owner Ruth Miller said it was time to improve the appearance of the center that was built in 1956, a time when Dundee Road carried only two lanes of traffic.

"It needs a facelift," Miller said. "That's what we're trying to do with this."

BEFORE MILLER HIRES a construction company, which she hopes to do next spring, she said the proposed plan must go to the village board. That hearing is expected to come in January.

The center, first built and owned by Miller's husband Glenn, was scheduled to get a new facade and signs more than five years ago. But with Glenn Miller's death in June, 1986, those plans were delayed, Ruth Miller said.

Then, after agreeing with her seven children that the improvements should proceed, Miller said she contracted with an architect and made new proposals for the facility. And after dozens of meetings and talks with village staff, the plan commission last Thursday agreed



to the changes.

In agreeing with the plan, the commission also called for an additional landscape area along Dundee Road. Although Miller said she opposed the inclusion of the green area, the plan commission appeared reluctant to approve the plan without it.

WITH THE CHANGES, Franklin Finer Foods will finally get its name in front of its store. Since buying the store from Country Dairy last year, Franklin Finer Foods has had to wait until the facade improvements were granted before it got a new sign.

In addition to owning the center, Glenn Miller was a former chairman of the Lake County Board of Commissioners, a body he sat on for 12 years, Ruth Miller said.

Resident asks District 214 to oppose Safety-Kleen plan

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

COUNTRYSIDE
12-21-89
Wheeling resident Robert Brower, attempting to drum up support for his protest against a hazardous waste storage facility proposed for Wheeling, took his concerns to the High School District 214 school board last week.

Brower asked the board to consider the dangers of the proposed Safety-Kleen Corp. facility, which the village board is expected to review this February or March.

The facility, which would be a temporary storage site for the waste oil, mineral spirits, anti-freeze and other waste products that the company recycles, has drawn a stern reaction from neighboring residents and businesses opposed to the project.

Brower asked the school board to either send a representative to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency siting hearings the village board will hold in February or March to discuss the waste storage site. He said the school board could also write a letter to the EPA within 30 days after the hearing.

"A MAJOR accident can affect all of our lives," he said.

District 214 Superintendent Steve Berry said he wanted to get more information from another source about

the hazardous chemicals, to help the board make a decision on whether it should oppose the plan by Safety-Kleen.

Berry suggested that the district should get information from the Illinois EPA before making a decision.

Board member Stan Eisenhammer said the board should investigate the concerns. He said the impact the facility could have on Wheeling High School, which is less than a mile from the proposed facility, is similar to when developers proposed a shopping center near Hersey High School that included two fast food restaurants.

IN THAT SITUATION, the school board objected to a tax enhancement plan for the shopping center. The board later reached a settlement with the City of Prospect Heights over the project.

Brower, who lives across the street from the 10-acre site proposed to house the facility, also owns and operates the Circle M children's day camp on his property. In addition to the District 214 board, Brower has called on Community Consolidated District 21 officials to investigate the project.

Safety-Kleen is proposing the facility as a replacement of its aging plant in Arlington Heights. The site would house 12 tanks that would store waste products before they are transferred to recycling facilities.

Trustees seek to acquire sites for Palwaukee

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

COUNTRYSIDE
12-21-89
With Palwaukee Municipal Airport acquiring properties surrounding the facility, Wheeling trustees Monday said they were eager to gain development control of the land by annexing it into the village.

As the board authorized the airport manager to begin condemnation proceedings against three property owners, trustees said the village should also begin the process of adding those properties to the village tax rolls.

"I think it certainly would be in our interests if it happened quickly," Trustee Bill Rogers said.

While Village Attorney James Rhodes cautioned the board to consider waiting until the airport bought several parcels and then annex them all at once, the board indicated it wanted to annex the parcels as they became available.

"I CAN see the advantage to grouping them, but I would again be uncomfortable waiting too long to do this," Village President Sheila Schultz said.

Under a watershed agreement reached with Prospect Heights City

(Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 5)

Council earlier this year, the two municipalities settled several longstanding differences, including development issues at the airport.

In that agreement, Prospect Heights agreed not to contest any annexation proceedings on airport properties that could be added to Wheeling's tax base.

Rogers said the annexations would allow the village to have control over any development on the acquired parcels. Additional hangars are rumored to be put on airport property that the airport has already purchased, Rogers said.

"I DON'T want any other bodies granting permission for what is and is

not going on that property," Rogers said. "I want the Village of Wheeling to make the decision."

As part of the Wheeling-Prospect Heights agreement, the two communities will split all revenue — property tax, utility tax, gas flowage fees — generated by airport property. That money would then go toward paying the airport's share of bills.

"So all that tax money is money that both municipalities want," Rhodes said.

Most of the airport improvements are now being funded by the Federal Aviation Administration and the Illinois Department of Transportation.

WHEELING TRUSTEES MON-

DAY said they were concerned the parcels were not annexed to the county and not to the owners.

"I would like to exercise or immediately and see if I Heights would go along with Rogers said.

When Wheeling and P Heights agreed to purchase airport in 1984, they also agreed to acquire a number of nearby to improve safety around the. Some of those properties are unincorporated Wheeling T Prospect Heights or Wheeling.

By annexing properties village, the board said it would gain access to other off

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WHEELING TRUSTEES MON-

DAY said they were concerned that if the parcels were not annexed, any future tax revenue would be diverted to the county and not to the airport owners.

"I would like to exercise our rights immediately and see if Prospect Heights would go along with us," Rogers said.

When Wheeling and Prospect Heights agreed to purchase the airport in 1984, they also agreed to acquire a number of nearby parcels to improve safety around the facility. Some of those properties are either in unincorporated Wheeling Township, Prospect Heights or Wheeling.

By annexing properties into the village, the board said it would also gain access to other off-airport

properties that are not in the village. The village, however, cannot force them into Wheeling.

BECAUSE BOTH PROSPECT Heights and Wheeling jointly own airport property that lies in unincorporated Wheeling Township, they alone determine whether the property will be annexed to either municipality.

Fred Stewart, the airport manager, said he has urged the airport commission and the municipalities to annex all five properties already acquired by the airport since 1984. He said village or city control of those properties would give the municipalities better control and give the parcels better protection.

Deadline set for fire protection agreement

12-22-89

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Prospect Heights city officials say an agreement to consolidate fire protection service within the city must occur before the end of 1990 or they will start planning for a municipal fire department.

The stance follows preliminary discussions City Administrator Robert R. Kiely has had with officials from the village of Wheeling, the Wheeling Township Rural Fire Protection District and the Prospect Heights Fire Protection District. Kiely plans to schedule a meeting for early next month with Wheeling Village Manager Craig G. Anderson.

"We are shooting to have a plan before Wheeling Rural (fire district board) in February or March," Kiely said.

The Prospect Heights City Council recently passed a resolution in support of a unified fire district. The resolution symbolizes the council's commitment, Kiely says, to the consolidation of fire protection service within the city. Prospect Heights is currently protected by four fire districts — Prospect Heights, Wheeling, Glenbrook and Forest River. The latter two cover small sections on the city's far east side.

Since it has no men or equipment, the Wheeling fire district contracts with local fire departments for service. While two-thirds of the district is located in Prospect Heights, the village of Wheeling protects most of the district.

Wheeling makes about \$370,000 a year from the Wheeling fire district for contractual services. Prospect Heights' take is about \$12,000. The disparity, Kiely says, "is not going to continue."

Aside from the money, the movement to consolidate the city's fire protection service is gaining momentum because of Prospect Heights' membership in the Northwest Central Dispatch System. Having four fire districts in the city may cause some logistical problems once the system begins dispatching for the city next year.

While Wheeling has fought the consolidation of the Wheeling and Prospect Heights fire districts by referendum, Anderson says Wheeling is now willing to support the unification effort, providing there is adequate planning.

"I think service level is the key, a higgie," Anderson says.

An agreement between the parties will include a timetable that will ensure that fire protection service does not depreciate while the Prospect Heights fire district is hiring men and buying equipment. The timetable will likely run two to four years, Kiely said.

Under that scenario, Wheeling would continue to receive money from the Wheeling fire district. The amounts, however, would drop as the Prospect Heights fire district assumes more responsibility. Wheeling and Buffalo Grove, which also has a contract with the Wheeling fire district, may end up protecting some far-flung areas in the Wheeling fire district that are closer to their fire stations.

If negotiations reach an impasse, Prospect Heights 3rd Ward Alderman Edward P. Rotchford says Prospect Heights would simply pass an ordinance establishing a municipal fire department, which would give it jurisdiction over the entire city.

The village of Wheeling and the Wheeling fire district, Kiely says, "don't believe the city is committed to a unified district."

Wheeling's Schultz to head planning agency

Herald, Thurs., 12/28/89

Wheeling Village President Sheila Schultz has been elected president of the influential Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission.

The regional urban planning agency oversees long-range planning on economics, transportation, population and the environment in the six-county Chicago metropolitan area.

Schultz, who is in her ninth year as village president of Wheeling, was first elected a NIPC commissioner

in 1985. She also is running in the Democratic primary this March for suburban Cook County board commissioner.

The term of the NIPC post runs for one year.

Other 1990 officers elected by NIPC commissioners were:

Cook County board Commissioner Jerry Butler of Chicago, vice president; McHenry County board member Dean Cunat of McHenry, secre-

tary; and Lake Barrington resident Donna Schiller, treasurer.

Lake County board member Eleanor Rostrom of Beach Park was elected vice president for planning and policy development; DuPage County board member Constance Zimmermann of Glen Ellyn was elected vice president for water quality management; and former Evanston Mayor Edgar Vanneman was elected vice president for government services.

Pizza parlor to move south

12-23-89

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Wheeling pizza parlor owner plans to move his business to the south end of a shopping center rather than the north end, where village trustees had said the building was too big for the carry-out business.

Joseph Mastrototaro, owner of Wa-Pa-Ghettis at 46 W. Dundee Road, had requested in October to move his pizza carry-out, delivery and sit-down restaurant to a center zoned for office use on the northwest corner of Mors and Milwaukee avenues.

Trustees agreed then to allow a carry-out pizza business on the property. But they rejected Wa-Pa-Ghettis's plans to move there, saying the size of the building would not leave enough room for delivery and carry-out traffic.

Village planners also said the pizza parlor would be a nuisance to adjacent homeowners and apartment dwellers with its late hours, noise, increased traffic, cooking odors and delivery vehicles.

Mastrototaro recently pared down the size of the building and also volunteered to move to the south end of the shopping center to accommodate nearby residents.

In addition, the trash/service area, which would have been at the northwest section of the property, also will be moved to the south side with the restaurant.

Plan commissioners approved the new proposal, and village trustees are expected to vote on the plans next month.

Mastrototaro said he bought the property — which has been unused for about 20 years and currently houses a vacant gas station — to expand his decade-old business, which has outgrown its current location.

hunters looking for castoff designer clothes or collectibles and kitchen cleaning out closets year-round if they have a handy way to get rid of their rummage, she said. Usable rummage goes to Goodwill stores in the city, said Bradport Goodwill Industries' rehabilitation programs for disabled and disadvantaged persons. Bradport said.

middle- and upper-income bargain income families but have some stores cater to lower-income families. The stores help out the environment by recycling, Wheeling is participating in once-a-month curbside charity contributions. In what is believed to be the first such charity collection in the country, Goodwill Industries' trucks follow the recycling trucks from the Buffalo Grove-Wheeling Disposal Co. as they make their neighborhood rounds. The recycling trucks take the sorted recycling material and the Goodwill trucks pick up rummage left at the curb in special 20- to 30-gallon bags, said village spokesman Dick Cole.

They accept the normal contributions, such as clothing, small appliances, dishes and household goods, and they leave a receipt," he said. The first pickup was made in December and the second is scheduled for the first week in January. "Goodwill says the quality of the items was exceptionally high," Cole said. About 16 percent of eligible households participated, said Kathleen Bradley of Goodwill. "But we collected much better material than we usually get in our dropboxes." Normally households do their discarding of charity items after spring and fall cleanings, swap-meeting agencies such as Goodwill, and then leave them "dry" for months, said Bradley.

Charity begins at home

By K. O. DAWES

Goodwill hopes that people will start cleaning out closets year-round if they have a handy way to get rid of their rummage, she said.

Usable rummage goes to Goodwill stores in the city, said Bradport Goodwill Industries' rehabilitation programs for disabled and disadvantaged persons. Bradport said.



Waste Management Inc. and Goodwill Industries teamed up this year for a pilot program that combines the curbside collection of recyclables with reusable goods in Wheeling. The program is believed to be the first of its kind in the nation and may be expanded to other communities.

News from 1989 will influence the future

12-28-89

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

1989 was a year that laid the groundwork for next year and years to come in Wheeling.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz, who has remained a popular leader throughout her nearly five-year tenure, announced her bid this year for a seat on the Cook County board, meaning that Wheeling may see a new village leader next year. Her election to the county board could mean the return of contested races, which were absent during the April municipal and township elections this year.

Although the merger of the Wheeling Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce had been in the works for the better part of 1989, the consolidation will become official Jan. 1. Next year, both communities will notice the benefits of the merger, business leaders promise.

The effects of other events during 1989 in Wheeling may not be so widespread.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger, in his attempt to set a standard for the department, charged three police officers with violating police codes. Haeger also broke from tradition when he hired the first female sergeant in the department's history.

There were other firsts in Wheeling this year as well.

The village's trash and recycling hauler teamed up with a national charity for a novel way to collect used items.

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1989

a look back

Biggest story

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Rompala and Haeger, the officer admitted to leaving village limits while on duty and failing to stop the chase when safety was at risk. Rompala was suspended for 10 days without pay, and two other charges were dropped.

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The charges stemmed from the Imber case. When the verdict was reached to fire Imber, the sergeant upended the village flag in protest of the punishment. Staufenbiel beat the rap by confessing and apologizing. The 18-year department veteran was suspended for 21 days without pay.

Top business story

All year long, officials in the Wheeling and Prospect Heights chamber of commerces have been ironing out the details of forming one group for both business organizations.

In the end they worked out an agreement whereby the Prospect Heights chamber will gain an office and Wheeling will increase its membership of 375 by 70.

The Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as it will be known, will create new avenues for disseminating information and a broader region to help promote local businesses, chamber members say. Prospect Heights' chamber had hit a plateau when it ran out of community businesses and some of its members also belonged to Wheeling's chamber. The broader base is expected to benefit both groups.

End of an era

Although all chamber businesses are expected to notice the change with the merger, one Wheeling business saw a more personal change this year.

After 17 years, French chef Jean Banchet stepped out of the kitchen this summer at Le Francais, Wheeling's claim to fame with world travelers, to start a new career. While he works as a restaurant consultant, his wife, Doris, will run a bistro they'll open near their winter home in Palm Beach, Fla.

The couple handed their utensils to a relatively unknown, talented young chef, Roland Liccioni, and his wife, Mary Beth, a pastry chef. The new chefs promise to chip away at the triple-digit meal prices and add a lunch menu and a lighter cuisine for Le Francais, located on Wheeling's restaurant row along Milwaukee Avenue.

Most controversial story

In other business news, some Wheeling residents are trying to prevent an Elgin chemical processing company from relocating and expanding an Arlington Heights storage center in Wheeling.

Safety-Kleen Corp. of Elgin will submit a new application to the village after withdrawing the first application in November. The first form was missing a date and Safety-Kleen owners wanted to avoid future legal problems.

The corporation's proposal drew heavy criticism from residents during an October plan commission meeting. The residents objected to the hazardous wastes Safety-Kleen would store at the proposed center, located on 10 acres on the south side of Hintz Road just east of Glenn Avenue.

Safety-Kleen recycles hazardous wastes and processes solvents from cleaning machines, typically used for car parts and dry cleaning. The proposed center would be used only to store the solvents before being



Waste Management Inc. and Goodwill Industries teamed up this year for a pilot program that combines the curbside collection of recyclables with reusable goods in Wheeling. The program is believed to be the first of its kind in the nation and may be expanded to other communities.

News from 1989 will influence the future

12-28-89

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

1989 was a year that laid the groundwork for next year and years to come in Wheeling.

Village President Sheila H. Schultz, who has remained a popular leader throughout her nearly five-year tenure, announced her bid this year for a seat on the Cook County board, meaning that Wheeling may see a new village leader next year. Her election to the county board could mean the return of contested races, which were absent during the April municipal and township elections this year.

Although the merger of the Wheeling Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce had been in the works for the better part of 1989, the consolidation will become official Jan. 1. Next year, both communities will notice the benefits of the merger, business leaders promise.

The effects of other events during 1989 in Wheeling may not be so widespread.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger, in his attempt to set a standard for the department, charged three police officers with violating police codes. Haeger also broke from tradition when he hired the first female sergeant in the department's history.

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Safety-Kleen recycles hazardous wastes and processes solvents from cleaning machines, typically used for car parts and dry cleaning. The proposed center would be used only to store the solvents before being transported to processing plants.

The earliest a public hearing could be held before the village board — a prerequisite to gaining permits from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency — is in February.

Most innovative program

Another merger occurred in Wheeling this year.

This one involved a world-wide garbage and recycling collection corporation — Waste Management, Inc. — and a national charity — Goodwill Industries.

The two teamed up for a program believed to be the first of its kind in the nation. The program combines the curbside collection of recycl-

REVIEW: Events that occurred in 1990

HIGH SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 1

ables, including newspaper, glass and aluminum, with reusable items, such as clothes, accessories, toys, books, knick-knacks and small working appliances.

On the first full week of each month, a Goodwill truck follows a truck from Waste Management's Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal on recycling days. While the trash hauler collects the recyclables, Goodwill picks up used items to resell in the non-profit agency's chain of retail stores in Chicago. Profits are used for vocational training programs for the disadvantaged and disabled — employees like those at Waste Management's processing centers.

If the program is successful, Waste Management promises to expand the program to other communities covered by the corporation.

Saddest story

The loss of former Wheeling park board President James W. Gallagher was a loss suffered not only by Gallagher's family and friends, but also by the many people he worked with throughout the years.

Gallagher died of pneumonia Feb. 15 in his home. Although he was feeling ill for the past 1½ weeks, the cause of Gallagher's death was unknown at first. He had blood tests taken at a hospital just the day before. Gallagher's wife, Sue, found him dead when she went to wake him from a nap before a doctor's appointment.

Gallagher, 38, was active in many community organizations, including the Wheeling Youth Commission, Cub Scouts, park district sports, church groups and a homeowners association.

Gallagher left behind a legacy his supporters want to keep alive. Members of the park district's advisory board have asked the new park board to erect a memorial plaque for the late board president in front of the Chevy Chase Clubhouse, the park district's headquarters. Park officials are working out the details.

Story that wouldn't die

With a newly-expanded park district board, commissioners vowed to make a difference this year.

They started big in April. Paving the parking lot at Chevy Chase Clubhouse was a grander task than most commissioners apparently anticipated. The lot needed some fixing, including pothole repairs, paving, new lighting and more parking spaces.

By June, initial plans were coming together that carried a price tag of \$700,000. And the plans were grand, including a three-foot pond, a gazebo that would hold 26 people, colored asphalt and plenty of landscaping.

Realizing the plans were more than the park district could afford, commissioners asked Doyle & Ohle Architects, Inc. in Chicago to knock off a few of the extras in order to bring the price down.

Commissioners finally told the architects to improve the parking lot for \$500,000. Soon after, new plans for the parking lot came to light.

By October, the lot was taking on some changes and the paving got underway. Commissioners hope the lot will be finished in spring.

Happiest story

The time it took to pave the parking lot is nothing compared to the time it took for one Wheeling war hero to receive recognition for his bravery.

Twenty years ago last July, Michael R. Blanchfield threw himself

on top a live grenade to save at least four of his friends and several civilians in Vietnam. It took 18 years for the soldier to receive a Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Congressional Medal of Honor because of a paperwork snafu.

Blanchfield's mother, Janett, says she can finally close that chapter of her life.

In a final gesture to honor the serviceman, the Salt Creek Disabled American Veterans Chapter 93 presented Janett with a plaque from the Illinois Vietnam Veteran Memorial Fund. The group donated \$450 to sponsor Michael Blanchfield's name on the state Vietnam memorial.

In addition, the Arlington Heights law firm of Kovitz, Shifrin & Waitzman agreed to pick up the tab for at least two years to hang a war veteran flag in front of the Wheeling village hall.

Story that didn't happen

Voters were left without a choice for the Wheeling village and Wheeling Township boards — two races that usually are contested.

Wheeling Village President Schultz, who even had a campaign manager to ward off opponents, headed the Wheeling Independent Party slate, which included trustees William A. Rogers, Joseph Ratajczak and Elizabeth Hartman. Newcomer Lois Gaffke ran unopposed on the slate for village clerk.

In the township race, the slate, backed by the Wheeling Township Republican organization, included Supervisor Ruth B. Grundberg, Highway Commissioner John Ayres, Clerk Paula Ulreich and Assessor Dolores Stephan. Trustees on the slate included Edward H. Main, Wayne Wagner, Jerry Sadler and Thomas Mead, with Georgie Wiltse running for tax collector.

All were elected unopposed and all ran as incumbents, with the exception of Sadler Wiltse and Gaffke.

Strangest story

The case was quite different for the Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 school board in November.

Eight candidates vied for four seats on the seven-member school board. It took two days after the election to determine the winner of the fourth seat.

Although 306 ballots were cast from precinct 111 in Buffalo Grove, a discrepancy showed up in the number of ballots cast and the number of votes cast in the election.

The day after the election, Carol "Cari" Beecher was leading the race. But when the votes were recounted, Phil Pritzker, who was appointed to the board in July, retained his seat by a mere 17 votes.

Incumbents Joy D. Fisher, Barrett R. Peterson, Dolores "Lori" Ratajczak were re-elected to four-year terms.

Top school story

Besides electing a school board, 1989 also made history as the year when District 21 voters approved increasing their property taxes.

Voters' overwhelming approval in April of a 39 percent tax increase saved more than \$1 million in programs and teachers from the chopping block. The move will also help the district reduce its annual deficit and wipe out a \$1.2 million debt within the next three years.

District 21 voters had rejected the school's same request for a tax increase in November 1988.



Jackie Pollack, executive director, says there will be a change when the business group...

School named 1

Adlai Stevenson High School has been named one of ten Illinois finalists for the United States Department of Education (USDE) "Drug-Free Schools" recognition program.

A USDE review committee currently is reviewing finalists' applications. From this review, it will select those schools that will receive a site visit in mid-January. Notification of the schools to be recognized in the 1989-90 "Drug-Free Schools" Recognition Program will be made by April 25, with national award ceremonies to be held in Washington, D.C. in May.

The purpose of the "Drug-Free Schools" Recognition Program is to identify and highlight public and private schools across the nation that have implemented a comprehensive drug prevention and intervention program which has prevented or substantially reduced alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among the student population. These recognized schools must also have an ongoing plan to remain or become drug-free.

Grant awarded

Adlai Stevenson High School has been named the recipient of a grant from the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) Alcohol and Drug Education Initiative for the continuation of its chemical abuse prevention

STEVENSON

vention. New to stance abuse pre be the employe with Omni Youth time prevention s vidual, who will Klevgaard, Stev abuse coordinator ble for providing nical assistance t parent networks; t ent skills curriu the junior high s curriculum for s for the initiation groups; developin munity partnersh programs in the v nating the develop teen resource dire and coordinating newsletter that fo and teen issues at native leisure acti sition will run fro 1991.

Parenting ser

Adlai Stevenson host two parentir ducted by Elizabe ton, a nationalbe



To the dismay of many of his fans, the legendary Jean Bachel hung up his chef's cap after 17 years at Le Francais.

Stories to watch in 1990

Next year should be another big year for elections as Schultz launches her campaign for the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

Schultz is endorsed by the Democratic Central Committee for one of seven suburban openings on the board.

If elected, Schultz said she would vacate her village position, which could open the ring to a number of contenders. Edward H. Main, who managed Schultz' campaign last April, has already expressed interest in the village's top post.

This year also brought to life some new ideas that will not go unnoticed next year. Residents no doubt will keep an eye on the Safety-Kleen proposal.

If 1989 was any indication, Police Chief Haeger will continue to set standards for the police department.

Business and community leaders will watch the Prospect Heights and Wheeling chambers of commerce work together as one.

And one program that almost certainly will be watched by those outside of Wheeling is the Waste Management/Goodwill venture.

REVIEW: Events that occurred in 1989 will influence the future

Continued from Page 1

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Jackie Pollack, executive director of the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry, stands in front of the sign that will soon change when the business group officially merges Jan. 1 with the Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce.



JANUARY

Sandy Thompson directs the Holmes Junior High School band.



Wheeling resident Rani Russell, 23, dies Dec. 29 in a car crash on U.S. 41 at Clavey Road. A truck strikes Russell's car, which was stopped at the time, triggering an eight-car pileup that also took the lives of Russell's fiancé and their two friends.

now only smoke either in their cars or on the loading docks behind the schools.

Wheeling police officer Richard Imber is charged with gambling in a Wheeling liquor establishment and Police Chief Michael F. Haeger asks the board of fire and police commissioners to consider firing Imber if he is found guilty of the charges.

High School District 214 implements a total smoking ban in schools. Teachers and staff may

FEBRUARY

Community Consolidated District 21 parents and teachers begin the public relations push for the successful passage of the April 4 tax hike request. School secretaries are sworn as registrars to help with voter registration and calls are made to all parents.

Wheeling trustees approve a plan to inspect sump pumps for illegal hookups that add excess water to the sanitary sewer system. The review comes after the village already spent \$4.8 million on fixing sewer mains and manholes.

Wheeling Park District officials attempt to grapple with a loss of revenue from High School District 214 regarding Neptune's Pool at Wheeling High School. The school district ends its payments for the pool, built in 1969, and the situation causes the park district to face a deficit situation with the pool.



Raymond Schurwanz helps his son Matthew into his skis.

MARCH

Village officials pull the plug on gambling at the Pavilion Senior Center, where seniors were playing nickle-a-chip poker and quarter-a-person bridge games on village property. Seniors complain the restrictions take the "fun" out of playing cards.

Wheeling police officer Richard Imber is found guilty of gambling and battery charges. The board of fire and police commissioners later will agree to fire Imber.

High School District 214 school board members alter the grading system in the six-school district, adding a fourth grade division to the existing weighted grades scheme. The decision ends more than 18 months of debate.

Ben Masurat, a student at Walt Whitman Elementary School, dies after a long battle with leukemia. His death followed a bone marrow transplant.



Crossing guard Fritz Adamicka helps students cross the street at Schoenbeck and Anthony.

APRIL

Community Consolidated District 21 voters grant overwhelming approval to a tax hike request, saving 25 teaching jobs and thousands of dollars in scheduled cuts. More than 70 percent of the voters supported the tax hike. Later in the month, the school board rescinds all program and staffing cuts made prior to the election.

Four new park district board members are elected. Tom Webber, Chuck Briles, Fran Melamed and Greg Klatecki beat out challengers Dennis Drake and Kenneth Kostrowski.

Wheeling trustees approve a new budget that calls for a 10 percent increase in spending. The additional dollars are expected to pay for sidewalk improvements, new police officers, new carpeting for village hall and land for a diversionary channel that is expected to reduce flooding damage.



A Holocaust survivor delivers a first-person history story to Community Consolidated District 21 students.

MAY



Youngsters line up for a preschool graduation party in a program sponsored by the Wheeling Park District.

Wheeling residents begin taking part in a recycling program that has them separating their aluminum, glass and newsprint from the tradition curbside wastes. The program is quickly hailed as one of the most successful in the area.

open a hands-on science "Discovery Center" for district students.

Community Consolidated District 21, just after announcing it would not cut programs because of the successful passage of a tax hike referendum, announces plans to

The new members of the Wheeling Park District board, after forming a majority with their election April 4, announce committee appointments and leave veteran board member Ed Klocke off all major committees. Park board president Tom Webber said the moves are made because Klocke wasn't active enough as a board member.

JUNE

The Wheeling park board appoints Bill Mattes to fill the vacancy created by the Feb. 15 death of board president James Gallagher. Dennis Drake, an unsuccessful candidate for the board in April, condemns the move, saying Mattes was picked because of his association with the new park board majority.

Famed restaurateurs Jean and Doris Banchet bid adieu to Wheeling when they announce they have sold the five-star Le Francais restaurant. The restaurant remains open and is operated by Highland Park chef Roland Liccioni.

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger brings charges against Sgt. Michael Staufenbiel, asking that the board of fire and police commissioners demote the sergeant to patrol officer after he allegedly turned the village flag upside down following the disciplinary hearing of officer Richard Imber, who was fired.



Frank Lipowsky stands on top of a tank that was purchased by the Amvets Post in Wheeling.

JULY

Wheeling businessman Larry Deitcher, a member of the appearance commission, dies July 1. He was 45.

St. Joseph the Worker's annual Familyfest draws the attention of village officials, who sit down with church leaders to discuss problems with the event. Village trustees and some residents claim the event drew too many people, created too much noise and left too many people walking around drunk.

Two Wheeling residents are charged with running a gambling place at Buffalo Grove's Striker Lanes. They are among 21 people arrested as part of Operation White Knight, a law enforcement operation that uncovered gambling and drug operations at bars in Buffalo Grove, Palatine, Schaumburg, Elk Grove Village and Arlington Heights.



Mark Caccione of Wheeling shows his colors at a Fourth of July celebration.

AUGUST

Wheeling trustees, wanting to get more control over the spread of shopping centers, changes village ordinances to make it more difficult to get construction approval.

With the recent outbreak of measles in Cook County, Community Consolidated District 21 says it will not allow students to enter school in September unless they have proof of immunization.

Wheeling police, working with the Northeast Metropolitan Enforcement Group, confiscate 40 pounds of marijuana and charge two Wheeling men with delivery and trafficking of the drug.

Wheeling trustees agree to the relocation of the Wolf and Hintz roads intersection for the purpose of creating a greater safety area for Palwaukee Municipal Airport's longest, and most important, runway.



Brian Mertel runs through a drill during a karate class in Wheeling.

SEPTEMBER



Wheeling police Sgt. Michael Staufenbiel listens to charges being read against him for overturning a village flag.

Wheeling park board members fiddle with plans for a new parking lot at the Chevy Chase Golf Course and Clubhouse and save more than \$400,000 over original price estimates.

Wheeling police Sgt. Michael Staufenbiel is suspended 30 days for overturning the village flag April 7.

Wheeling's first and only fire chief, Bernhardt Koeppen, announces he will retire next spring. Koeppen became the first chief in 1954, when the department was still a volunteer operation.

Wheeling and Prospect Heights officials, fresh from a joint agreement on the operation of Palwaukee Municipal Airport, begin squabbling over plans to consolidate two fire protection districts. Wheeling officials later "win" when plans to ask voters what they think are scuttled.

OCTOBER



Wheeling High School cheerleaders wave to the crowd during the school's homecoming parade.

Wheeling resident Sherrie Kerr is charged with stealing nearly \$13,000 from the United Way of Arlington Heights, an organization she used to head.

Wheeling trustees, after looking at a balance sheet that surprisingly included extra money in state income tax dollars, slash their 1989 tax request, asking for 22 percent less in property taxes.

Goodwill Industries, along with Waste Management, Inc., announce plans to have curbside pickup of recyclable household goods. The program will be the first of its kind in the country.

A study of Wheeling intersections identifies the Wheeling Road-Palatine Road intersection as the most dangerous in the village and the one that takes the longest to negotiate in rush hour. The study calls for signal and lane improvements at several intersections.

NOVEMBER

Given their first chance to confront Safety-Kleen Corp. officials, more than 110 Wheeling residents and business officials question the necessity for the company's proposed hazardous waste storage facility on Hintz Road.

Wheeling voters overwhelmingly approve the establishment of a 911 emergency response system. Voters also re-elect incumbents Barrett Peterson, Joy Fisher, Lori Ratajczak and Phil Pritzker to the Community Consolidated District 21 school board. High School District 214 incumbent X. Daniel Kafcas is surprisingly bounced from the board by challenger Terry Schultz. Incumbents Stan Eisenhammer and Les Jensen are elected along with challenger Mimi Cooper.

Wheeling resident Mark Mueller is found dead in Lake Michigan in Waukegan, where he is the victim of a robbery and murder.



Betty Dune helps her granddaughter Tracy bundle up during a special grandparents program that was held at Tarkington School.

DECEMBER

Two former sailors are charged with the murder of a Wheeling fisherman in Waukegan plead not guilty to the charges.

The Cook County Assessor's office announces a holiday reprieve when it decides not to send the residential property reassessment notices until after Christmas. The notices — the first in five years for Wheeling Township — have raised fears of bigger tax bills in 1990.

Pioneer Press reports that a former Wheeling police officer running for Cook County Sheriff has been charged four times — three times in Buffalo Grove — with driving under the influence of alcohol. In connection with two of those cases, John J. Flood, 50, had his license temporarily suspended for failing to take a blood alcohol content test.



Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive for the Lollipop Lane celebration in Wheeling.

Remembering 1989

A look back at the top 10 local news stories of the year

In many ways, 1989 was a tumultuous year in Wheeling. From disciplinary actions brought by the village's police chief against three officers in separate incidents to a major realignment of the park district board, change seemed to be the major constant in the village. The following are snapshots of the top 10 local news stories of the year as selected by our staff.

Disciplinary actions against local police a recurring theme

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger brought three officers before the board of fire and police commissioners last year, asking for their firing, suspension or demotion. The disciplinary actions were later followed by the approval to create two "commander" positions in the department.

Since joining the police force in 1982, Haeger has brought a number of officers before the board of fire and police commission on discipline hearings. This year, that body fired officer Richard Imber and suspended both Michael Rompala and Sgt. Michael Staufenbiel in unrelated incidents.

Haeger was initially hired by then-Village Manager Tom Markus to bring discipline to the department which some said was "out of control" under former Chief Ted Bracke. This year's hearings were an affirmation of Haeger's intentions to establish strong disciplinary guidelines in the department.

And trustees agreed to support Haeger when they approved the search and eventual hiring of two commanders to act as supervisors over the department's eight sergeants. Trustees and Village Manager Craig Anderson said the commanders will bring the additional level of supervision the department needs.

District 21 voters give a hefty boost to their own taxes

Although Buffalo Grove voters turned thumbs down on the pool complex in 1989, the voting residents of Community Consolidated School District 21 cast a crucial vote of approval for a district tax increase referendum.

Just five months after a similar referendum request had failed, District 21 voters, by a 3 to 1 ratio, approved an

18 percent increase in the district's tax rate. The increase was projected to cost the owner of a \$100,000 home in the district an additional \$122 a year.

District officials had warned that without the tax increase the district would be forced to lay off as many as 24 teachers while making \$1 million in budget cuts.

By a vote of 7,056 to 2,596, the district's voters approved a 70-cent increase in the district's education fund tax rate, bringing the district's total tax rate to \$3.36 per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation. Although the voters approved a 70-cent increase, district officials said they would only levy 45 cents until 1994, when they planned to levy the remaining 25 cents.

Park district board faces major changes after Gallagher dies

On Feb. 15, in the middle of his term as Wheeling park board president, James Gallagher, 38, died in his home of pneumonia.

On the eve of the election that saw the park board expand from five members to seven, Gallagher's death left the board with only two veteran members, Ed Klocke and Don Lark.

After the election, Klocke and Lark were flanked by youth sports coaches Greg Klatchek, Tom Webber, Chuck Briles and Fran Melamed. The four then appointed fellow coach and park district umpire Bill Mattes to the board to complete Gallagher's term.

Mattes' appointment preceded by the election of Webber as board president and by committee appointments that left Klocke without a major post.

But the board moved toward more communication as the year continued and as it debated the spending of \$570,000 in bond money for park improvements. After years of wrangling over the scope and cost of the project, the board agreed to pave the Chevy Chase Golf Course and Clubhouse parking lot, which was finished late in the year at a cost of more than \$430,000.

The board also agreed to spend more than \$20,000 to survey district residents on their impressions of the district. The board hopes to use the survey results to help create a master plan for the district and to develop a spending plan for the bond money.

In getting the bond money, the year also marked the first time since 1977 that the district had substantial borrowing power. The purchase of the Chevy Chase complex in 1977 limited the loan

capabilities, and therefore its capital improvement options, until 1989.

Cook County Dems slate Sheila Schultz for county board

After more than 10 years as a member of the Wheeling board of trustees, Village President Sheila Schultz announced that she will run for the Cook County Board of Commissioners as a Democrat.

And if she wins the November, 1990, race, she said she will resign from the village board.

In a somewhat surprising move, Cook County suburban Democratic committeemen tabbed Schultz to run as one of the seven at-large suburban seats on the 17-seat county board.

Although only one suburban Democrat has won a spot on the board in nearly half a century, party hopefuls said Schultz's bid could be the most successful. After watching Lyndon Larouche's "Democratic" candidates divide their chances in 1986, Democrats said 1990 should be different in the suburbs.

If Schultz does win, her removal from the board, combined potentially with the resignation of Trustee James Whittington should he be named principal of Wheeling High School, would upend the stability that has been with the board for more than four years.

Hazardous waste processor plans move to Wheeling

Hazardous waste processor Safety-Kleen Corp. created a storm of unrest when it proposed to build a storage facility in Wheeling.

More than 110 nearby homeowners and business people jammed a plan commission meeting in November, asking the commission to deny the waste processor's request to move into the village.

After spending much of the year talking about its own plans for recycling, the village board appeared in a tough position in considering Safety-Kleen, which says it recycles previously disposed solvents and oils.

Safety-Kleen says it would use the facility, which would replace a much smaller operation in Arlington Heights, to store spent mineral spirits, waste oil and anti-freeze before being transported

to recycling centers.

But the project hit an initial snag when Safety-Kleen had to refile its intention to locate in the village. The delay forced the process back into 1990, when both the village board and the plan commission will again weigh the merits of the project.

Crime didn't take a holiday during 1989 in Wheeling

Wheeling spent a lot of time in the spotlight for crime-related incidents, including the conviction of three men charged with murdering a gas station attendant in September, 1988, on Milwaukee Avenue, just north of Lake-Cook Road.

A Lake County jury convicted John Waldron of first degree murder stemming from the Sept. 6, 1988 shooting death of Thomas Goings at the Speedway gas station. The judge later sentenced Waldron to natural life in prison. Accomplice Bryan Smith was sentenced to 60 years in jail and the driver of the getaway van, Paul Eshom, received 20 years. Waldron and the other men stole \$224 from the store after Waldron shot Goings.

In other crime news, Wheeling resident Mark Mueller was found dead in October in Lake Michigan in Waukegan, where he was the victim of a robbery and murder. Two AWOL sailors are later charged with Mueller's slaying, which occurred as he was fishing for salmon.

Wheeling police, working with the Northeast Metropolitan Enforcement Group, confiscated 40 pounds of marijuana and charged two Wheeling men with delivery and trafficking of the drug.

Also in October, Wheeling resident Sherrie Kerr was charged with stealing nearly \$13,000 from the United Way of Arlington Heights, an organization she used to head.

Wheeling joins ecological move to recycling its garbage

Following the lead of several area municipalities, Wheeling residents began leaving their recyclable glass, aluminum and newsprint at the curb in bright orange plastic containers.

Top 10 —

(Continued from page 5)

Village trustees adopted the recycling program, which cost residents an extra \$1 a month, in order to cut down on the amount of trash that fills area landfills. After a successful first several months, trustees began considering whether to include plastic containers in the recycling effort.

In addition to the traditional recyclables, Wheeling also became the first community in the country to team up with Goodwill Industries and Waste Management, Inc. on a curbside program for reusable products usually dropped off at churches and drop boxes.

Wheeling fights back in stopping the spread of gangs

As the northwest suburbs begin to experience more and more of the problems associated with urban living, Wheeling joined six other municipalities in an effort to step up enforcement and understanding of a growing problem with youth gangs.

Throughout the year, signs of gangs

and village manager Craig Anderson said the commanders will bring the additional level of supervision the department needs.

District 21 voters give a hefty boost to their own taxes

Although Buffalo Grove voters turned thumbs down on the pool complex in 1989, the voting residents of Community Consolidated School District 21 cast a crucial vote of approval for a district tax increase referendum.

Just five months after a similar referendum request had failed, District 21 voters, by a 3 to 1 ratio, approved an

communication as the year continued and as it debated the spending of \$570,000 in bond money for park improvements. After years of wrangling over the scope and cost of the project, the board agreed to pave the Chevy Chase Golf Course and Clubhouse parking lot, which was finished late in the year at a cost of more than \$430,000.

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(Continued from page 5)

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Throughout the year, signs of gangs problems cropped up on park district property, in the schools and in police crime logs. In reaction to the gang activity, Wheeling police assigned one officer full time to an intergovernmental task force formed to identify and interrupt gang activity.

By joining the task force, Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said he wanted to restrict the problem that has been linked to fights at Wheeling High School and an assault at this year's Familyfest.

Two local leaders decide to call it quits after decades of service

When Wheeling High School opened in 1964, Tom Shirley was its first assistant principal. In 1965, he became only its second principal. In 1989, he announced High School District 214 will have to find a third principal for the school because of his June, 1990 retirement date.

After spending more than a quarter century in the school that rests less than one-half mile from his Prospect Heights home, Shirley announced he would retire and pursue consulting work in his spare time.

And while Shirley decided to stop handing out diplomas, Wheeling Fire Chief Bernhardt Koeppen also decided to retire. In September, Koeppen announced he would retire in early 1990.

Reassessment process drags on as residents await word on taxes

Fears of a grim Christmas caused by the untimely appearance of property reassessments weren't realized, but the five-year reassessment notices still caused concern, and action by taxing bodies.

After waiting half a decade for property reassessments to give schools, park districts and libraries a sizable jump in their tax base, Wheeling taxing bodies took that into account when requesting tax dollars to fund next year's operations. High School District 214 asked for the same amount of taxes as it did in 1988; the Village of Wheeling dropped its tax request 22 percent; and Community Consolidated District 21, which could have asked for more money because of a voter-approved tax hike request, asked for 7.7 percent more in taxes.

Communities find ways to

BY DAVE MCKINNEY
with staff reports

A financially strapped school district and a Lake County village with a cash windfall. One has money, the other doesn't.

The scenario isn't uncommon. But what is unique in this case is the village's decision to use its newfound wealth on grade school textbooks, student films and learning equipment rather than on street repairs or fire trucks.

That's what Vernon Hills is doing with some of its proceeds from a temporary increase in the state income tax. Hawthorn Elementary District 73, which is grappling with a \$1 million budget deficit, is the lucky beneficiary of the intergovernmental goodwill.

"The board has magnanimously decided to share its income tax rebate with the schools," explained Vernon Hills Village Manager Larry Laschen. "They have a deficit, and we don't."

Since Illinois lawmakers decided last summer to increase the state income tax, Northwest suburban officials have been trying to decide how to use their share of a \$725 million pie.

Key Republican leaders in the Illinois General Assembly urged local governments to use the money to reduce property taxes. But a look around the suburbs shows few towns are doing that.

The legislation, approved in July, imposed a temporary 20-percent increase in the state's income tax. Unless renewed by the Illinois General Assembly, the increase will expire in 1991.

House of Representatives Democrats, who sponsored the tax bill, expect \$777 million will be generated for school districts the next two years and \$725 million for counties and municipalities. Those two amounts represent the bulk of the \$1.7 billion that is estimated from the increase.

Lugene Finley, a spokesman for the Illinois State Board of Education, said no accounting method is currently in place to tell how individual school districts will fare from the income tax increase. The money will be included in state aid payments.



"The money sticks where it hits. The state gives money to the municipalities and it stays there. It doesn't go to the taxpayer... I don't think that's a surprise."

— State Rep. Bernard E. Pedersen

But the state has drawn up calculations for each town. They range from a low of \$43,628 for North Barrington to a high of \$1.96 million for Arlington Heights, said Jane Stricklin, a spokesman for Illinois House Speaker Michael J. Madigan.

Besides Vernon Hills' decision to turn over some of its money to a school district, other communities are using the bounty of state funds for fire or police stations, low-interest flood-control loans and road repairs. In a few rare cases, the money is being used to lower property taxes.

"We intend to account for every penny and put this money to good use so we can show the legislators how important it was," said Buffalo Grove Village Manager William R. Balling. "We think that is important."

Buffalo Grove has not specifically decided how to spend its added income tax funds, which are estimated

to be more than \$956,000. But like most other communities, it won't go just for day-to-day operating costs.

In Schaumburg, which expects to receive anywhere from \$1.6 million up to \$1.89 million, village leaders may spend the money on a new fire station and on a multimillion-dollar road project. No formal decision has been reached, but spending on those specific projects has won backing from the village board's finance committee.

"I'd rather take the money and allocate it for a special cost," said Schaumburg Village President Al L. Larson. "If you spend it on day-to-day services and in two years the state pulls the plug, then you're in a bind."

Des Plaines officials, who may receive up to \$1.6 million this year, have earmarked part of the money to be used for low-interest flood-control loans and for the city's share of costs for promoting a baffle near Bartlett.

Des Plaines would be responsible for part of the legal costs and other expenses with the landfill should the project not be built.

The remainder of Des Plaines' tax money — more than \$1 million — will go toward preventing property taxes from rising because of this year's city budget. Spending is up by about 10 percent.

"Bottom line," said Des Plaines Comptroller Gregory J. Peters, "if we hadn't gotten those extra state dollars, we would have had to increase our property taxes."

Some towns have decided to use some of the money to reduce property taxes. But the only community planning to use its entire share toward cutting its tax levy is Palatine. That village's move has won the praise of a local antitax group.

"The state taxes us all on one hand, so we just decided to give the benefit to the taxpayers by giving this money back to them," said Palatine Finance Director Robert A. Hulsebee.

That philosophy was part of the reasoning behind giving towns the income tax funds. That many aren't in fact using it to reduce their residents' tax burden isn't surprising to some legislators, especially those who voted against the income tax.

State Rep. Bernard E. Pedersen, a

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Brahms loved Buffalo Bill's Wild West shows when they played in Vienna and so, presumes conductor Zubin Mehta, did Johann Strauss Sr. At any rate, Strauss composed "Indian Maidens Galop" and Mehta will conduct the work with the Vienna Philharmonic today.

"From Vienna: the New Year's Celebration 1990," Vienna's traditional New Year's concert of effervescent Strauss music, will be televised at 9 p.m. today on WTTW Channel 11.

"There is such an output by the Strauss family, taking Johann Strauss Jr. and Sr., cousins and uncles, we can go on for 10 years of concerts without repeating a single piece," said Mehta, who was born in India.

However "The Blue Danube Waltz" and "Radetzky March" will be repeated. They're played every year.

"The accent is on Vienna in this year's program," said Mehta, who has never conducted a New Year's concert in Vienna. "I'm doing an overture, by Franz von Suppe, to 'Morning, Noon and Night in Vienna.'" Also on the program is Mehta's favorite by Strauss, "Vienna Blood," which he has often presented as an encore when conducting the Vienna Philharmonic.

"They used to ask the music director of the opera to do it. They have come to another sort of a plan now; each year they want to ask another one of their regular conductors to take over. Next year

Zubin Mehta, in Walter Cronkite Vienna: the Ne

will be somebody. In an interview, Avery Fisher Hall has watched the past and will think Johann Strauss as Mozart is. The too much and wild style, which tends quality of this music in the right style, sure. It is the kind Mozart, that one is an extra note.

"This music reflects the turn of th

VIDEO VIEW

By JACK E. WILKINSON
United Press International

Here's a look at what's new on the home video scene:

Movies:

"Licence To Kill" — The new year awns with a rouser, a wall-to-wall action adventure that pits James

McCarthy and Jon play two enterprisedited to the posh boss Bernie (Terry as a reward for one lion error in the bo them, that was Bert unearthed and he n the mob rub them o the one rubbed out when our heroes at their weekend, and

Wheeling may reconsider pizza parlor vote

Wheeling officials are making a concerted effort to inform Hispanic residents about the upcoming federal census. Traditionally, census officials say population figures for Hispanics may not reflect the actual number of residents. For Wheeling, this could mean a loss of potential state funding.

In order to get a more accurate count in the 1990 census, village officials included information about the census in the village newsletter and are asking business and church leaders to display Spanish-printed posters in their buildings.

Following a 1986 special census, Wheeling's population was 26,276, with 5.3 percent Hispanic.

But village officials say the Hispanic population may actually be higher.

Some Hispanics may not have participated in the census because they were illegal aliens, said Al Castillo, a U.S. census community awareness

specialist. Others may have feared they would be caught in violation of housing codes, while others may not have understood the English-printed census form. But Castillo said the information is kept confidential.

The census is taken every 10 years and used to determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

State motor fuel and income taxes, which are used to help pay for services, are given to communities based on population.

The census also gathers demographic statistics and assists village officials in public planning.

Depending on the results, village officials may consider reviewing some community services. Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said.

This may include printing brochures and traffic signs in Spanish or requiring police dispatchers to speak Spanish.

Wheeling's population is expected to increase to about 29,000 residents, said Village Planner Robert Sullivan.

Wheeling may reconsider pizza parlor vote

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees may repeal a decision they made nearly three months ago to allow a carry-out pizza business on a small corner lot along Milwaukee Avenue.

In October, trustees in a 4-2 vote agreed to allow a carry-out pizza business on the property zoned for office use on the northwest corner of Mors and Milwaukee avenues.

The move followed a request by Joseph Mastroiata, owner of Wa-Pa-Ghettis, to relocate his pizza parlor at 46 W. Dundee Road in Wheeling to the north end of his proposed shopping center on the Milwaukee Avenue property.

Trustees then approved the spe-

Wheeling stressing efforts to count Hispanics in census

Thurs., Jan. 4, 1990

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

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Trustees to reconsider vote on Milwaukee Ave. pizzeria

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

Wheeling trustees Monday stopped the delivery of a pizza restaurant to Milwaukee Avenue.

After saying they may have made a mistake in granting preliminary approval to Joseph Mastrototaro's plans to move his Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza restaurant, trustees will reconsider his entire project at their Jan. 15 meeting.

Trustees Joseph Ratajczak and James Whittington, both earlier supporters of Mastrototaro's plan to build a restaurant and office building on the northwest corner of Mors and Milwaukee avenues, said they did not then consider the "bigger picture" of how Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza fit into plans for Milwaukee Avenue redevelopment.

Whittington said trustees may not have been fully informed of how the project fit into the village plans for improving Milwaukee Avenue. He said the board did not know the project fell into a zoning classification the village adopted to facilitate certain development along Wheeling's biggest commercial roadway.

"I DON'T think all the information was presented at the last meeting," Whittington said.

Trustees granted Mastrototaro a special use permit for his restaurant Oct. 16. But because of concerns with the layout of his building, the village board asked the plan commission to again review the project.

(Continued from page 5)

have to agree to re-open the matter. Four trustees — Whittington, Ratajczak, Bill Rogers and Village President Sheila Schultz — appear ready to rekindle that discussion. Trustees Tony Altieri and Judy Abruscato are not in favor of revoking the special use.

The potential swing vote, Trustee Elizabeth Hartman, did not attend Monday's meeting.

Whittington said the board may have been "sucked in" to giving Mastrototaro the early nod in the project because of his positive reputation and the need to eliminate an abandoned gas station on the proposed building site.

"I THINK we need to see the whole, big picture," Whittington said. "Is it really to Wheeling's advantage at this point? I don't think that was addressed."

"We made a mistake. All of us did," Whittington said. "We need to consider all of it together."

From the beginning, Rogers, like the village staff, protested against the plan. He drew the connection between the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district and the special zoning district adopted by the village to coordinate development in the business districts along Milwaukee Avenue.

"We have discouraged others from developing similar businesses along Milwaukee Avenue and have engaged in a protracted court dispute to preserve the TIF district and the long-range plan to upgrade the corridor," Rogers said. "What basis would we have to pursue our comprehensive long-range plan if we denigrate that plan by reducing our development standards?"

Mastrototaro has proposed building a 5,000-square-foot building to house three small offices and his restaurant, now located at the northwest corner of



Dundee and Wolf roads. The building would replace an abandoned gas station that now sits on the site.

A revised plan appeared before trustees Monday. But although they acknowledged it was a better plan than those previously seen, they said the board should reconsider the special use, considered the most difficult approval to secure.

THE BOARD TABLED consideration of Mastrototaro's site plan. It, along with his special use permit, will likely be considered Jan. 15, trustees said.

In order for the board to rescind his special use permit, five trustees would

(Continued on page 72)

IN PROCEEDING WITH the TIF plan started in 1985, Rogers said the village has tried to encourage and discourage certain types of development along Milwaukee Avenue, considered the gateway to a revived village business district.

After Monday's meeting, Mastrototaro was confident he would get his necessary approvals Jan. 15. He had hoped to have the building constructed by March, but now those plans have been indefinitely delayed.

"We'll pass it," he said. "We'll pass it."

Abruscato, who voted against the special use in October only because she felt Mastrototaro's plan did not need further review by the plan commission.

"I DON'T see a problem with that site," Abruscato said. "I hate to see anybody continually come back."

Trustees also said they learned since the Oct. 16 meeting that before Mastrototaro bought the property, he was told the village staff would raise serious objections to the plan.

"It's come to light that it's not only a difficult site, but it's been noted to previous petitioners and to this petitioner," Ratajczak said.

Community Development Director Mike Klitzke said at least two potential developers did not pursue the site after being told by village staff what types of businesses they would prefer on the site.

IN APRIL, 1989, the village board approved the construction of an office building on the site. But the developer, who is Mastrototaro's architect and an expected tenant of building, could not find enough other tenants to warrant construction.

Village could be at Crossroads as 1990 developments unfold

By Michael Ulreich and Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writers

After a year of delays, the clearing of a legal logjam in 1990 could reawaken Wheeling's long-awaited redevelopment plans.

As the last decade of the 20th century begins, the courts are expected to decide whether the village's plan to redevelop Milwaukee Avenue is valid. If it does, officials say the project, on hold since December, 1988, could resume.

"The redevelopment of that area is real important to the village, not only for its impact on our tax base but aesthetically as well," Village President Sheila Schultz said. "To me it's one of the most significant developments of the 1990s."

Late in 1988, Cook County Circuit Court Judge Alexander P. White ruled against the village, claiming its Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district was unfairly established. In doing so, White threw out condemnation suits against several property owners.

THE VILLAGE HOPES to eventually win that suit, now awaiting a hearing before the Illinois Appellate Court. If it does, the village will buy more property, make public improvements to the area and turn the land over to a developer for the construction of a \$10 million shopping center.

The Crossroads project, the cornerstone of the TIF plan first outlined in 1985, is aimed at bringing additional revenue and business to the village and

to clean up what some trustees consider an eyesore at the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road.

Schultz described the resolution of the Crossroads TIF project the "biggest thing" Wheeling residents have to look forward to in 1990.

Besides the TIF project, Illinois courts are also expected to finally resolve a long-running battle between Wheeling firefighters and the village.

AFTER HEARING ARGUMENTS last year, the Illinois Supreme Court is expected to rule whether the six lieutenants in the department can be members of the firefighters union.

The village has maintained that the lieutenants are managers and should not be members of the bargaining unit. The firefighters have claimed that the lieutenants do the same job as firefighters and do not have management power.

So far, the Illinois Appellate Court and the Illinois Labor Relations Board have sided with the firefighters. Besides Wheeling, a number of municipalities around the state are waiting for a decision in the case.

The new year will also bring tough decisions before Wheeling trustees, who will have to decide in 1990 whether they want to accept a proposal to build a hazardous waste disposal facility in the village. Saftey-Kleen Corp. has asked that a new, temporary storage facility be built on Hintz Road.

SCHULTZ CALLED the proposal a "sensitive issue" that many communities across the United States are facing.

Wheeling considers tree planting program

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Although Wheeling trustees may fund a \$98,100 village tree planting proposal, they may also require residents to contribute to the cost of the program.

Under the plan, about 110 trees would be planted in 1990 and 1991 which, including maintenance, would cost about \$98,100. Each tree costs about \$250.

Since 1982, the village has removed and never replaced 259 trees from public parkways due to decay, mutilation, age or problems with sewers.

In addition to improving the aesthetics of the village, replanting trees may help increase home

values and provide shelter and protection from climate extremes, village officials say.

This spring, the village plans to use the \$43,500 set aside in this year's budget to plant about 40 trees in highly visible places in town. Some of those areas include parkways at Wheeling High School on Hintz Road and Route 83, and on the north side of Dundee Road west of Route 83.

But trustees Monday discussed requiring residents to pay for a portion of future tree plantings on public parkways in front of their houses. With residents' contributions, the village could purchase more trees and residents may be more interested in maintaining the trees, village officials said.

However, whether residents are willing to participate in the program is uncertain, they said. In addition, the village may be limited on the size, variety or location of the trees because residents contributing something toward the cost of the trees would have a choice.

Village officials also are considering joining the Suburban Tree Consortium, which provides its members with a variety of trees at more reasonable prices than would independent tree nurseries.

Village planners will study the cost of the program and make a recommendation to the village board whether to join the consortium and whether to encourage residents' participation.

Tues. Jan. 9, 1990

Friday - Thursday, Jan 4, 1990
Pizza firm may expand carry-out

The owners of Edwardo's Natural Pizza will expand their carry-out, sit-down restaurant in Wheeling's Riverside Plaza.

Wheeling trustees approved plans to increase seating by 45 seats in the 138-seat restaurant and increase parking by 27 spaces. The restaurant will be expanded to an adjacent vacant unit to the south of the current building in the center south on Dundee Road, east of Milwaukee Avenue.

The center will also be home to the Wheeling/Prospect Heights Area Chamber of Commerce and

Industry when the newly expanded business group moves in Milwaukee Avenue headquarters by March.

Yellow and white sign colors OK'd

The owners of a sandwich shop planned for a shopping center at a congested Wheeling corner may display an identification sign that combines yellow and white colors, Wheeling trustees have agreed.

In September, trustee approved plans for a Subway Sandwiches and Salads restaurant in Center Plaza, 16 W. Dundee Road. Trus-

tees had previously rejected a proposal for a Little Caesar's Pizza in the center because they said the restaurant would lack sufficient parking and would increase traffic at the already congested Dundee-Wolf roads intersection.

Trustees unanimously approved the yellow and white sign for the sandwich shop, which is primarily a carry-out business.

But in the future, Trustee Judy Abruscato said she would like the village to include samples of the proposed colors for business signs. She added that there are too many different shades of certain colors to get an actual idea of what the business owner is pro-

posing.

OK appointment to pension board

Trustees unanimously approved the appointment of William J. Maloney to the village's police pension board.

His appointment fills a vacancy on the board left when Frank Prioretti was appointed the village plan commission. Prioretti filled a vacancy left on the plan commission when Lois Gaffke was elected village clerk last spring.

Maloney's term expires in two years.

1-4-90
911 service fees to start in April

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Following Wheeling trustees' recent approval of a contract with Illinois Bell, residents can expect to start paying for the village's new Enhanced 911 telephone emergency service by April.

Although residents will begin paying the 75-cent monthly charge for the system then, it will not be operational until 1992 when Illinois Bell routes the service within Wheeling's limits. Residents will see the charge on their telephone bills.

Entering into contract with Illinois Bell comes on the heels of voters' approval of the system in November. The Enhanced 911 system, which includes the familiar nationwide three-digit number, allows callers to dial a central location that dispatches calls to the appropriate

public safety agency. The Illinois Bell contract calls for the village to pay \$4,000 per each 1,000 access lines for installation of the system and \$150 per each 1,000 access lines for maintenance. Village Manager Craig G. Anderson said the village has about 20,000 access lines, and the telephone company rounds off the number to the nearest 1,000 lines.

Installation and equipment would cost about \$157,000 and monthly maintenance would run about \$3,500, village officials say.

Based on Illinois Bell estimates, Wheeling officials say, the monthly tax would generate an additional \$283,500 over 18 months for the village.

If the costs turn out to be lower than village estimates, the surcharge could be reduced to 25 cents a month. Trustees approved a monthly

contract rather than an annual agreement so that the cost reductions could be easily monitored.

Wheeling joins other towns, including Long Grove and Hoffman Estates, in voters' approval of the system. Arlington Heights, Barrington, Barrington Hills, Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove Village, Hanover Park, Mount Prospect, Bartlett, Palatine, Rolling Meadows and Streamwood earlier passed a referendum in favor of starting the system.

The Enhanced 911 system immediately provides dispatchers with a caller's name and telephone number, eliminating the need to trace calls that may become disconnected.

Unlike the "basic" 911, which was introduced in many towns in 1968, Enhanced 911 also can automatically clear the line of a prank call or automatically hold the line.

\$27,117
Wheeling police finally will get full staff

Delahanty's promotion filled a vacancy left on the department since the June 1987 resignation of Sgt. Stephan Weber. Weber asked later to be reinstated, but the village denied his request. Although Weber's lawsuit against the village is still pending, officials said it was time to fill the vacancy.

One of the three new officers hired last year filled the place of John Stone, who was promoted to sergeant, while another officer filled the opening left when officer William Hubner resigned to take a job in another police department. Another officer took the place of Richard Imber, who was fired in April for gambling and battery.

The latest hirings fill a vacancy created when Ronald Hines resigned in November and when Theresa Delahanty was promoted as the department's first female sergeant. "It's been a while," Police Chief Michael F. Haeger said. "Although we are better staffed today because we have been receiving an increased number of personnel, we just never seemed to make it up to full strength." Haeger pointed to the hiring of two new patrol officers and a sergeant last year to fill newly-created positions. Three other officers also were hired then to fill vacancies. Wessman and Plovaniich bring the total number of patrol officers to 39.

Sat, Jan 6, 1990
Wheeling police chief seeks officer's ouster

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger is seeking to fire an 11-year police officer he charges with incompetence and unsatisfactory performance.

Haeger's charges against Adrian D. Russell mark the fourth time in a year the chief has accused officers of violating police department regulations. The charges against Russell stem from incidents spanning the past six years.

Haeger is recommending to the fire and police commission that Russell be dismissed. Haeger refused to comment on the case.

The commission will review the charges at a hearing at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.

Russell's attorney, James R. Truschke, said he will try to have the charges dismissed. Truschke said Haeger suggested Russell resign from the department in September. When Russell did not resign, Haeger removed him from street patrol, Truschke added.

Since 1984, according to the charges, Russell has been suspended from the police department eight times for a total of 30 days for failure to attend court dates, having accidents involving his squad car and for allowing a suspect to escape his custody. Russell could not be reached for comment.

The latest charge against Russell stems from a Feb. 16 incident

in which Russell allegedly stopped a driver, who was known to be dangerous. Russell allegedly left the suspect unattended, and when other officers arrived on the scene they found a loaded gun in the suspect's car. In his charges, Haeger states Russell put himself and others in danger.

Since last April, a veteran officer was fired for gambling and battery while another officer was suspended for 10 days for his unauthorized participation in a high-speed car chase to Chicago. In September, a police sergeant was suspended for three weeks for upending the village flag. All three were charged by Haeger for violating police department regulations.

Sat, Jan 6, 1990
Wheeling plans health fair for children

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling health officials want children to know how to help someone who is choking, drowning, caught in a fire or suffering from shock.

Although still in the works, a youth health fair is one event officials are proposing that would help children learn some first aid techniques, said Daniel Adams, Wheeling's sanitarian.

The health fair, which would be similar to the village's fall fair for adults, would combine the efforts of the village, fire department and the Indian Trails Public Library District.

Adams meets with representatives from all three groups to discuss the fair and expects to have details worked out within the next few months. Adams wants to hold the fair in May when it's warmer, but students are still in school. In addition, he is working out details to hold the fair at the grounds of the In-

dian Trails Library in Wheeling.

The youth fair, which would be geared toward elementary and junior high school students, would teach children first aid as well as where they could go for help in an emergency.

"It's things that children should be aware of," Adams said. "Mom might slip in the tub and they need to address that. It would be good for children to have some elementary knowledge of this and where to summons help."

The adult fair, typically held in fall at Wheeling's Lynn Plaza, includes exhibitors from the Northern Illinois Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse, the American Heart Association, Illinois State Council of Senior Citizen Foundation and others. The exhibitors offer screenings for cataracts, glaucoma, blood pressure, cholesterol and backs.

The youth fair idea, developed after the adult fair, also comes in light of recent national disasters, such as earthquakes, floods and tornadoes. Adams added.

Sunday, Jan. 17, 1990

Trustee workshop to discuss tree program

Wheeling trustees will hold a workshop this week to discuss plans for a tree planting program. Following Wheeling's first tree planting ceremony last Arbor Day, village officials have been studying how to implement such a program. This week, trustees will discuss proposals suggested by village staff members.

Some of the details trustees will discuss include how the program would be funded, where the trees would be planted, how many trees

would be planted, who would maintain the trees and what kind of trees would be planted, Village Planner Robert Sullivan said.

"This is just an attempt to evaluate what the program is and what we want it to be," Sullivan said.

Over the years, many trees that have been removed due to decay, mutilation or age have never been replaced because of a lack of money. But, in this year's budget, trustees have set aside \$10,000 as seed money for the program.

Village officials plan to use the \$10,000 to plant trees this spring and develop a plan to keep the program going.

Areas where trees have been removed are in old sections of town, including the Meadowbrook subdivision, the Dunhurst area and parts north of Schoenbeck and Dundee roads.

In addition to being required to plant one tree per parkway lot, developers of newer subdivisions must appear before the village's plan and

appearance commissions for approval of developments.

The top meeting

Who: Wheeling village board committee of the whole
Where: Wheeling village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road.
When: 8 p.m. Monday

Wednesday, January 10, 1990

Judge upholds firing of Wheeling officer

Strzyk said, "We were fair and the judge felt the same way."

A spokesman for Thomas McGuire, Imber's attorney, said he plans to appeal the decision in the First District Appellate Court of Illinois. Neither McGuire nor Imber could be reached for comment.

The gambling charges — which included bets on poker, liar's poker and backgammon — stemmed from three separate incidents between May 1988 and January 1989 at Vivian Lee's, a Wheeling restaurant/lounge at 604 N. Milwaukee Ave. After fighting with a friend last January at the restaurant, Imber was found guilty of battery from his \$34,812-a-year job, Gillis stated.

"I think it was as fair as we could be," Commissioner Rita

testimony, the release of information which Imber had disclosed to fire and police commissioners in testimony closed to the public. Although Imber had said the information could involve other police officials and was relevant to his case, commissioners decided it was not.

"We're pleased that the judge felt there was no error made by the commission," Village Attorney James A. Rhodes said, "and that the actions of the board were proper."

After the April commission hearing, Wheeling Police Sgt. Michael J. Staufenbiel was suspended for 21 days without pay after turning the village flag upside down to protest Imber's firing.

Wed. Jan 10, 1990

Simon says defense cuts could finance health care

BY MADELEINE DOUBEK
Daily Herald Political Writer

Sen. Paul Simon predicted Tuesday that government and business will be forced to overhaul the nation's health care system within the next five to 10 years.

Addressing members of several Northwest suburban chambers of commerce, Simon said mandated health insurance "is going to be part of the next 10 years." He said smaller businesses may have to form insurance pools to be able to afford providing health insurance for employees.

Simon, a Democrat from Makanda in southern Illinois, is running for his second 6-year term in the Senate. He is likely to face Republican Rep. Lynn Martin of the Rockford area in the November general election.

Simon also met with about 90 suburban residents at a town meeting in Wheeling.

Questioned at the chamber meeting about the possibility of national health insurance, Simon noted that hospitals are being forced to shift costs onto privately insured patients



Paul Simon

to make up for the shortfall in government funding for Medicaid and Medicare patients.

Although 37 million Americans have some health insurance, they may not have enough insurance coverage. "There's a growing awareness of a problem," Simon said. As generations of baby-boom Americans age, "Long-term care will be exploding on us," he added.

COUNTRYSIDE 1-11-90

Hold the special use

Last October, we chided Wheeling officials for granting a special use permit to a local pizzeria that wanted to relocate to a portion of Milwaukee Avenue village officials had long targeted to upgrade in a comprehensive redevelopment plan.

This Monday the village board should take advantage of the opportunity it has to rescind the special use permit previously granted to the pizzeria.

To the credit of trustees who recently moved to re-open consideration of the special use permit, there were new concerns raised about how this business would fit in with the Milwaukee Avenue redevelopment plans.

Our objections remain the same as they were in October. The pizzeria, while it has a place in Wheeling, should not be included in the redevelopment area. With village staff pointing out that the pizzeria fails to meet six of the nine criteria to qualify for a special use permit, the board should not grant the request.

1-12-90

Hearing for Wheeling officer delayed

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A hearing for a Wheeling police officer charged with incompetence by Wheeling Police Chief Michael F. Haeger has been continued until later this month.

Haeger is recommending to the village fire and police commission to fire police officer Adrian D. Russell, who also is charged with unsatisfactory job performance. These charges mark the fourth time in a year the chief has accused officers of violating police department regulations.

Commissioners Thursday agreed to determine whether to dismiss Haeger's complaint — as requested by Russell's attorney, who

was known to be dangerous. Russell allegedly left the suspect unattended in his car and when other officers arrived on the scene, they found a loaded gun in the suspect's car. Haeger said Russell put himself and others in danger.

Since last January, Haeger has charged three other officers with violating department rules. A veteran officer was subsequently fired for gambling and battery, and another was suspended for 10 days for his unauthorized participation in a high-speed car chase to Chicago.

In September, a police sergeant was suspended for three weeks for upending the village flag in protest of the firing of a fellow officer.

James R. Truschke — at a later meeting, set for 7 p.m., Jan. 30, in the council room chambers at the village hall, 255 W. Dundee Road. Russell already has been punished for several of Haeger's charges, including missed court dates and squad car accidents, Truschke stated in his motion to dismiss the charges.

Since 1894, Russell has been suspended from the police department eight times for a total of 30 days for failure to attend court dates, having accidents involving his squad car and for allowing a suspect to escape his custody.

Included in Haeger's latest trio of charges against Russell, is a Feb. 16 incident in which Russell allegedly stopped a driver who

Police chief asks board to fire officer for 'incompetence'

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

COUNTRYSIDE
1-11-90

For the second time in less than a year, Wheeling Police Chief Michael Haeger is asking that a Wheeling police officer be fired.

Charging officer Adrian Russell with incompetence and unsatisfactory job performance, Haeger has asked the board of fire and police commissioners to fire Russell, sources said.

Russell was suspended for 10 days in August, 1988, for missing court dates and has been suspended at least five times since he joined the department in 1978.

The board of fire and police commissioners is expected to hear the charges tonight (Thursday) in the police and fire training room at the village hall campus at 255 W. Dundee Road.

RUSSELL, WHO JOINED the department in 1978, said Tuesday he has been assigned to the records division since last September because of the impending charges. Haeger said he assigned Russell to administrative duties because "it's his duty and assignment."

Russell declined to comment further

Judge upholds village officer's firing

A Cook County Circuit Court judge Friday upheld the firing of a Wheeling police officer, who was found guilty of gambling by the village board of fire and police commissioners.

Judge Kenneth Gillis ruled the Wheeling board of fire and police commissioners was correct in finding officer Richard Imber guilty of two counts of gambling and battery and was proper in firing Imber for the charges, Village Attorney James Rhodes said.

Rhodes said he was pleased with Gillis' decision.

Through his office, Imber's attorney, Thomas McGuire, said he would appeal Gillis' decision to the Illinois Appellate Court.

In making the ruling, Gillis also said the board was correct in not allowing some evidence admitted at the April 6 hearing at which Imber was eventually fired.

According to sources, that evidence included testimony from two former police department employees who claimed Police Chief Michael Haeger had bet on football "strip cards." Noel Wroblewski, then Imber's attorney, was apparently going to use the evidence to try to minimize the penalty against Imber.

At a March meeting, the board of fire and police commissioners found Imber guilty of gambling two different times at Vivian Lee's bar and restaurant. The board also found Imber guilty of battery at a separate incident at Vivian Lee's.

about the case.

According to testimony at Russell's August, 1988, hearing, the officer had been reprimanded once for scheduling

court dates while he was on vacation, and once for missing a court date.

In addition, Haeger suspended Russell a total four times between 1985 and

1986 before he agreed to a 10-day suspension in 1988 in return for the withdrawal of other charges against him.

HAEGER REFUSED TO disclose the contents of the current charges against Russell. He said the charges, acknowledged by the fire and police board at its Dec. 20 meeting, were not public records.

A source familiar with the charges, however, confirmed Haeger is charging Russell with incompetence and unsatisfactory job performance in seeking his dismissal.

The full content of the charges are expected to be released tonight.

Since Russell was brought before the fire and police board in 1988, three other officers have faced charges before the board of fire and police commissioners.

The board fired officer Richard Imber in April, 1978, after finding him guilty of two counts of gambling and one count of battery relating to incidents on three separate occasions at Vivian Lee's bar and restaurant on Milwaukee Avenue.

(Continued on page 16)

Residents pepper Senator Simon with questions

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

COUNTRYSIDE
1-11-90

With the Cold War thawing, and with eastern Europe warming to the West, U.S. Sen. Paul Simon said the Bush administration should cut back on spending for the defense of western Europe.

And instead of closing military bases like Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul and Fort Sheridan near Highwood, Simon — at a public forum in Wheeling — said the government should close military installations overseas.

"It made sense in 1950, it might of made sense in 1960, but it doesn't make sense in 1990," Simon said of spending millions on western Europe's defense.

"Instead of closing the base at Rantoul, (we should) close a base in West Germany. It makes sense all the way around," Simon said. But he conceded that those decisions are unlikely.

WITH SIMON STANDING in the Wheeling Village Hall Tuesday morning, willing to answer questions from area residents, a number of residents used the opportunity to bring up both local and national issues.

Along with questions about Panama, world trade, abortion and social security, residents asked Simon about waste disposal, civil rights for atheists and

(Continued on page 22)

Simon —

(Continued from page 5)
homelessness.

At his 378th town meeting, Simon spent nearly an hour answering the questions and comments of the overflow crowd that filled the village hall's council chambers.

This November, the Makanda Democrat will seek his second six-year term in the U.S. Senate, challenging Republican U.S. Rep. Lynn Martin of Rockford.

SIMON SPENT MOST of his 55-minute visit talking about national issues. He said several issues concerning residents, including the trade deficit, the reliance on Japanese and foreign investment and the budget deficit were interrelated.

While he said the apparent barriers to U.S. businesses trying to sell products in Japan appeared unfair, he said it would be tough to come down on the Japanese, from whom the U.S. government borrows \$13 billion each month to pay bills.

"It's pretty tough to get tough with your banker," Simon said. "We have to get our house in order."

The nation's budget deficit came into play several times, and Simon said its existence can be associated with "too many legislators" who want to give constituents more services and lower taxes.

"WE HAVE provided both and we have provided a huge deficit," Simon said. That deficit is causing the dollar to be "overvalued", which leads to increasing foreign investment.

Simon spoke on a number of issues during his stay. He outlined a number of his positions Tuesday. Among them were:

- On abortion. "The question is not what is right 'is abortion right or wrong.' The question is who makes the decision. Does government do it? Does the doctor? Does the woman?"
- On a proposed temporary storage facility. Simon asked Kleen Corp. for help in gaining more information about the company. Safety-Kleen Corp. That company wants to build a five-acre storage facility on Hintz Road, across the street from Brower's home and child day care center facility.



(Continued from page 5)

ACCORDING TO STATE law, Haeger can only suspend officers up to five days without pay. Any additional penalties must be handed out by the board of fire and police commissioners.

Haeger had sought to have Sgt. Michael Staufenbiel demoted because he overturned a village flag following the fire and police board's decision to fire Imber. That same board later ruled to suspend Staufenbiel for three weeks.

Haeger also brought charges against officer Michael Rompala, who accepted a 10-day suspension for taking an "unsafe" car chase into Chicago. Both Rompala and Haeger agreed to a settlement before a hearing.

In addition, the board of fire and police commissioners announced in November that Haeger had suspended two other officers, both for less than six days. The causes of those suspensions, to officers Robert Pressley and John Swisher, were not revealed.

FOLLOWING THE WAVE of disciplinary actions last year, the board of trustees agreed last June to create two commander positions within the department to fill suspected "gaps" in the department's management process.

Tree program could spruce up Wheeling streets

By Mike Wilkinson
Staff Writer

COUNTRYSIDE

1-11-90

With disease, weather, and sewer problems claiming the lives of 259 trees since 1982, Wheeling officials are considering a program to rebuild the canopy over the village.

Trustees Monday were urged to spend substantially more money over the next four years to buy and plant trees throughout the subdivisions and along the main roads of the village.

Developed by village staff members, the suggested "urban forestry management program" asks trustees to more than double the village's spending for tree planting, spraying and pruning.

The program, said Village Planner Bob Sullivan and administrative intern Gary Mayerhofer, would add beauty to Wheeling and increase property values.

TRUSTEES APPEARED receptive to the program that that could add 140 trees to the village each year for the next four years.

"I certainly favor expanding (the program)," said Trustee Elizabeth Hartman. "I'd like to see more trees in the village."

Under the plan developed by Sullivan, Mayerhofer and Scott Shirley, assistant director of Operations and Maintenance, the village would offer to replace trees removed from subdivision parkways. Trustees said they might institute a program in which residents would share in the cost of planting the trees.

If implemented, the program could cost between \$98,000 and \$193,000 annually, far above the \$43,500 budgeted for trees this year. Sullivan said \$40,000 of the money would go toward buying and planting 140 trees each year for four years.

IN ADDITION, THE plan calls for the addition of trees in "high visibility" areas along some of the village's main roads.

Sullivan said trees can raise the value of property while making a positive aesthetic impact on the village.

"If an (advertisement) can say 'wooded lot', it will sell for more than an unwooded lot," Sullivan said.

Most surrounding communities spend more money per capita than Wheeling does, according to a study presented Monday. While Wheeling plans on spending \$43,500 on forestry this year, a \$1.55 per capita expenditure, Buffalo Grove expects to spend \$230,000 this year, or \$7.19 for each of its 32,000 residents.

SULLIVAN AND MAYERHOFER outlined the plan, saying the village should hire someone this summer to take an accurate inventory of the village's trees. That inventory, they said, would provide up-to-date information on the village tree population that would allow for good decisions on the location of the replacement trees.

In order to get the best price on the trees, the village may join a consortium of municipalities that contracts with a nursery, ordering trees in three-year increments.

THURS Jan. 11, 1990

Safety-Kleen resubmits relocation plan to village

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Representatives of an Elgin chemical processing company will, for the third time, submit plans to relocate an Arlington Heights storage center to Wheeling.

Safety-Kleen Corp. of Elgin will submit the new application by the end of this week. The company recently withdrew its second application, citing an error in the mailing process to notify residents near the proposed site. Officials withdrew the first application because it was missing a date on a form

used to advise residents of meetings.

In addition to possible legal problems, both oversights could have cost the village, the corporation and residents time and money if the applications were not withdrawn before the permit process begins, said Richard Miller, Safety-Kleen public affairs manager.

Safety-Kleen wants to relocate and expand an Arlington Heights storage center to 10 acres on the south side of Hintz Road, just east of Glenn Avenue in Wheeling.

Safety-Kleen recycles hazardous wastes and processes solvents from cleaning machines used for



Daily Herald Map

car parts and dry cleaning. However, the Wheeling center would be used only for storage before hauling the wastes to processing centers.

With the new application, the village board must hold a public hearing within four months.

Buildings get awards for best appearances

THURS, Jan. 11, 1990

HERALD

Congratulations to the Arlington Club, North Suburban Library System, Spectra Tool/W.W. Grainger and Hoyme Savings, buildings which were awarded the Wheeling Appearance Commission Awards for 1989.

Awards are based on elements of architectural design, landscaping, lighting and maintenance. Each structure must receive a minimum of 400 points as evaluated by the Appearance Commission to qualify.

In this year's contest, Arlington Club, located on Buffalo Grove Road just north of Dundee Road, won in the multi-family category; North Suburban Library System, located at 200 W. Dundee Road, won in the non-profit category; Spectra Tool/W.W. Grainger, located at 690 Chaddick, won in the industrial category; and Hoyme Savings, located at 699 W. Dundee Road, won in the commercial category.

Appearance Awards are given out on an annual basis. To nominate a Wheeling building for this year's contest, write to: the village of Wheeling, Attention: Chairman, Appearance Commission, P.O. Box V, Wheeling, IL 60090

Lisa Schab

Wheeling

