

Alder Larry Palm, District 15
“Hi! Neighbor”
Eastmorland Community Association

Royster-Clark

Urban Solutions, a local development company, announced recently that they have an accepted offer for the Royster-Clark site. They are currently going through the necessary paperwork to acquire the property and expect to control the site around the beginning of next year.

During this time, City staff will continue to work with the Royster-Clark Neighborhood Planning Team (RC-NPT) to create a redevelopment plan. The RC-NPT is a neighborhood group that includes three representatives from the Eastmorland Neighborhood, including the chair of the team. As part of the planning process, we will be inviting residents to share their ideas and suggestions about what should be on the Royster-Clark site. The City will use the resulting planning document when deciding if the proposal by the potential purchaser meets the needs of the city.

You can find more information about the RC-NPT and the process on the District 15 Website at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district15/initiatives.cfm>.

Schenk Street

You might already be aware that speed humps have been placed on Schenk Street. Unfortunately, the contractor hired by City Engineering has not installed the speed humps to our standards, so the humps will be replaced.

City Budget

Perhaps no single piece of business before the City Council is as important as adopting the 2008 Operating and Capital budgets. As I have stated previously, the decisions we make as part of the budget impact all aspects of our city. The City's continued dependence on property taxes significantly affects our ability to expand City services while trying to keep the tax increases to a minimum.

The Mayor's proposed budget provides for several ideas that residents suggested, especially requests surrounding public safety. The many who attended the Northside Police Listening Session sent a strong message. Therefore, the Mayor's budget would include funds to:

- Provide for 30 new police officers, as well as detectives and other safety initiatives, to match our continued growth;
- Add a separate North District Community Policing Team to exclusively serve Eken Park and other Northside neighborhoods;
- Increase the number of building inspectors who follow up on residents' concerns about the quality and condition of area buildings; and
- Maintain current bus service without any increase in fares.

During the middle of November, the Common Council will be discussing the budget. I encourage you to review the proposed City budget at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/comp/budgetindex.htm>.

If you have any questions about the City budget or other activities in City government, please do not hesitate to contact me at 692.8416 or lpalm@cityofmadison.com.