

Eastside News
Alder Report
Larry Palm, District 15

As school begins, the Common Council will begin to focus its attention on the City's budget for the next year. On September 6, Mayor Dave Cieslewicz will introduce the first of two City budgets. The introduction of these budgets will begin a community discussion about our priorities for 2006. Between the increasing cost of providing city services and the state's property tax limit, we may see fewer services offered to residents of the city.

The Mayor will be hosting "Build Your Own Budget" meetings, and fellow eastside alders Judy Olson, Lauren Cnare, Judy Compton and I invite you to a special Eastside alder budget meeting on Thursday, October 27. I urge you to contact one of us with your thoughts on the proposed budget and your suggestions about how to best spend your tax dollars. The Common Council will approve both the Capital and Operating budgets on Tuesday, November 15.

Congratulations to the Eken Park, Carpenter-Ridgeway and Worthington Park Neighborhood Associations for their successful applications for the 2005 Neighborhood Grants Program. Eken Park received two grants – one to create a new resident "Welcome Kit" and the other for Strategic Planning; Carpenter-Ridgeway received a grant to continue their wonderful work along Starkweather Creek creating pedestrian paths, rain gardens and informational resources for the community; and Worthington Park received a grant to build capacity (increase volunteers, establish additional programming, etc.) in the neighborhood, in association with the East Isthmus Neighborhood Planning Council.

I have also been working on a bike/pedestrian path along Starkweather Creek connecting the Dixon Greenway on Milwaukee Street and the trails created by the Carpenter-Ridgeway Neighborhood Association on the other side of Aberg Avenue. A public meeting was held on August 2 to share the plan and provide comments. The overall plan would include two bridges, crossing Aberg and E. Washington Avenues.

The Eastmorland Community Association continues with their work developing a neighborhood-wide language to discuss proposed new developments such as the potential project on Milwaukee Street next to the Swiss Colony. A workshop was held where groups of residents studied photos of existing projects and articulated the design's positive and negative attributes.

Finally, I will be inviting residents living around Eastmorland Park to a community meeting to discuss and plan for the future of the park and greenway. I have tentatively scheduled this meeting for Monday, October 24.

As always, I look to represent you on the Common Council. If you have any concerns, questions or seek more specific information about meeting times and locations, please contact me at district15@cityofmadison.com or 266-4071. In addition, I will continue to post information of concern to our larger community at my District 15 Web site: www.cityofmadison.com/council/District15/index.html.