



## Alder Report, District 15

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**Welcome to Spring!** If you're like me, you're welcoming the Spring and went outside on that first sunny day we had few weeks ago. It's time for a change. However, that change in Madison also means 'construction season'. For better or worse, District 15 doesn't get the big hit this year (East Washington Avenue is on hiatus until next year). However, after next year, there are several big projects that are on the table.

### Eken Park Playground Equipment Replacement

Tragically, the brand new playground equipment at Eken Park, which the neighborhood had worked hard to design and raise money for, was torched in a late-evening fire. It was sad to see the destruction of such a wonderful addition to the neighborhood! Fortunately, the City of Madison did insure this new playground equipment and, around the end of school, residents should see new playground equipment rising like a phoenix at Eken Park.



## Starkweather Creek Bridge - Dedication Ceremony

During the winter months, when it is easier to make stream bank improvements, crews were out improving Starkweather Creek from Commercial Avenue in the Eken Park neighborhood to Milwaukee Street in the SASYNA and Worthington Park neighborhoods. Crews removed rusted corrugated steel sheeting and replaced them with stone steps or natural plantings. This will not only make the area more attractive, but also safer as it will be easier for those who have fallen in the creek to get back out.



In addition, beginning April 14, crews will return to work on the pedestrian bridge crossing East Washington Avenue. Plans are being made for a Bridge Dedication Ceremony on Friday, June 6 with Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz and Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin. The family of Roslinda Solice, the young girl that was hit by a car crossing at this intersection many years ago, have been involved in the planning for the bridge dedication. Residents will be invited to the event.

## MATC Protective Services Building

MATC has proposed to construct a new [Protective Services](#) building on Pankratz Street, by Packers Avenue. MATC is proposing moving the Protective Services program (police, fire, homeland security, etc.) from the Commercial Avenue facility to this new building.



This site is within the boundaries of the Carpenter-Ridegway Neighborhood Association, and you are invited to an **informational meeting on Tuesday, April 29, at 7:00pm at the MATC Commercial Avenue** (in the building where you vote). Alders Rhodes-Conway and Clausius are also inviting nearby residents to the meeting. You may find more information about the project on the City Of Madison's Legislative Center at <http://legistar.cityofmadison.com/detailreport/?key=10763>

## Garver Feed Mill

The Garver Feed Mill Re-Use Committee has decided to support the Common Wealth Development proposal of an "Arts Incubator" in the city-owned former Garver Feed Mill behind Olbrich Gardens. There were two excellent proposals for the site: the Arts Incubator and an environmental "Sustainability Center." These proposals and more information about the committee is available online at: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/planning/garver.html>. Both appealed to me as a committee



member, but ultimately a decision was necessary for any project to move forward to rehabilitate the structure and bring life back to this area.

Common Wealth's proposal included private and shared artists space, large areas for gallery and performance use, a central cafe, and a bed and breakfast (B&B). The recommendation was made to the City Council and will need to be

brought before several committees, including the Parks Commission and the Olbrich Botanical Society, before it can be adopted and Common Wealth begin any fundraising or design for the building. As well, Olbrich is working on a plan for the use of the land surrounding this site.

### Royster-Clark

I am very disappointed in the recent withdrawal of Urban Solutions from the Royster-Clark redevelopment process, but I understand the market conditions that have made this decision for them. Recent news articles have speculated about the environmental conditions, and the financial impact of remediation on any potential development, and in multiple conversations with Urban Solutions, the environmental concerns were not a major factor in the decision. County Supervisor Tom Stoebig has researched the environmental conditions of the site and his information is available on the District 15 website at: [www.cityofmadison.com/council/district15](http://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district15).



The members of the Royster-Clark Neighborhood Planning Team (RCNPT) continue to meet to discuss the special area plan for the site. We have received preliminary information about the current market conditions and have received a tremendous response to the recent Royster-Clark neighborhood survey. Both are in preliminary form, but are shaping up to provide much information about what is wanted and what is possible at this site. This information, meeting dates and minutes are available on the RCNPT website at: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/planning/royster.html>.

The RCNPT will begin to put this information together and will host a public meeting to discuss the information and gather a common direction from neighbors.

*A special note about demolition of the Royster-Clark building:* Residents continue to discuss with me the physical condition and safety of the existing building. I understand that the building is an eye-sore and

a target of graffiti (there continues to be an open Building Inspection casefile on the graffiti). The City of Madison has the right to permit or not to permit the demolition of buildings. Recently the ordinance was changed to pay particular attention to what would come *after* a building was demolished. In this case, that would be a large unknown.

The current zoning for the site is Manufacturing. If the building is demolished, any approved use in the M1 zoning would not need city approval, only zoning approval to make sure the building was in compliance with building codes. This would mean that if we approved demolition of the building, another company could come in and build a facility that fits in the M1 zoning classification, we as a neighborhood could not stop this project. Therefore, it continues to be in the best interest of the neighborhood to have the building stand because it is currently the only thing in the way of re-use of the property for a manufacturing use.

This is, of course, a simplification. There are many things that we can do, such as change the zoning, impose a deed restriction or other such legal avenue before demolition is approved. However, at this time, Agrium, Inc. has not submitted an application for demolition. It continues to be their building - and their responsibility to keep it in good structural condition and safe.

### Neighborhood Parks Improvements

This summer, there will be some improvements to neighborhood parks. In Eken Park, the basketball court will be resurfaced and in Lake Edge Park the basketball court will be resurfaced and enlarged from a 1/2 court to 3/4 court. In Eastmorland Park, behind Woodman's, the pedestrian/bicycle path will be resurfaced to include a "dry" crossing of the Woodman's drainage way (something that I've been looking forward to for several years!).

### Hauk-Marquette Street Habitat for Humanity Project

The Habitat for Humanity Project at the intersection of Hauk and Marquette Streets is slowly moving forward. This project, which would replace several rental properties, would add about eight owner-occupied units in two buildings at the intersection along Starkweather Creek.



Recently, the Madison City Council did approve \$200,000 from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to assist in the purchase of the properties. The Madison Area Land Trust is expected to be a partner on this project.

The intersection continues to have safety issues. The Madison Police Department continues to make arrests for drug possession. The Mobil Station, at the corner of East Washington Avenue and North Marquette Street also continues to be a flash point, has an extraordinarily high number of police calls in the past few months.

## Bus Service Route Changes



Metro is currently considering several changes to the existing bus service. I have been impressed with the management of new Metro Manager Chuck Kamp, and this is his first introduction with changing bus routes and services in Madison.

There is a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 15 at 6:00pm in the City County Building Room, GR-27 (210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd). Information about the proposed service changes can be found online at: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/metro/PublicHearing/AprilPublicHearing08.html>.

## Road Construction Watch

I know that many of you are concerned about your street's condition and the dreaded pot-holes. As the weather improves, the City will be able to do some more "permanent" patching that will endure for longer than what we could apply over the winter months. As a member of the Board of Public Works, I know that the City is working quite hard on preparing long-term plans for the reconstruction and resurfacing of streets. Every street's surface and curb and gutter is inspected and grading every other year. These rankings form the basis of which streets receive what type of treatment. To find out how your street ranks, you can look at the online tool at: <http://gis.cityofmadison.com/MADMAPS/>

We have a break in reconstruction of East Washington Avenue this year, with only the completion of what was begun last year. Next year, construction of the Aberg Avenue interchange will occur, and in the future, we are preparing for a new phase from Lien Road to 90/94.

## Other Projects in District 15:

- *Allis Avenue from Shaffer Avenue to Stoughton Road*
  - Sanitary and storm sewer reconstruction
- *Milwaukee Street Bridge over Starkweather Creek*
  - Complete replacement of the bridge
- *Richard Street and Cumberland Avenue Storm Sewer*
  - Recreate storm sewer to reduce flooding hazards
- *Sach Street Reconstruction / North Marquette Street Sanitary Sewer Replacement*
  - Continuation of sanitary sewer replacement project on Clyde Gallagher Avenue
- *North Lawn Avenue and Hermina Street Sanitary Sewer*
  - Repair storm and sanitary sewer in the East Madison Shopping Center and Hermina Street behind the shopping center
- *South Fair Oaks Street Crack Sealing and Sanitary Sewer work*
  - Repair cracks and add "in-line" storm water filters that will remove more from storm water that enters Starkweather Creek.

## Safety Meetings/Updates

In late February and early March I held a series of neighborhood-based safety meetings. Lieutenant Strasburg of the East District and Captain McLay of the North District attended the various meetings

and answered questions and concerns that were presented.

Lieutenant Strasburg presented information about the new neighborhood liaison officer position as part of the East District's Community Policing Team (CPT) which began this year. Individual officers are assigned specific neighborhoods as contacts for residents to express long-range concerns or to get updates about something that has previously been reported. In any emergency, residents should contact Dane County's 911 service for dispatch.

Captain McLay, who is new to the North District, discussed the numerous community-involvement projects that he would like to implement, as well as discussed how the North District would begin using their new Community Policing Team. Both Captain McLay and Lieutenant Strasburg expressed their support for the North and East District to work together along the East Washington Avenue corridor, as issues that arise on one side of the street can move into the other district very quickly.

In addition, both talked about the new self-report system that the Police Department will begin to implement. Instead of having to submit your own paperwork, a police officer will be on duty during the day to talk to and to assist filing the information. If a situation occurs outside of normal business hours, the officer will call the resident back to get the information need. If you file a report online, the officer will also review and contact the resident about the information. The Police Department is well aware that some resident concerns were not being addressed under the old self-report system and hope that this system will make the system more friendly and accurate at the same time.

#### MMSD "Play and Learn" Comes to Worthington Park

The MMSD has received a grant for the "Play and Learn" program. Every Wednesday from 10am to 1pm, two MMSD employees, Nicole and Rissel, will drive a van packed with activities and resources to the Salvation Army at 3030 Darbo Drive to help at-home caregivers and preschoolers. The goal is to build math and literacy skills through interactive play. Snacks and take-home activities will be provided. More detailed information is available below.

The first group will begin Wednesday, April 16 and you can contact the Play and Learn Group Leaders Nicole and Rissel at 235.4055 or 235.4950 or contact the Joining Forces for Families Social Worker Fabiola Hamdan at 246.2967.

#### MMSD Mobile Play and Learn Groups for Caregivers and Children (Ages Birth to Five Years) in Under-Served Neighborhoods

**Rationale for Play and Learn Program:** Many low-income children from birth to 5 who live within the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) are cared for during the day in the homes of relatives and friends because of limited access and high cost of childcare centers. Most of these family child care homes are unregulated which means that they receive little or no outside support in professional development and other educational resources to support the young children in their care and are usually isolated from other childcare providers.

**Current Play and Learn Program (Birth to 5 Years):** MMSD has been providing the Play and Learn Program in two low-income neighborhoods: Allied Drive Neighborhood (2004-present) and Vera Court Neighborhood (2006-07 to present). The MMSD Play and Learn Program is designed to provide support, information and materials around early literacy and early math development to unregulated family, friend and neighbor childcare providers who care for children from birth to kindergarten entry and live in low-income neighborhoods. Caregivers must accompany and remain with the young children during program hours. Caregivers are encouraged to join the children in their learning activities, to

interact with them in supportive and nurturing ways with the support and encouragement of the lead and assistant teachers who provide high quality modeling and programming. The caregivers are also provided with resources and materials to use with their children in their homes. The Play and Learn Program is based on the *Good Beginnings Alliance: Playing to Learn* programs in Hawaii where over 170 playgroups are successfully serving caregivers and their children.

The Play and Learn Program goals are to:

- Provide outreach to caregivers in low-income, under-served neighborhoods within the MMSD attendance areas.
- Enhance caregivers' knowledge of child development, early literacy and math skill development.
- Increase caregivers' access to materials and ideas that can be replicated with children in their homes.
- Establish a support network among participants in the Play and Learn Program and *offset* the feeling of isolation that many caregivers experience.
- Develop leadership skills of caregivers by providing opportunities to share ideas that have worked successfully with their children, lead and plan Play and Learn Program activities and recruit new Play and Learn Program participants.
- Provide children who participate in the Play and Learn Program with a strong foundation in language and early literacy development, early mathematics development and social skills. This allows children to benefit from exposure to routines, a classroom setting and quality programming, resources and materials prior to kindergarten entry.

The Play and Learn Program is based on best practices in early childhood care and education that are established in the guidelines and standards of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC). *Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers & Twos, 4th Edition* and *Creative Curriculum for Preschool, 4th Edition* will be used as the curriculum as well as the *MMSD Early Learning Standards, Ages 3-5*. A culturally-competent, bilingual lead teacher and an assistant teacher model the process of learning through play for the caregivers. The lead teacher prepares meaningful and developmentally appropriate learning activities in centers with signs that describe what to do, how to help the children and what the children might learn from that particular activity in each learning area. Caregivers also serve as resources for providing materials, skills and information. Caregivers and their children also receive materials, information and suggestions for on-going learning outside of the Play and Learn Program time.

The lead teacher also provides outreach, recruits participants, works collaboratively with relevant agencies in the city and county and assists in making connections for other services needed by participants.

**Proposed Expansion of the Play and Learn Program:** In order to accommodate more caregivers in under-served areas of Madison Metropolitan School District, two vans will be purchased for the Play and Learn Program. Each van will serve five low-income neighborhoods each week (a different site each morning) with a three-hour program at each site. The vans will be housed at Building Services. Space for storage of the learning equipment and teacher office space will be also be at Building Services. A lead teacher and an assistant teacher will be hired to do outreach and recruitment. They will plan and implement programming with the support of the MMSD Preschool Instructional Resource teachers who will report to the MMSD Play and Learn Leadership Team.

Initially, the two lead teachers, in conjunction with The Play and Learn Leadership Team will:

- Identify the neighborhoods to be served,
- Secure the on-site locations for the Play and Learn Program,
- Recruit and enroll family, friend and neighbor caregivers in the identified neighborhoods,
- Develop the curricular content of the program,
- Purchase equipment and materials,
- Receive required training in CPR and Shaken Baby Syndrome.
- Meet biweekly with the other Play and Learn Program lead teachers in Madison,
- Train and direct assistant teachers,
- Drive the vans to and from program locations, load and unload vans

The Play and Learn Program Leadership Team will meet monthly to provide direction and analyze the effectiveness of the program. Members of the Play and Learn Leadership Team will include: Assistant Elementary Superintendent, Title I Director, Elementary Lead Principal, the Preschool Early Literacy Instructional Resource Teacher, the Preschool Early Math Instructional Resource Teacher and a United Way of Dane County Representative.

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**Evaluation:** Four areas of the Play and Learn Programs (the program, the lead and assistant teachers, the caregivers and the children participating in the Play and Learn Program) require assessment and evaluation in order to analyze the effectiveness of meeting the established goals. Contracted services will be provided to assist in the evaluation of the program three times per year. Areas of the program to be assessed:

1. Program: Demographic data including caregiver relationship to children, ages of children, ethnic data, attendance data, amount and type of recruitment strategies, materials and space will be collected. Caregiver participants will be interviewed using the *Program Action - Logic Model* developed for the Allied Play and Learn Group.
2. Lead Teachers and Assistant Teachers: The Assistant Superintendent/Elementary, or his or her designee, will be responsible for yearly evaluation of staff.
3. Caregivers: An observation tool will be developed, based on the *Caregivers Assessment Skills List* from Hawaii *Good Beginnings* Program. In addition, an interview/survey of caregivers will be adapted from the *2006 Evaluation Survey Allied Neighborhood Play and Learn Group*.
4. Children: All children participating in the Play and Learn Program will be assessed three times during the program using the *Ages and Stages Questionnaire: A Developmental Check for Children Ages Birth to 5 Years*. This assessment identifies children's developmental levels at two month intervals and helps parents and caregivers identify possible developmental concerns.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [lpalm@cityofmadison.com](mailto:lpalm@cityofmadison.com) or 692.8416. Or visit the District 15 website for more information at [www.cityofmadison.com/council/district15](http://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district15)

Have a great Spring!

Larry