

March 2009

Dear Neighbors:

It is easy for an alderperson to get caught-up in politics and policy-making, but I am using the arrival of spring as a cue to go out and reconnect with all the cool places and people (mostly) in District 13:

**Midway Asian Foods:** This is my favorite place to shop. I found a great book titled "The Asian Grocery Store Demystified" that goes through all the ingredients found in typical Asian cooking and it has made my visits much more interesting. I really enjoy the hustle and bustle of the store on Saturday afternoons. My second favorite is the encyclopedic and relatively mellow Yue Wah Foods at the Villager Mall on South Park.

**The garden outside Art Gecko at the corner of Monroe and Grant:** This used to be a plain strip of grass and has been transformed into a beautiful garden. It always looks wonderful and the store's pretty display windows are fun too. During the school year, Peter Daly, a Vilas neighbor and crossing guard extraordinaire, escorts pedestrians across the street.

**Jordan's Big Ten Pub on Regent Street:** Okay, it is actually just over the line in Robbie Webber's aldermanic district, but I still love this place. It has great food (especially the Friday Fish Fry) and the nicest staff in town. As a bonus, Sport Center is always on and that comes in handy during baseball season!

**Johannsen's Greenhouse:** Okay, it is actually in Tim Bruer's aldermanic district at Todd Drive and the Beltline, but I spend so much time at Johannsen's in the spring that I am thinking about trying to annex it into the 13<sup>th</sup> District. They have a terrific selection of perennials and garden supplies, and hands-down the most knowledgeable gardening staff in town.

**The Pine Street Oak:** I saw this tree in the 600 block of Pine Street profiled in "Every Root an Anchor: Wisconsin's Famous and Historic Trees," which is a catalogue of the state's most significant trees. Now that's a cool thing!!

**The filming of "Dark Ways" at the corner of Jefferson and Garfield:** Neighbors have been fascinated recently by watching the filming of this G-rated horror film that will be screened at the Wisconsin Film Festival and some appeared in a nighttime crowd scene.

**Atomic Interiors:** This terrific store at 1021 South Park Street is owned by friendly District 13er's David Vogel and Rebecca Rodriguez. It is open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays and a great source for modern furniture and housewares.

**Gotham Bagels:** This just opened in the new St. Mary's building on Park Street. The original store is on East Mifflin and I have spent many Sunday mornings trekking across the Square for Madison's best bagels, lox, and cream cheese. I am very, very happy that they now have a home on Park Street.

**The Hotel Washington Coffee Room and Lakeside Fibers:** This is one of the hidden gems of Bay Creek. Across the street from Franklin School on Lakeside Street, it is usually full of people quietly knitting and sipping tea overlooking Monona Bay. I'm knitting-phobic, but you cannot beat the Hotel Washington for a calm vibe and they now have Friday night wine tasting.

**The good small house:** I sit on Madison's Plan Commission, which is a busy committee that oversees zoning and development issues in the city. Most times it is highly technical and pretty dry, but I am a reforming urban planner so I enjoy this committee assignment.

However, I was stunned in November when we were presented with plans for a 15,226 square foot house. I kept thinking, our family loses enough stuff in a regular size place, if we lived in over 15,000 square feet, getting ready for the school bus in the morning would be total chaos.

I hope the owners are happy in their new home, but I want to take the time to praise some of the good, small houses from one end of the district to the other end and so the end of this note includes some photos of neighborhood houses that I took on a pretty spring day.

I continue to work on many, many issues (other than extolling the virtues of District 13 neighborhoods). I hope people will keep in touch as spring unfolds as I appreciate hearing from so many neighbors.

Most of all, I hope you will have the time to appreciate the many wonderful people and places that our neighborhoods have to offer.

Sincerely yours,

Julia Kerr, Alder  
Madison Common Council  
District 13  
[district13@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district13@cityofmadison.com)  
260-2661



**Bay Creek**



**Bay Creek**



**Bay Creek**



**Bram's Addition**



**Bram's Addition**



**Capital View Heights**



**Capital View Heights**



**Greenbush**



**Greenbush**



**Monona Bay**



**Vilas**



**Twins on Park Street**