

TROY GARDENS

Troy Gardens' learning community branching outward and blazing new trails

By Marge Pitts
Friends of Troy Gardens

Branching outward

The Friends of Troy Gardens (FTG) began a new collaboration this fall, a course in "Field Natural History" for home-schooled youth.

In partnership with the University of Wisconsin Arboretum, FTG staffers Nathan Larson and Christie Ralston, along with intern Kristin Maharg, are teaching the 35-week course to 19 students ranging in age from 12-16-years-old.

For three hours per week, classes are held outdoors in the Arboretum, moving to indoor classrooms there when the weather doesn't cooperate.

The Madison Area Community Land Trust plans to build a Nature Education Community Center at Troy Gardens in the near future, complete with classroom space that could accommodate courses like this.

Until then, FTG's partnership with the Arboretum is a blessing—and a good example of building mutually beneficial relationships with like-minded organizations in our city.

"Natural History is an important discipline," said Nathan Larson, "just as important as learning about gardening. The world needs more naturalists, and we want to be at the heart of supporting that movement."



Photo by Marge Pitts

Blazing new trails

In 12 hours of work, eight adjudicated teenagers built an excellent path through a small forest adjacent to Troy Gardens.

The youth were enrolled in the SPRITE program—Support, Perseverance, Respect, Initiative, Teamwork and Education—a short term, high impact, adventure-based education program designed to teach delinquent youth the skills necessary for successful reintegration into their home communities.

FTG Education Program Director,

Nathan Larson, successfully pursued a grant from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board for a three-year project to create a Community Forest & Outdoor Classroom, on state-owned land just west of the cinder lane that marks the western boundary of Troy Gardens.

In these little woods, where huge tamarack trees loom over an understory of maple saplings alongside a small grassy marsh, Troy Gardens will teach a place-based, year round forest education curriculum.

Under the tamaracks, a small area will be cleared and fallen logs dragged over to provide seating for students and teachers—and you might not be able to tell which is which.

In this learning community, Troy's Farm & Field teens will collaborate with staff, interns, and college students both undergraduate and graduate, to create a vibrant curriculum, teaching and learning from each other.

The path loops through the forest and marsh, with quirky amenities like a huge decaying maple log with a "window" chain-sawed into its side to allow exploration of the wonders within.

Dog-walkers and nature lovers in the neighborhood have already discovered this new jewel in the crown of natural trails that make the Northside such a lovely place to live.

The "added value" of an outdoor classroom will protect this woodland from ever being "developed" out of existence. A very good outcome for all of us!

Troy Gardens launches e-commerce

New e-commerce website at www.friendsoftroygardens.org

Friends of Troy Gardens recently launched website where people can become members, buy related products, and donate to Troy Gardens online.

A new locally produced CD, entitled "Troy Gardens Journal," featuring spoken word by Marge Pitts and music by Maury Smith (both Northsiders), will be available soon.



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Lake View teacher spends summer in Thai, Viet Nameese classrooms

By Susie Hobart

Anxiety. Excitement. Anticipation. As I stuffed my sweatshirt into my carry-on, I worked up a smile for the immigration camera and customs officer. It was midnight, and he graciously greeted me with my first sa wa dee ka (Hello, and how are you, ma'am?) and asked me my business in Thailand. I told him I was on an educational exchange.

Satisfied, he stamped the king's logo on my passport. I moved past security, sweating in the steamy 98 degree heat, scanning the crowded area. I was finally one of those people met by someone with a sign in the airport! There it was — FULBRIGHT!

Over the next month and a half, that word would become comfortably familiar as it was flown from every door, meeting hall and school as I traveled with 14 teachers in Thailand and Viet Nam.

During our stay, we met with secretaries and deputy secretaries of education ministries, local administrators, teachers, politicians and university professors. While separated by oceans and time zones, we shared the same

educational values: commitment to excellence, a desire to ensure academic success for all and professional development for teachers to ensure the first two goals.

Several school visits stand out, and I smile as I recall the rows of shoes that lined the entrances to the classes or schools. Buddhist culture, even in public schools, encourages removing one's shoes when entering a place of learning, temple or school. Going to any length to help her son diagnosed with autism, architectural professor Dr. Nithum started a school. Roong Aroon (School of Dawn), Bangkok, was created by Nithum to nurture her son's development, integrate content and ethical practice and provide a holistic learning environment for all.

From a rice paddy living laboratory to promote student understanding of Thai agri/economics to self sufficiency in a reuse/recycling program to the integration of the arts with every subject, the 300 children at Roong Aroon were actively engaged in all aspects of learning AND cleaned their own classrooms beginning at age five.

In the hills north of Chaing Rai along



Photos provided by Susie Hobart



Left: Lahu children at a hilltribe school along the borders of Laos and Myanmar. Right: Hobart teaches fifth graders to construct origami cubes in geometry class with Thai host teacher at Darakan School, Bangkok.

the Burmese and Laotian border, we visited the Mirror Project and Duo Tung, both model programs that promote teacher development from the local area and education for hill tribe children. Hmong, Lahu, Karen and Akha tribes are working to maintain their culture and way of life as the 21st century and development have caused them to adapt. My miniature singing Bucky Badger was a big hit and the Akha children were singing "On Wisconsin" as we left.

During my stay in Bangkok, I lived part time with a veteran teacher, Nit, from the Darakan School. They began each day with an assembly, and I was treated to a musical performance by the band, dance troupe and native Thai instrument group my first day. Seven hundred students attend this urban school, surrounded by corrugated metal homes, street vendors, industrial buildings and high rises.

I taught alongside Nit, played games with the children and was treated to demonstrations of Thai art, cookery and community service by the students. Not dissimilar to ours, the student body is a

mix of incomes. Many low income children are raised by grandparents and in single parent families struggling with the issues of poverty, according to Darakan's social worker.

Many of the children had special needs and there were 40 kids to a class, yet I did not see anyone pulled for behavior and there was no time out room. They had never heard of the concept of "suspension." And noisy! Students were noisy and giggling and being children. I kept wondering, where were the discipline problems?

Editor's Note: Lake View Elementary teacher Susie Hobart spent her summer vacation teaching as a Fulbright scholar in Thailand and Viet Nam. She shares her story in a two-part series. Read the rest of Hobart's story in the February/March of the Northside News!



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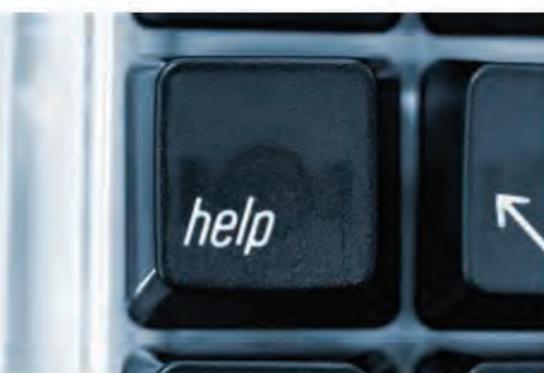
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SCHOOL & YOUTH

Donated plants beautify Emerson school garden

By Matt Dreis

On a beautiful fall morning in October, a group of kids, parents, teachers and neighbors came together for a fun event to improve our Emerson neighborhood schoolyard and playground. Two main projects focused on weeding the student garden plot and planting a number of donated plants and trees.

The garden is a relatively new feature to the school grounds. Its purpose is to engage students in learning where food comes from and provide hands-on experience cultivating plants.

The plot needed some heavy-duty weeding and a healthy dose of compost. Volunteers worked hard to remove the pesky weeds and replenish the soil. A winter cover crop will be planted and students will help decide what goes in the ground in the spring-time.

The other big job was to give the many donated plants a new home. Four very generous local businesses offered Emerson bulbs, perennials, shrubs and even trees!

The Northside Jung's Garden Center contributed a pear tree, blackberry bushes, mulch and peat moss. The tree was planted near the student garden. When a second one is added next spring, students will enjoy watching the trees fruit as they mature.

The Toddle-in Nursery of McFarland gave us two beautiful red maple trees that were planted in the



Kindergartners Marion Elbow and Leo Dreis enthusiastically dig in to help make their school a more beautiful place.

middle of the playground near one of the play structures. They are sure to display radiant fall colors as well as provide welcome shade for hot, sunny days.

Felly's Flowers and Garden Center was especially generous in donating perennials and spring bulbs. Most of these plants were placed around the crabapple tree by the cul-de-sac on Dayton Street. Once established, they will display a colorful and inviting welcome to anyone visiting the school.

Klein's Floral and Greenhouses also donated perennials. These were planted primarily on the east side of the

building to greet the many parents dropping off and picking up kids.

The generous support of these local businesses was essential in realizing our big plans on a shoestring budget. Along with the help of Emerson parents and neighbors, the first phase of our evolving beautification plan came to fruition. It was inspiring to be a part of the energy that made all of this happen.

We look forward to our spring beautification day along with the continued support of surrounding neighborhoods. We hope some of you come join us next time!

The next big Emerson community event is Family Fun night on Fri., Feb. 15, 6-7:30 pm.

It's Girl Scout cookie time!

Photo by Jennifer Conn

READY. SET. GO! It's Girl Scout Cookie Sale time!! Girl Scouts will be going door-to-door from Fri., Jan. 4, 2008, to Sun., Jan. 20, selling delicious Girl Scout Cookies. By purchasing Girl Scout Cookies, community members support local Girl Scout troops and Girl Scouts of Black Hawk Council.

Black Hawk Council is excited to announce our newest member of the Girl Scout Cookie family: The Cinna-Spin! The Cinna-Spin is a crispy round with a cinnamon burst in every bite. And, the Cinna-Spins come in easy to eat 100 Calorie Portion Control Packs!! All Girl Scout Cookies are trans-fat free, so go ahead and indulge! Stock up on your favorite cookies whether Thin Mints, Caramel de Lites, Short-breads, Peanut Butter Patties, Lemonades, Thanks-a-Lots or Peanut Butter Sandwiches.

Remember, Girl Scout Cookies freeze well and make great treats to give-a-way. READY. SET. GO! for the Girl Scout Cookies!!

For more information or to locate a Northside troop, contact Community Cookie Chair Wendy Murkve at 244-7915 or wmurkve@mac.com.



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New playground in the oaks sought

Image by Gerber Leisure Products, Inc.



The above rendition portrays the new playground envisioned for Lake View Elementary School. Fundraising efforts are underway to make the new play area a reality for students.

By Kim Besmer

Lake View Elementary School is a magical place. Located north of Warner Park on a rolling hillside under a canopy of mature oak trees, the school serves a diverse community of children eager to learn. At Lake View a melting pot of Asian, Hispanic, African American and Caucasian students learn and play together. However, 66% of our students are from low-income families. Almost 30% of the students are learning to speak English. Yet despite the challenges, students, faculty and families of Lake View have built an incredible sense of unity.

Driving down North Sherman Avenue many people take note of the beautiful setting. However, a closer look reveals that Lake View's current playground is old and inadequate. Playground equipment is rusting. The ground covering is minimal. At the start

of this school year, the school district removed three pieces of unsafe equipment, but did not replace them due to the tight budget. Currently, there is not enough equipment for the children.

A group of PTA parents is working to change the playground situation. A three phase, \$80,000 plan is in place to overhaul the playground. In the past year just over \$2,500 has been donated by Lake View families, staff and alumni. Although the goal appears daunting, they are determined to build a playground that will be a safe place where children of all racial and economic backgrounds can laugh, play and learn together.

If you are interested in making a difference for the students of Lake View, every dollar of your tax-deductible donation will go straight to the playground fund. All donations will make a difference, regardless of amount. The new playground will be for the entire Northside community for years to



Photo by Kit Laibly

Heritage Credit Union staff, from left, Cindy Schroeder, Blaine Kirby, and Lana Pertzborn with Magic 98 DJ Lanette Hansen after winning first prize in the Sherman's chili cook-off.

Sherman's 6th spicy chili cook-off

By Kit Laibly

Sherman Middle School celebrated the "Month of the Young Adolescent" on Oct. 18 with the 6th Annual Chili Cook-off and "Strut Your Stuff" night. Ten chili entries from various students, staff, and parents made it difficult for judge Lanette Hansen from Magic 98 to choose a winner.

Although Principal Mike Hernandez cooked up a hot and spicy batch of chili, the Heritage Credit Union employees who spend time volunteering/tutoring at

Sherman each week took first prize. Second prize went to sixth grade student Haley Watson and her dad Al. Way to go chili winners!

After the cook-off, parents, students and staff played volleyball, basketball and dodgeball. Parents and staff took on the students and gave them a run for their money. It was a busy night at Sherman and a great time was had by all!

If you are interested in joining the fun and becoming a volunteer tutor at Sherman Middle School, please contact Kit Laibly, Schools of Hope Volunteer Coordinator, at 204-2132.

come – and everyone can contribute to its success. Donations can be sent to: Lake View Elementary – PTA Playground Fund, 1802 Tennyson

Lane, Madison, WI 53704. For more information, contact Kim Besmer at besmers@sbcglobal.net or Jen Tracey jtracey2@charter.net.

Kodiaks end season undefeated



Photo by Melissa Sargent

A perfect fall season, and the standings say it all. The Gompers Kodiaks (fourth grade at Gompers Elementary) were undefeated. The team scored 55 goals and only allowed five goals all year. That is awesome! Soccer is truly a team game and everyone worked together to make it happen. During the fall the kids really improved on dribbling better, passing the ball, shielding the ball and stopping and crossing the ball to the middle, looking for one another and building their confidence. Thanks, Coaches Wayne and Brian!

~ submitted by Melissa Sargent

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EAST HIGH SCHOOL

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Momentum

At 5:47 pm on Sat., Nov. 10, as East High touched the wall to finish second in the 400 relay, six young women had swam their way to victory at the division one, state swimming and diving championships. It is the first state championship in any sport at East High since the hockey team won a title in 1987. Years of early morning and late night laps, forgoing summer camps and enumerate miles on their parents minivans aside, the triumph began at 8 am that morning when East students arrived to save the best seats in the house for East High fans. In the first race of the day, the East team won a relay event it was not expected to win. At the midway point, the Natatorium was buzzing with word that East was leading. I could feel and taste the momentum.

Momentum matters. The positive energy that comes with determining

big ideas, taking action, seeing results and talking passionately about it is contagious. Our swim team is a reminder of the momentum we have at East High. Whether it is teachers earning national board certification, executing a foundation fund raiser, creating a writing center, finding innovative ways to get students to class, hanging new pictures on the wall, or teaching students the school song to or enumerate others, there is a tide of momentum.

Momentum is not the end but the journey. It does not mean things are perfect but rather that we believe we are moving in the right direction. There is a great deal of work to be done. Each of us is responsible for the creation and continuation of that momentum. The conversation we have with a neighbor, encouragement we give a student and vision we have the future, do matter.

The swim coach said one of the team mottos at the beginning of the year was, "Let's give them something to talk about." The team certainly did that and more. The team reminded us that if we work hard, believe together and have a large vocal group of fans, we get momentum. And with momentum, anything is possible.



Photo by Jill Jokela

Jennifer Kellerhuis, Ruby Martin, Kirsten Lickel, Hannah Taschwer, Aja Van Hout, Becca Soderholm and Ivy Martin celebrate their victory.

East girls swim to first ever state championship

By Jill Jokela

East High United

"Eastside, Eastside!" was the chant heard loud and clear at the UW Natatorium on Nov. 9, as the Madison East girls wrapped up an historic season by capturing the Division I State Girls Swimming & Diving Championship title. Cheered on by a large and enthusiastic group of students, staff, family and friends, the East girls swam to gold in five of 11 events.

But it was their strong second place finish in the exciting final event of the day, the 400 free relay, which held off perennial powerhouse and cross town rival Madison Memorial and secured the state championship for East.

The final score of 233 – 229.5, a 3.5 point margin of victory, was the second closest ever in State history. It was the first state team swimming title ever for East, either girls or boys, and the first team title in any sport since the boys' hockey team won a state championship 20 years ago in 1987.

"Quality over quantity" was one of the team's mottos this year as the 16 girl strong squad finished the season with a 7 – 1 conference dual record, placed fourth at the Big 8 Conference meet, and followed that up with a third place showing at Sectionals, qualifying six individuals and three relays for State.

Kirsten Lickel, Ivy Martin, Ruby Martin, Becca Soderholm, Hannah Taschwer and Aja Van Hout swam for East at State, capturing event wins in the 200 medley relay (R. Martin, Taschwer, Soderholm, I. Martin), 200 IM (Van Hout), 50 Free (R. Martin), 500 Free (Van Hout), and 200 free relay (R. Martin, I. Martin, Lickel, Van Hout).

Congratulations to the East High girls swim team, head coach Matt Matteson and assistant coaches Todd Kasper and Emily Gnatzig, on an amazing season and well deserved State Championship! Go East!

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East-Shabazz students raise funds for Pine Ridge trip

By Cynthia Chin

East-Shabazz Service-Learning Trip A combined group of 45 staff and students from the two high schools will spend the week of Spring Break volunteering on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Students and staff will learn about the area's culture, history and people while completing volunteer projects such as housing or furniture repair and construction. Geometry students at East made Lakota Star quilts as part of their study of symmetry patterns. Pine Ridge artist Kelly Looking Horse visited East classes this fall to demonstrate and discuss other indigenous art forms.

How you can help: Students are fundraising to support their trips. Some are relying entirely on donated funds. A quilt raffle, Boston Store Community Day and Barnes & Noble Book Fair all were held in November. Many thanks to Northside residents who supported these events. Please contact Mary Paulson at mpaulson@madison.k12.wi.us or 204-1531 if you have suggestions for future fundraising or can assist in other ways.

Thank You to East graduates Tom and Peter Daly for donating a used calculator to the school rental program. Another student is putting it to good use.

Pre-Engineering Club members attended a regional conference of the National Society of Black Engineers, held at Monona Terrace Convention Center, in mid-November. The Kern Family Foundation and East administration assisted with registration costs. Students of all backgrounds are invited to join this new group—this is an interdisciplinary, college prep and career-oriented affiliate of the UW-Madison's NSBE chapter. Contact Ms. Chin at cchin@madison.k12.wi.us or 204-1534 for more information.

UW-Madison Math Nights have entered their fourth "season". These monthly evening talks are given by graduate students and faculty on the UW campus. The UW Actuarial Department will host a career awareness program on March 4. Students should check with their math teachers for more information about these events.

EAST HIGH SCHOOL

Learning 'community' leads youth to achievement

By Alex Johnson

During my six weeks in a Honduran community, I realized what it meant to be a citizen of the world. In the school year of 2006-2007 I joined *Amigos de las Américas*, a private nonprofit group. Amigos promotes the empowerment of young leaders, advancement of community development and strengthening of multicultural understanding.

Before my trip to Honduras, my perception of life was naive. Not until I stepped into the Honduran real world did I realize how much I had to learn and how quickly I would find my passion in life.

When I arrived in San Rafael, Honduras, I did not know what to expect. My entire year of Sunday training with *Amigos de las Américas* was put to a test. I joined Amigos in the hopes that my Spanish would improve. After six weeks of living with my host family, my Spanish did improve, and I came back with a better understanding of what it means to be a leader.

As an *Amigos* volunteer I was partnered with two girls the same age as me. Before our trip we did not know each other but our enthusiasm as volunteers brought us closer. We had the goal of supporting the community with a small project of our choice. Within the first few days, we planned a meeting to discuss sustainable projects that could be built only with volunteers from the community. On the day of the scheduled meeting, we were eager to deliberate with the town leaders. As we waited in the town hall, time passed, and no one showed up. I felt like a failure. I walked back home to talk to my host mother and to report the bad news. She explained that my efforts hadn't gone to waste and the only way to create a community project is to be part of the community first.

Instead of going back and organizing another meeting, my partners and I went door to door to get to know the people of San Rafael. Not only did we come to find how excited people were to host us in their community but we were also quickly invited for dinner. My travels around town brought me closer to the people than I ever imagined. While getting to know the people, they became more interested in my reasons for being a volunteer. I explained how *Amigos* offered a per-



Left: *Amigos de las Américas* member Alex Johnson with partners Claire (left) and Lucy in Lempira, Honduras. Right: A team of volunteers builds the new bus stop.



Photos provided by Alex Johnson

sonal challenge to every volunteer through the work of a public service project.

San Rafael is known for its late and unreliable bus system. In the heat of the day or in the middle of the rainy season, people wait for hours with their families for a bus that might never show. Within a day the community decided to construct a cement bus stop, and volunteers were established. Making cement by hand with the people I had only known within my short stay was the most rewarding experience of my life. Our

project site became the hot spot of the town. The entire community was involved in the construction of the bus stop. The weary traveler who once had no place to wait for the bus was knee deep in wet cement, and mothers and children brought snacks and drinks in the heat of the day. My previous failure evolved into the greatest achievement of my life.

During my stay, I learned much more about the world than I could have by sitting at home. My eyes were opened to a world I never knew existed. I was embraced by the people who had only known me for a short while. This experience taught me the rewards of being a volunteer and the leadership I can show while working with a group of people. Together, the community and I learned how use the resources

available and be creative, regardless of what we had.

By working with the people, I made friendships on the foundations of leadership. As I reached out and connected with the people, I became a true leader and now have confidence in the skills I developed.

We finished our original goal of completing the project, but the real achievement was becoming part of the community. The memories and experiences I had will influence the actions I take today. The rewards in becoming a volunteer are limitless. I now understand that my role in life will be far from passive. I will continue to work with the people from my local community to the mountains of Honduras. My commitment is that we will make a difference.



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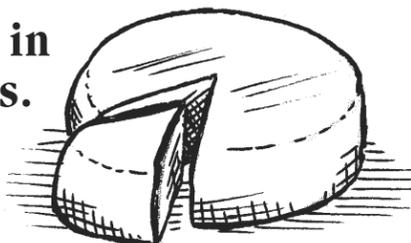
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POLICE

From
**CAPTAIN
RICHARD
BACH**



NORTH DISTRICT POLICE

It's that time of year to talk about changes that will occur in the North Police District for 2008. Effective January 20, I will move downtown to take over as the Captain of the Traffic Team. Captain Cameron McLay will replace me as the North District Captain. Lieutenant Mark Brown (detectives) will be moving to the Central District as a PM shift com-

mander. Lieutenant Trevor Knight will move to the North District to oversee Detective operations. Lt. Brian Ackeret will remain the North District patrol commander.

We will be introducing our successors to alders, neighborhood association leaders, rental property owner/managers, businesses and dozens of other individuals we work closely with in keeping the Northside safe. The time spent familiarizing the new district leaders with operations and key stakeholders will create a smooth, uninterrupted flow of service.

There will be many other personnel changes effective February 3, such as Sergeants, Detectives, and Police Officers as they choose their assign-

ments for 2008.

Officer Kelly Donahue, who has been the Neighborhood Officer for the Northport/Packers community, has been promoted to Sergeant. Officer Katie Adler will take over as the new Neighborhood Officer. Additionally Officer Pat Green, who is currently the ERO at East High School, has been promoted to Detective. Officer Kat Riley has been selected as the new ERO. Congratulations to all of them and I am confident they will excel in their new positions.

Finally, I would like to thank each of you for the opportunity I have been given to be a part of the Northside

community for the past three years. I have thoroughly enjoyed working together with everyone on issues of community concern, safety and quality of life. It is with some sadness that I will be leaving, however it is important to remember that it is not my, but rather your continued involvement that is so important to keep the Northside the safe and vibrant community that it is. I am confident you will continue to do so.

Wishing you all Happy Holidays and the best in the New Year!

To contact the North District Police Department, call 243-5258.

**REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY
CONTACT THE MADISON POLICE DISPATCHER
CALL 911 OR 255-2345 (NON-EMERGENCY)**

You don't have to move to live in a better neighborhood! If you'd like to join or form a neighborhood association in your area, call the Northside Planning Council at 661-0060.



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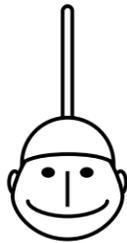
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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

From
SATYA RHODES-CONWAY



DISTRICT 12 ALDERPERSON

Recently, the Council passed a budget that increases our commitment to public safety via enforcement and prevention, investing in police officers and prevention programs to keep our neighborhoods safe.

The budget is too big to cover in detail, so please contact me with questions. In summary, we supported:

- 30 new officers next year
- Pre- and after-school programs to keep kids out of trouble
- Planning councils to bring neighbors together to problem-solve
- A market study for the Northside.

I cast each vote with District 12 in mind. I promised to work for safe neighborhoods and getting to root causes of crime. This budget advances both goals. I appreciate those who contacted me - my votes reflect your input. Since I heard a range of posi-

tions on many issues, I'm sure some of you will disagree with some of the votes I made. I tried to balance what the majority of constituents said with the tough fiscal choices we had to make.

The council struggled to balance "police, prevention and pocketbooks." The last is as important as the first two; I voted for a variety of cuts to cover the costs of the items I voted to add.

Some will claim I was not supportive of additional resources for our police department. Those claims relate to an amendment I voted for to authorize 18 officers now and 12 more as soon as we receive the long-awaited police staffing study and a plan for paying for these officers into the future. This budget will strain our resources for many years; I thought it important to have a plan for the best use and continued funding of additional officers.

As always, your concerns and ideas are of great interest to me. I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood.

Ald. Rhodes-Conway can be reached at 242-4426 or district12@cityofmadison.com

From
DAVE CIESLEWICZ



MAYOR OF MADISON

The new city budget makes unprecedented investments in public safety. While most of the focus has been on the 30 new police officers that are being added, the budget also brings new resources to programs that address the root causes of crime.

Investing in public safety is not something new for my administration. Last year, we added 10 new police officers, and eight the year before. For the first time since the early 1990s, we are doing so without the benefit of the federal COPS program, which helped local communities hire new police officers.

Adding 30 new police officers will go a long way towards improving the safety of our neighborhoods. But we didn't stop there. This budget takes a comprehensive approach to public safety:

- Three new building inspectors to ensure that properties are being properly maintained. In conjunction with our chronic nuisance abatement ordinance,

we now have powerful new tools to address problematic properties and landlords.

- New park rangers to enhance public safety in our city parks, assist park patrons and work with the police and other city agencies to address park-related issues.

- An additional graffiti reduction crew, allowing the city to respond more quickly to suppress this gang-related activity.

- Doubling the size of my Emerging Neighborhoods Fund, giving us more resources to respond quickly to problems before they become more serious and expensive to deal with.

- A "neighborhood indicators" program, to create an "early warning system" for neighborhood health, by tracking data such as crime, poverty and education rates in specific neighborhoods.

At listening sessions this fall on the Northside, and throughout the city, Madisonians made it clear that addressing public safety issues should be a priority. We heard that message and responded with historic new investments to keep our neighborhoods safe.

Mayor Cieslewicz can be reached at mayor@cityofmadison.com or 266-4611.

From
MICHAEL SCHUMACHER



DISTRICT 18 ALDERPERSON

The Madison City Council worked hard this year to adopt a budget that balances public safety, community services, and infrastructure investment.

In the face of crime citizens should not have to fear that government has abdicated its responsibility. With the authorization of 30 new police officers, City government is meeting its responsibility to prevent future crime increases. In a 24/7 world, the increase in police means about one additional officer per shift per district including a few more detectives and crime analysts.

Dane County has the greatest number of not-for-profits per capita in the U.S. Add to this taxpayer money for human services and we are a generous community. The City alone funds over 80 community services programs administered by not-for-profit agencies including Vera Court and Kennedy Heights. All of these pro-

grams got a cost of living increase in addition to some receiving more money.

All's well that ends well. Not so fast.

While City Hall attempted to be fiscally responsible, we relied on one-time money and a tax increase to pay for these services. More people with greater needs are moving into our city while safety concerns are on the rise. If we do not set measurable goals and implement strategies for economic development, improvements in delivery of government services, and prioritization of needs, we will either continue to increase property taxes, user fees, public asset sell offs, or divert money from funds (e.g., room tax) that otherwise would serve as investments to generate future returns.

We need to engage in a dialogue that rewards merit rather than entitlement. We need to develop a roadmap on how to generate revenues through working, measuring, and governing smarter. As we get that big picture, we will cope with tomorrow's challenges and harness its opportunities.

Stay safe and warm - Happy Holidays.

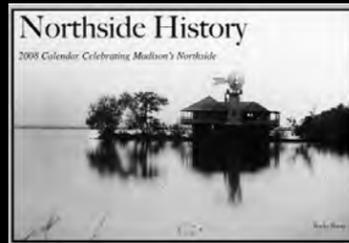
Ald. Schumacher can be reached at 242-1779 or district18@cityofmadison.com

Common Council Upcoming Meetings:

Dec. 4 ~ Jan. 8 ~ Jan. 22* ~ Feb. 5

**held at Monona Terrace.*

All Madison Common Council meetings are on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in Rm. 201 at the City-County Bldg. 210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.



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for more info about
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