



# ALDER LARRY PALM DISTRICT 15 ALDER REPORT

## Marquette Street/Hauk Street Intersection



Contact me:  
 692.8416  
 lpalm@cityofmadison.com

Unfortunately for residents in this area, we continue to have issues with the Marquette Street/Hauk Street intersection. Police continue to be called for, not only at the intersection but at the Mobil Station on the corner, too. I know that the Worthington Park Neighborhood Officer has placed a high priority on getting this area into shape. With this, there is some good news and, sadly, some bad news.

First, the “good” news: The City of Madison has officially declared 2902 Hauk Street a “chronic nuisance premise.” A few years ago, the Madison City Council enacted this legislation to force landlords and property owners who were not maintaining their property or who had a significant amount of police contacts to work with the City and make substantial changes to the premise or face severe consequences. Ultimately, one of the consequences can be seizure of the property. While this is an extreme “tool” for the City, there are instances, such as 2902 Hauk Street, which warrant such action.

The bad news is that Habitat for Humanity has decided not to purchase these parcels because of floodplain-related concerns. The federal government has ruled the area is in a floodplain, and that substantial modification of the structure can only occur if the buildings are out of the floodplain. Unfortunately, there is not enough room to make such an operation happen. This effectively rules out redevelopment of the property, even by someone else. It also means that the current properties will continue to be used and occupied the same way and, over time, will continue to deteriorate. The only option, from a City perspective, is to purchase the property and the land and use it as an environmental flood corridor along Starkweather Creek. Federal money is available to assist in purchasing properties such as these.

As for the rest of Marquette Street, we will continue the reconstruction project that was started this year and reconstruct east to Milwaukee Street. I continue to struggle to get our agreed-to traffic calming measures implemented on Marquette Street to calm some of the cut-through traffic.

### Inside this issue:

2009 City Budget	2
Construction Update	2
Yard Signs	2
Sculpture Garden	2
Olbrich Master Planning	3
Eastside Dog Park	3
Paperless Alder Report	3
District Updates	3
Royster-Clark Demolition	4

## Eastside Safety



Don't forget to keep your windows secured and your doors locked! Parts of District 15 have again been “hit” by random burglaries – crimes of opportunity. Don't let yourself and your house be victims of this. Please lock your doors and make sure windows are closed or secured. Additional information about crime prevention, including the Neighborhood Watch Program, can be found at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/police/crimepre.html>. Thanks!

## 2009 City Budget

You might have heard in the news that the economy isn't doing so well. This clearly affects the City's budget, and I expect that this year's budget will be the hardest of the four that I have worked on since being elected in 2005. The Mayor has been dropping all sorts of hints about the situation, such as the need to lower the expected income from investments to match current market conditions.

On Tuesday, October 7, the Mayor introduced his version of the budget, and the Common Council will deliberate over three nights, November 11-13. Certainly new budget expenditures will not be included in the Mayor's budget, but I expect some alders will offer up spending suggestions. I will take a careful look at all potential proposals. My priorities are to maintain our basic city services, preserve our police and safety programs at their current levels and, finally, study all other projects with a simple question: "Do we need it now?"

Certain projects that were important in a booming economy probably don't have the same priority in our current environment, while others are either more valuable or less ex-

pensive. In addition, I recognize that while Dane County has been charged with providing health and welfare services through their budget, there are items that can really make a difference in people's lives because of our current economy.



What do you think? During every budget year, I hear from residents like you who tell me their priorities. We might not always agree, but I'm always interested in hearing what you have to say. The *Wisconsin State Journal* has a very interesting online game about putting the budget together (<http://www.madison.com/wsj/media/budget/index.html>). It suggests that you might want to send your "budget" to the Mayor, but in reality, it wouldn't hurt to send it to the alders as well. Information about how to contact members of the Common Council can be found at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/council/>.

Finally, to hear more about the budget and some alders' perspectives, you are invited to the **EINPC Alders Forum on Thursday, October 30, at 6:00 p.m. at Bashford Church, 329 North Street.**

## East Washington Avenue/Aberg Avenue Construction – 2009



After a year off, in 2009 there will be a complete and substantial reconstruction of East Washington Avenue and Aberg Avenue/Highway 30. This is the "final" piece of the East Washington Avenue construction, and work will include replacement of Highway 30 past Fair Oaks Avenue.

In addition, plans call for a second pedestrian/bicycle bridge over Aberg Avenue connecting to the recently constructed bridge over East Washington Avenue. While some wondered what we were doing with this first bridge, putting both together will successfully complete the Downtown to MATC bike path that so many users have been looking for.

## Yard Signs and the Public Right-of-Way

Welcome to another campaign season and yard signs! If you choose to have a sign, whether political or otherwise, just remember that they should be on your own property, out of the right-of-way. The right-of-way is anything from the sidewalk to the street, or if you don't have a sidewalk, something comparable in distance (each street would be different). City Building Inspection can and does remove signs that are placed in the right-of-way.

## Carpenter-Ridgeway Neighborhood Sculpture Garden

The Carpenter-Ridgeway neighborhood recently dedicated a Sid Boyum sculpture in Carpenter-Ridgeway Park located near Starkweather Creek and the bike path to MATC. Thank you to the residents for all your hard work improving our city parks. If you haven't seen the sculpture, please be sure to stop by!

## Olbrich Master Planning

Over the past several months, much work has been done by City staff and residents at two neighborhood meetings to discuss the future of Olbrich Park (not just the Gardens).

A few months ago, the Common Council approved the re-use of the Garver Feed Mill building and some adjacent property for the Commonwealth Arts Incubator. Originally, the building was purchased to support the activities of the Olbrich Botanical Society, and the currently adopted plan makes clear use of this property as garden space. In addition, a new, stronger emphasis has been placed on creating

“natural” and open space, especially on the lands adjacent to the Garver Feed Mill.

Since neither of these functions is in the established Olbrich Master Plans, changes must be made. The staff-proposed plan, which is available online at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/major/olbrichmasterplan.html>, uses the Garver Feed Mill and adjacent land for the Arts Incubator and open space, expands the Gardens across Starkweather Creek to the current existing boat parking and one baseball diamond, and moves some boat parking to the area across Atwood Avenue using grass parking.

## Eastside Dog Park



At the Olbrich Park Master Planning meetings, many residents interested in having a dog park at Olbrich came forward. At the meeting, the staff and the area alders decided that this wasn't specifically an Olbrich issue, but rather an “Eastside” one.

Therefore, several Eastside alders and City Parks staff are hosting a separate **Eastside dog park meeting on Monday, November 17, at 6:30 p.m. at Olbrich Gardens, 3330 Atwood Avenue**. Parks staff will present their proposal for multiple potential pocket dog parks for public comment. At this point, I do not know which parks they are looking at, but I hope to be able to provide you with that information prior to the meeting.

## Paperless Alder Report

I hope this issue of the District 15 Alder Report is useful to you. To help keep down the costs of production and distribution, please notify the Common Council Office if you are able to receive the Alder Report electronically, and we will email it to you in Adobe PDF format. Contact:

**Debbie Fields, Secretary  
Common Council Office  
dfields@cityofmadison.com  
608.266.4297**

## District Updates



Got email? I send out more frequent District Updates via email. If you would like to stay involved, please send me an email at [lpalm@cityofmadison.com](mailto:lpalm@cityofmadison.com), and I will happily send you this updated information.



Alder Larry Palm, District 15  
Common Council Office  
City-County Building, Rm. 417  
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53703-3345

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MADISON WI  
PERMIT #526

## Royster-Clark Demolition

The resident-based Royster-Clark Neighborhood Planning Team (RC-NPT) continues to meet every month to work through the City's concepts for the Special Area Plan. We continue to look over the information we've received from the two public meetings, market study and neighborhood survey to come up with some final "proposals" for residents to review and, hopefully, finalize before any development at the site. We're looking at some dates in November to hold another public meeting to discuss the new schematic proposals.

In the meanwhile, Agrium, owners of the Royster-Clark site, have officially requested approval to substantially demolish the buildings on the site. This would include the plant, domes and outbuildings, but would leave the concrete below the buildings. Information about the application is available online at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/planning/projects/demo/902dr.html>.

There has been much conversation about this proposal. Normally, the City will only permit demolition if there is a plan in place for what will be done with the property afterwards. In this case, there is not a plan, and special care must be taken to ensure that we are not just demolishing one building so something else that is unwanted is built in its place.

Because of these concerns, as well as the environmental factors, I am recommending that the Madison Plan Commission approve demolition with the stipulation that the owner of the site must seek another demolition permit to remove the concrete foundation of the building. This will ensure that when it is time for new construction, we will continue to have a say in what goes there.

If you're interested in attending the Madison Plan Commission meeting (or just watching on Madison City Channel), it will be **Monday, November 3, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 201 of the City-County Building, 210 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.**