

NORTHSIDE HOME

Smoke alarm ordinance update

In recent years, smoke alarms have become as common as light fixtures in many homes and apartments. Over 96 percent of all homes in the United States have at least one smoke alarm. These life-saving devices provide the early warning needed to escape the heat and toxic smoke produced by a fire.

Unfortunately, many of those alarms cannot provide that early warning because of missing or dead batteries. In 2000-2004, no smoke alarms were present or none operated in 46 percent of the reported home fires in the United States. Smoke alarms must be installed and must be working to save lives!

On March 3, 2009, the Madison Common Council approved changes to the smoke alarm ordinance in the City of Madison. The intent of this change is to insure that all residential buildings have functioning smoke alarms to provide early warning and prevent fire deaths and injuries. The changes are highlighted below and the ordinance in its entirety is available at: www.madisonfire.org

By August 15, 2009, all residential buildings within the City of Madison, with the exception of owner-occupied single family homes, shall have smoke alarms in place which meet one of the following requirements:

- Hardwired smoke alarm with a battery backup
- Smoke alarm powered by a non-replaceable, non-removable battery capable of powering the smoke alarm for a minimum of ten years.

By August 15, 2010 all owner-occupied



single-family residences shall install smoke alarms that meet the criteria of this ordinance. Smoke alarms shall be installed in the following areas of all residential buildings:

- In each bedroom
- In each sleeping area
- Within six feet of each door leading to a bedroom or sleeping area of each unit
- On each floor of the building

The owner of any residential building shall replace the battery in hardwired smoke alarms each time the lease is renewed or as recommended by the manufacturer, whichever time is shorter.

Unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer, no smoke alarm shall remain in service longer than ten years.

Fire safety education is required for all tenants upon each new lease and at least once every 12 months for continuing tenants.

This is merely a highlight of the approved ordinance and does not cover it in its entirety. Please visit our Web site at <http://www.madisonfire.org> or call us at (608) 266-4420 for

New rights for tenants living in foreclosure

By Heidi Wegleitner

Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc

Are you a tenant living in a rental unit that is facing foreclosure? Are you a landlord facing foreclosure of your rental property? Did you recently purchase a foreclosed property? Do you know your rights and responsibilities under new foreclosure tenant protection laws?

New state and federal laws provide important rights to tenants of residential housing involved in a foreclosure. The new state law went into effect March 6, 2009, and applies to rental

agreements entered into and foreclosures filed after that date. (The new law adds § 846.35 to the Real Estate Foreclosure Chapter and § 704.35 to the Landlord and Tenant Chapter of the Wisconsin Statutes).

The federal "Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act," Public Law 111-22 §§ 701-704 (2009), protects all bona fide tenants in foreclosed properties and applies to all foreclosure sales after the law was signed on May 20, 2009.

This article can be found at www.daneforeclosurehelp.org.

Tips for fixing your home loan

By Kate Nardi

Dane County Housing Authority

If you are experiencing a financial hardship due to loss of income, disability or other reasons, you may be eligible for a loan modification. Here

is a list of questions to ask yourself and tips to make the process go as smoothly as possible.

This article can be found at www.daneforeclosurehelp.org



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Tanya Sally K Misty

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Sign Up Today for Green Power Tomorrow

By Nancy Helgeson Lyons
The Northside News

For the price of a fast-food meal per month, the average resident can help the environment by having Madison Gas and Electric use more wind and solar power. For roughly the price of two fast food meals per month, the average business can do the same thing.

MGE's Green Power Tomorrow program offers customers a way to help the environment by purchasing "green power", energy from wind and solar sources, at a penny per kilowatt-hour of

energy used per month. For the average resident, this is about \$6 added to their monthly bill, and for the average business about \$13 extra per month. Customers may call MGE's Home Energy Line at 252-7117 to enroll in the program or they may fill out a form at mge.com/greenpower. Wisconsin law requires that 10 percent of MGE's electricity come from renewable energy sources by the end of 2015, according to a Green Power Tomorrow brochure.

"MGE first offered renewable energy through its wind energy program in 1999," said Charles Warner, a residential services specialist with MGE. He said, "Prior to Green Power Tomorrow, MGE's green program had the capacity to serve about 4,300 customers. Interest in renewable energy was clear even then, as some customers waited as long as five months to enroll. We increased our wind

resource capacity by 12 times in 2008 so that more customers could buy more renewable energy. With 10 percent of MGE's residential customers now participating, Green Power Tomorrow is one of the most successful green pricing programs in the U.S. today."

MGE mainly uses fossil fuels like coal, gas and oil to make electricity. Signing up for the Green Power Tomorrow program lets residents and businesses offset 100 percent of their electricity-generated carbon dioxide emissions, according to Warner. Most of the Green Power Tomorrow electricity is made from wind turbines, big windmill-like structures in Iowa and Wisconsin. The wind turbines convert the wind's kinetic energy into electricity, according to Warner, which is then fed into power lines. A small portion of the Green Power Tomorrow electricity is from solar power.

While some people have been concerned about perceived risks of wind turbines, MGE's Market Development Manager Laura Williams said that determining sites for wind turbines "is a process that must include (a) complete analysis of a range of potential impacts, including those affecting the health and safety of nearby residents." She added that state and local laws regulate construction and placement of wind turbines.

Bob Stoffs, community services manager with MGE, said that the Green Power Tomorrow program is expected to keep growing. Stoffs said, "MGE's customers have been very supportive and active in buying green power. The company is committed to expanding the program as customer demand for renewable energy increases. As long as there is interest in more renewable energy, MGE will find a way to supply it."



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Madison Parks offers free tours of conservation parks

Madison Parks will be hosting free monthly tours of Madison Conservation Parks. The tours will be led by a Madison Parks staff member and will focus on a unique park and unique natural feature of that park. Madison Parks has 14 conservation parks comprising over 1600 acres. Each conservation park focuses on the

restoration of native plant and animal communities while providing educational areas and opportunities for all.

UPCOMING FREE TOURS

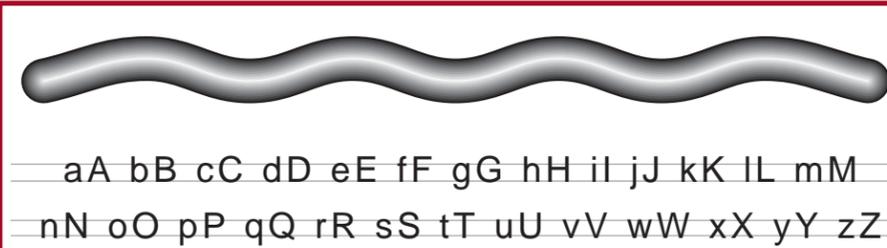
Aug. 22, 8:30 am ~ Cherokee Marsh, Upper Yahara River Tour
Bring your own canoe or kayak and meet at the

School Road boat landing Partnering with the Madison Audubon Society, the tour will focus on the restoration work on Cherokee Marsh.

Sep. 9, 6 pm ~ Cherokee Marsh, Mendota Unit
Meet at Meadow Ridge Park on Meadow Valley Drive Partnering with the Friends of

Cherokee Marsh, tour will focus on the largely unknown and unique features of the Mendota Unit of Cherokee Marsh.

Oct. 11, 2pm ~ Cherokee Marsh, 6098 N. Sherman Dr.
Partnering with the Friends of Cherokee Marsh, the tour will focus on the Fall Colors.



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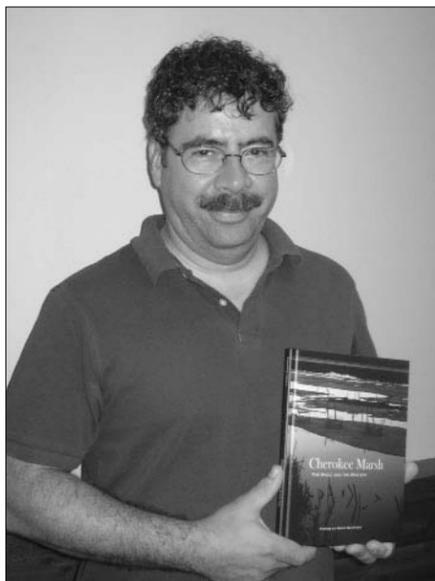
See Cherokee Marsh in Photos

By Jan Axelson

When MATC photography instructor Mario Quintana first visited Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park, he knew he had discovered a special place. His photographer's eye saw varied landscapes with great beauty and a wealth of visually striking images. He also noticed that he just "felt good" when exploring the trails.

On a recent sabbatical, Mario embarked on a project to document the marsh in photos. This summer, Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton hosted a public exhibit of Mario's photos as part of her Art in the Office program.

Mario has now compiled photos from his exhibit in a book titled Cherokee Marsh: the Magic and the Mystery. The book will be available for order from www.blurb.com beginning in late August with all profits going to the Friends of Cherokee Marsh. See www.CherokeeMarsh.org for pricing and ordering information.



Photographer Mario Quintana shows off his new photo book of Cherokee Marsh.

Photo by Justin Sargent

Cherokee Marsh Gets a New Boardwalk



Photo by Jan Axelson

The new boardwalk in Cherokee Marsh (shown here under construction) provides teaching platforms for school groups.

By Jan Axelson

The much beloved boardwalk in Cherokee Marsh is returning, though in a different form. In 2005, Madison Parks closed off much of the boardwalk that crossed a wetland along the Yahara River, leaving two dead-end stubs. The wooden boardwalk had become expensive to maintain and prevented Parks staff from burning the area to control invasive plants.

To reduce damage to the wetland, the new boardwalk will remain as two segments that don't meet in the middle.

Teaching platforms will make it easy for school groups to gather to learn about the marsh. To lower maintenance costs and allow burns, the boardwalk is aluminum.

Young adults from Operation Fresh Start are installing the boardwalks and learning job skills along the way. The work began in mid-July and should be complete by the end of August. The boardwalks are in the North Unit of Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park, at the end of North Sherman Avenue.



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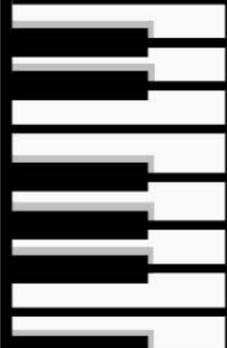
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Birds of Warner Park

By Trish O’Kane

It is 5:40 am and muggy one July morning in Warner Park. I’m at my usual birding perch, the large mound behind the dog park. A mourning dove coos softly as I sip coffee, the goldfinches do their dipping sky-dance while crying “potato chip,” and a pair of cedar waxwings munches on berries just to my right.

As a pink sun rises through the sumac, I check on my hummingbird buddy. I discovered him last summer, perched on the limb of a dead tree. He sat there every morning, ruby throat shimmering in the sun. This bird weighs so little that you could stuff him and seven of his buddies into an envelope and mail them with a first-class stamp. Yet he flies to Central America every fall, crossing the Gulf of Mexico in one 18-hour night. He’s not there today. Maybe he’s already begun his daily round of 1,500 flowers.

Near the lagoon, an eastern woodpeewee calls from the bicentennial bur oak. The bird’s song is like its name, a long plaintive “Peeeee-weeee.” The dainty flycatcher dive bombs while hunting flies. Suddenly, it disappears and hops into a tiny cup nest on a lower bough. The peewee sits for ten minutes and preens, takes a little fly snack break for two minutes, then snuggles back into her nest.

At the first bridge leading into the



The goldfinch pictured above can be seen at Warner Park and Troy Gardens.

main park, a great blue heron, a lean grey pterodactyl-like creature, stands in the shallows. He peers solemnly into the murk as he fishes and a cheeky barn swallow hurtles past, kamikaze-style, grazing his head. I laugh out loud. The heron fishes, unperturbed, standing stock still for 10 to 15 minutes. He very slowly lifts one foot after the other so as not to disturb the water and alert his aquatic prey. When he finally spears a tiny fish with his long bill, he extracts it carefully from a long

string of green algae, as if picking the shrimp out of spaghetti.

Another morning on this same bridge, a woman jogger asks what I am watching. I point to a green heron and tell her it raised three babies here last summer.

“So there’s more here than geese?” she asks, surprised.

A lot more. In the two years that I’ve been tracking birds in Warner Park, I’ve found over 81 species either nesting or using it to refill during migration. I’ve had morning coffee with a bald eagle, a rare little gull, an ovenbird, a sora, and spent several cocktail hours watching two great horned owls court.

Many Warner birds are long-distance migrators that winter in Central America. Federally protected, some are in deep trouble with dropping populations. To find them raising families in our park gives me great hope. They prefer the wilder parts of the park, the messy spots where their food—insects—can hide and thrive and where they can raise their own young quietly. They need the diverse habitats of marsh, meadow and woods that our park still offers.

Trish O’Kane is a Ph.D. student in Environmental Studies, Gaylord Nelson Institute of UW-Madison researching a dissertation on birds that migrate between Madison and Central America.

Photo by John Beck

Play Madison Parks Magazine

Madison Parks has just debuted its first-ever magazine giving Madisonians and visitors a glimpse of all that the Parks Division has to offer, from sprawling trails to frost-covered ponds.

Aptly titled “Play Madison Parks,” the yearly publication offers readers of diverse backgrounds the chance to engage themselves with the city’s parks with an assortment of activities from volunteering and golfing to hiking and swimming.

Under the theme of “Madison Parks for All Seasons” the magazine is comprised of detailed descriptions on the countless opportunities for both outdoor and indoor activities.

Stop at one of these locations for your own copy:

- Parks Administration office, 210 MLK Blvd, Suite 104
- Olbrich Gardens, 3330 Atwood Avenue
- Goodman Pool, 325 Olin Avenue
- Warner Park Community and Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Drive
- Greater Madison Convention and Visitors Bureau, 615 E. Washington Avenue
- Saturday Farmer’s Market—Madison Parks table, Hamilton Street corner
- Or visit the Madison Parks website at www.cityofmadison.com/parks



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BUSINESS

Northside launches newest business group

By Mary Schumacher
The Northside News

Home-based businesses are a growing trend on the Northside. To strengthen connections between people who often work by themselves at home, a new business group recently emerged, called the Madison Northside SOHO Group, with SOHO meaning "small office, home office."

The group describes itself as a "no dues, no guilt" organization and is designed to provide referrals for small Northside businesses and to share business advice. Members also welcome anyone thinking of starting a

small Northside business to join in for advice and camaraderie. In the works is a Google Group for communication between meetings.

The group launched its first meeting in July at the Esquire Club. Six members assembled for a lively discussion about challenges facing sole proprietors and suggestions for sustaining productivity in a home environment.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 12 at 8:30 am at Manna Café. All members and anyone interested in checking out the group are welcome to come. Any questions? Call Mary Schumacher at 242-1879.

Veterans Benefits/Senior Survival Workshop

Allied Veterans Advisors and Tri Resource Group are presenting a free educational seminar on Fri, Aug. 14, 1 pm at Coventry Village, 7707 N. Brookline Dr, Madison, Wisc, 53719. The seminar focuses on advising veterans and/or surviving spouses of veterans how to qualify and apply for additional Veterans benefits that they may be eligible for. Information will also be presented on how to receive the most up-to-date products for Diabetes, Arthritis and Mobility challenges at no cost to you (if you are qualified). Attend to speak with one of our advisors to see if you qualify for these benefits. Call 920-968-0574 or 866-779-0054 to reserve your space today!!

Don't let a tick ruin your summer

Paying attention can help prevent lyme disease

The onset of beautiful summer weather brings many of us outdoors to enjoy all the abundant recreational opportunities in our area. Unfortunately, summer weather also can expose us to some of the health risks that arrive with the season. One of those risks comes in the form of the deer tick - a very small, hard to see bug that is all too common everywhere in Wisconsin. These poppy seed sized ticks carry the bacteria that cause Lyme disease, which can be serious if undetected and untreated.

Following are some useful facts and advice about avoiding tick bites and Lyme disease:

- Wear long pants and long sleeves when picnicking or walking in tall grasses or forests.
- Always use an effective repellent.
- Always check yourself, or have a family member check you for ticks after being outdoors, paying special attention to the head, scalp, armpit, groin and area behind the knee (don't forget to check your pets as well). Remember that the tick has to be attached for 24 hours to transmit the disease, so these checks are really important.

- If you do find a tick, use thin bladed tweezers to slowly remove it. Folk remedies like petroleum jelly, nail polish remover or burning matches **DO NOT WORK**, and are not safe.

- A "bull's eye" rash often appears at the bite area between 3 and 30 days after a bite.

- The symptoms of Lyme Disease can be fever, headache, chills, pain in the muscles or joints, enlarged lymph nodes, or facial paralysis. The disease is treatable with antibiotics and should be treated as soon as possible.

- Consult a physician as soon as possible if the tick has been attached for 24 or more hours tick removal is incomplete you experience the rash or any of the other symptoms of Lyme Disease.

For more information about deer ticks and Lyme Disease, see the following websites: The Centers for Disease Control at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/lyme/index.htm or The Wisconsin Department of Health Services at <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/factsheets/LymeDisease.htm>.



BUY NORTHSIDE WEEK Aug 15 thru 30

Retro Swing Band, Sept. 28

St. Mary's Adult Day Health Center hosts the Retro Swing Band, on Mon., Sept. 28 from 1:30-2:30 pm at St. Bernard Parish Gymnasium, 2438 Atwood Ave. Put on your dancing shoes; you won't be able to resist the urge to glide across the floor. **This event is open to the public.** Call Jim at 249-4450 for more information.

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SCHOOLS

From
**LUCY
MATHIAK**



**MADISON METROPOLITAN
SCHOOL BOARD**

Last May, the Madison Board of Education passed a budget that provided for district educational programs. We now are in the 2009-10 year and struggling with new cuts to state funds that go far beyond our worst case plans. In June, the legislature cut state aid to our schools by 15%, or \$9.23 million; the total loss of state funds is close to \$12 million.

How will we meet this loss?

We are committed our pledge to hold the line on the public school portion of property taxes. We believe that this pledge is more important than ever, and will not simply pass the full loss along to taxpayers.

We are looking at ways to offset the impact of property tax increases for school costs if we need to increase our levy.

We expected and set aside funds to

meet some – not all – of the state cuts when we passed the budget in May, and we continue to change how we manage district resources to cut costs.

We will keep the Ready Set Goal conferences and the arts positions that we restored to elementary schools for next year.

We will not resort to massive layoffs of teachers and support staff. The state budget passed after the deadline for layoff notices under our labor contracts.

We are working with legislators and the Department of Public Instruction to appeal policy decisions that helped put us in this position, such as counting one-time TIF money as permanent spending.

The decisions ahead are not easy and we share your frustration at this latest setback. We also believe that, by partnering with the community, we can and will arrive at solutions that continue to balance the need to educate children with the need to respect the difficult financial times we are in.

Contact Lucy Mathiak at 255-0939 or lmathiak@madison.k12.wi.us

News from the East High math department

By Cynthia Chin

International year of astronomy

The year 2009 marks the 400th anniversary of the first recorded telescopic observations of the night sky — by Thomas Harriot of England and Galileo Galilei in Italy — as well as the publication of Kepler's New Astronomy. East math students celebrated in June by performing Brecht's play Life of Galileo, and a new astrophysics course debuts in the science department this fall. To learn more about worldwide and local events, including a scale model of the solar system centered at Monona Terrace, visit www.astronomy2009.us and www.spaceplace.wisc.edu. An inexpensive, educational telescope set is offered for purchase (or for international donation to a needy school) at www.galileoscope.org.

Are calculators on sale yet?

In order to learn and apply the mathematics covered in most classes at East, students will be required to use a graphing calculator. (Geometry courses are the only exception.) This is a versatile tool and a worthwhile investment. Students often find it to be helpful in science classes and are also expected to be familiar with this technology when taking standardized state exams, the SAT or ACT, and Advanced Placement examinations. A calculator from an older relative or friend can certainly be used again, but sharing is difficult because the calculator is used on a daily basis in class and at home.

The specific models recommended are all made by Texas Instruments:

TI-83, TI-83+, TI-84, and TI-84+ ("Silver editions" have higher computing speeds and more memory, but are not required.) Please be advised that other models have very different operating systems and will NOT be supported by instruction in class.

Help with calculators

We understand that this is an expensive purchase. East High School offers a calculator rental option to families in need of assistance. The rental fee is \$15 for the entire school year. The East Math Club funds a few rental scholarships each year in cases where rental fees present a hardship. A copy of the

rental agreement will be available at registration, in the event that you wish to take advantage of this program. Completing the form and making the rental payment (or obtaining an official waiver) will ensure that your student obtains a calculator during the first two weeks of the school year.

If you are in a position to donate a new or used calculator, or replacement batteries to the school rental program, your gift would be very much appreciated. Donations should be directed to the math department chair, Steve Somerson. 204-1797 or ssomerson@madison.k12.wi.us.

Tutoring

One-to-one help in the classroom, during study hall, or after school, can really make a difference. Community members who can assist East students at any level of mathematics are welcome as volunteers. Current East students who can tutor during their free periods are also invited to help out, and can earn either Service E credit as a volunteer or elective credit towards graduation (for a one-semester daily commitment as a Mathematics Teaching Assistant). Contact Cynthia Chin 204-1534 cchin@madison.k12.wi.us about volunteer placements, and Steve Somerson 204-1797 ssomerson@madison.k12.wi.us or your counselor about the TA program.

Mentorship in math and science

Young women are invited to meet twice monthly with UW female faculty and graduate students in math and science. Participants discuss college life and career options, and work on research projects suited to their current mathematics backgrounds. The projects explore both traditional and non-traditional topics in greater depth than is often available in the high school curriculum. This is a collaborative, not competitive, program. Contact Gloria Mari Beffa 263-3053 maribeff@math.wisc.edu, and check for brochures at registration.

Math Club

Advisors for 2009-2010 will be Mr. Galarowicz and Mr. Meloy. Watch for announcements about meetings. We are a very active group and will be busy almost from day one. New members are welcome at all grade levels.

School Registration Information

Elementary School Enrollment

District-wide Elementary Enrollment Day, Thursday, August 20, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at your neighborhood school.

Middle School Enrollment

Wednesday, August 19, 2009	Grade 8	9:00–11:30 AM
Thursday, August 20, 2009	Grade 7	9:00–11:30 AM
Friday, August 21, 2009	Grade 6	9:00–11:30 AM
Wednesday, August 26, 2009	Make Up Day	3:30–6:00 PM

NOTE: New students can register on any one of the three days

East High School Enrollment

New Student Enrollment

Friday, August 14, 2009 8:00 AM–12:00 Noon, 1:00–4:00 PM

All Grades

Thursday, August 20, 2009 8:00 AM–12:00 Noon, 3:00–6:00 PM

Monday, August 24, 2009 8:00 AM–12:00 Noon, 3:00–6:00 PM

School fee information can be found at the following link:

<http://drupal.madison.k12.wi.us/fees>

Class supply lists for each school can be found at the following link:

<http://drupal.madison.k12.wi.us/node/3992>

The 10th Annual Purgolder Booster Club Golf Outing

Monday, August 31 at Bridges.

All proceeds are used to support the athletic programs at East High. Discounted fee if you register by August 1. Come out and have a great time while supporting our East High athletes!

Link to entry form from the Purgolder Booster Club website is below:

www.madison.com/communities/purgolders/library/files/10th-golf-outing.pdf

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POLICE

From
**CAPTAIN
CAM
MCLAY**



NORTH DISTRICT POLICE

Greetings from the North Police District

Summer is speeding by, and although it has been a busy summer in terms of the number of calls for service, we continue to be fortunate on the Northside in that we aren't seeing the levels of weapon-related violence seen in other parts of the city.

This year's Rhythm and Booms went very well. With weather forecasts showing incoming severe weather, the event organizers and the City decided to postpone the Saturday event, and go to the Sunday rain date. Modifications made to the Midway carnival area proved very helpful for our officers in handling the large groups of unaccompanied youth coming together, leading to multiple minor fights and disturbances. The changes relocated some of the youth traffic, allowing the police to disperse groups with little difficulty.

In terms of crime trends for the year, we have only mid-year totals from which we can make some informed projections. It appears that most crime trends are down from the previous several years, with the exception of Burglaries, Thefts from Autos and Drug Investigations. The Burglaries, while above the averages for the previous several years, are still well below

the 2007 high. Thefts from Autos and Drug Investigations are both up from previous years, however, the Drug Investigation number includes those incidents initiated by our officers doing proactive enforcement. For this reason, the rise is not necessarily a reflection of an increased drug presence in the North District. These are only projections on previous years totals, and we will not know the exact numbers until the end of the year.

I continue to be impressed by the degree of citizen involvement in keeping the community safe here in the North Police District. On July 14th, there was an armed home invasion that occurred on the City's east side. North officers found the suspect vehicle on the Northside. The suspects fled the vehicle in the area of Longview Street. While officers and police K-9s searched the area, it was citizen witnesses who sought the officers out to provide information that quickly led to the apprehension of the suspect, and ultimately the recovery of the weapons involved. This is a great example of citizens taking ownership in the safety of their own neighborhoods, by stepping forward to assist police. This is part of the reason I believe the Northside is a great place to work, live and play!

*Capt. McLay can be reached at
cmclay@cityofmadison.com
or 245-3652*

Northside Police Officers You Should Know

Warner Park/Woodlands areas — Officer Scott Templeton

Brentwood/Northport Corridor — Officer Ed Bernards

Brentwood Neigh. Intervention — Officer Susie Gonzalez

Northport/Packers/Kipling Dr. — Officer Katie Adler, 245-3679

East High School Resource — Officer Kat Riley, 204-1673

To contact any CPT Officer or Sgt. Jason Freedman, call the North

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The picnic will include a traditional blessing of fruits. You may bring a dish to share if you wish. Picnic follows regular Sunday service at the chapel, 621 N. Sherman Ave., B3, 8:30 a.m. ❖ 242-4244



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NEWS & VIEWS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

From
**SATYA
RHODES-
CONWAY**



DISTRICT 12 ALDERPERSON

Plenty of things happening on the Northside this summer! We're well into another great season of the Farmer's Market, we survived Rhythm and Booms, and we're starting to see some economic development, particularly at Northgate, which has several new tenants. Economic development is one of the reasons four Alders have proposed a TIF district for the Northside — we hope to stimulate interest by improving our infrastructure. We'll be discussing this proposal at the Plan Commission and Council in August and September, so stay tuned. We'll also be discussing whether or not to build a new library downtown. I'd be interested in your thoughts on that, so please let me know. And of course, we'll start working on the City Budget in September. As always, I'm very interested in your priorities for what we should fund and what we should cut.

As some of you know, we've put together an unprecedented effort in the Brentwood neighborhood, working on improving safety and quality of life. It's a partnership between the Brentwood Village Association, area landlords, multiple City departments, the schools, and other organizations like NPC and NESCO. We successfully got a neighborhood police officer, installed new streetlights, held a training for landlords, helped kids find productive things to do over the summer, cleaned up the playground on Monterrey, inspected the outside of properties, got two foreclosed properties into the hands of responsible new owners, and got a grant for NESCO to create intergenerational programs for residents. I want to thank all the people involved for their efforts. We're not done yet — there's still a long list of things to be done, but we're working hard. I believe this can be a model of both reactive and proactive strategies to help neighborhood, and hope that the whole Northside will benefit from it.

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

From
**MICHAEL
SCHUMACHER**



DISTRICT 18 ALDERPERSON

When federal and state governments cut funding, local governments inherit the mess, and communities have to live with the consequences.

Over 1400 Madison households are now facing financial troubles because the federally funded housing choice voucher program, better known as Section 8, has been reduced as of August 1, 2009. About 200 of these 1400 households enrolled in Section 8 reside on the Northside. The assistance allows seniors on fixed income, disabled people, and very low income families to afford decent and safe housing in the private market.

But now they are unexpectedly faced with paying additional monthly rent or moving to smaller housing if leases cannot be renegotiated. About half of the beneficiaries will see a decrease of monthly rent subsidies between \$100 and \$350.

And the pain affects rental property owners, many of whom are mom and

pop shops, as well. They may face lower rents, costly eviction procedures, higher vacancies, or the inability to refinance their mortgages.

As a City we need to act whether or not we agree with voucher programs and their long-term effectiveness. Our present challenge is not a debate about Section 8 and its merits. Rather we need to find a compassionate solution to give tenants and owners sufficient time to adjust their financial relationships while the federal government figures out its future funding commitment to the program.

Therefore, in collaboration with other alders, the Apartment Association, and community leaders, I introduced legislation to provide partial financial assistance to tenants and property owners through December 2009. The proposed emergency funding (up to \$400,000) would come from the existing Affordable Housing Trust Fund and does not require a property tax levy.

It's ironic that cities end up with this kind of mess during the greatest federal spending spree we have ever witnessed.

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

Upcoming Common Council Meetings:

No third Tues meeting in Aug. ~ Sept. 1 ~ Sept. 15
Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in Rm. 201 at the City-County Bldg. 210 MLK, Jr. Blvd.

From
**DAVE
CIESLEWICZ**



MAYOR OF MADISON

Problems to Solve

Just once I'd like to start a city budget season with this speech: "We've got all the resources we need, so let's plan to meet every need in the community. Be generous. Be creative. Don't hold back."

I am not likely to ever be able to give that speech. Even in good economic times we had tight budgets and now, in the deepest recession of my lifetime, we face the toughest budget in my seven tries.

This month, I kicked off the 2010 operating budget season with my annual guidelines for city agencies. I asked them to submit budgets that would just maintain current levels of service. Then I asked them to give me ideas on how they would cut their budgets by six percent if they need to. This is the largest cut plans I've ever

asked for. It's a reflection of the tough economic times.

We've got a long road ahead of us, and while we look to maintain services, we need to make sure that we position ourselves to take advantage of the recovery when it comes, so I'm conscious of the need to look not just at next year's budget, but to plan ahead for the next few years.

Some people refer to this as budget "crisis." We don't have crisis, we have problems that need to be managed and solved. There are those who just ideologically don't like government so they want to keep it constantly hobbled by budget "crisis," real or imagined. There's no question that the challenges we need to solve in 2010 are very real. But I look forward to a day when our economy comes roaring back and when I can say - maybe not that we've got all the resources we need - but at least that we can meet more of the community's needs.

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

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