

## Looking Back and Looking Forward

The New Year lends itself to reflection, so I'll take a minute to reflect on some of the important issues that have come before the City Council this last year.

### Water

The quality and security of our drinking water was a prominent issue in 2007. We saw the abandonment of Well #3 because of high levels of carbon tetrachloride, and we saw some significant changes in the way the Water Utility interacts with the public. While there's more to do, particularly on water conservation, I think we're headed in the right direction. In 2008, we'll hire a new general manager for the Water Utility and continue to improve communication with the public. We'll also look at how and where we put new wells.

### Public Safety

Towards the end of 2007, we started a community-wide conversation about safety and how to address neighborhood quality of life. This discussion became the centerpiece of the budget debate. The Council struggled to balance "police, prevention and pocketbooks." The last is as important as the first two, and my vote reflected a balance among the three. I'm hopeful that the outcome of those discussions and the budget will be not only to police more, but also to police smarter.

I've also been working recently with the folks at East High School to improve safety and lessen some of the impact on the neighborhoods. I've been very encouraged by these discussions, and I hope to continue them. One piece of these discussions has been traffic and pedestrian safety around the school. Traffic Engineering has already adjusted the timing of the WALK light across E. Washington, and the North Police District has stepped up speed enforcement during the peak student arrival time. I want to thank both departments for their efforts. We'll be coming to the neighborhood sometime in January to discuss traffic and parking near East, particularly on Fourth Street.

### Development

While the north part of District 12 is seeing much more development activity than the east, we still have a potential development at 1900 E. Washington Avenue (the northeast corner of First Street and E. Wash). There's no consensus in the neighborhood about this, and the developer hasn't submitted anything to the City, so nothing's happening soon, but if you're interested, let me know, and I'll make sure you know about the next meeting. Similarly, there is the possibility that the Marling site (across the street in District 6) will be developed, but nothing's been submitted to the City.

### Snow

Yup, we got snow. I and other eastside alders are working with City staff to figure out better ways to address snow removal, parked cars, and the impact that snow emergencies have on all our lives.

This is only a partial list, of course. My day-to-day work as an alder is filled with all sorts of interesting things. And I'm sure there are other things on your list. As always, your concerns and ideas are of great interest to me. I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood.

Happy New Year to you and all your loved ones.

Satya