



# ALDER LARRY PALM DISTRICT 15 ALDER REPORTS

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## Meeting calendar:

**Common Council budget meetings**  
Tuesday, November 14 - 6:30 p.m.  
City-County Building, Rm. 201

Wednesday, November 15 - 7:00 p.m.  
Thursday, November 16 - 7:00 p.m.  
Madison Municipal Building, Rm. 260

**Davies/Maher/Dempsey Intersection**  
Tuesday, November 28 - 6:30 p.m.  
Allis Elementary School Cafeteria

**North Street Traffic  
(Commercial-Playing Fields)**  
Wednesday, November 29 - 6:30 p.m.  
Hawthorne Branch Library

**Royster-Clark Steering Committee**  
Monday, December 4 - 6:30 p.m.  
Pinney Branch Library

**Eastmotland/Hargrove Greenway  
Community Garden**  
Monday, December 4 - 5:30 p.m.  
Pinney Branch Library

**Starkweather Bridge/Path**  
Tuesday, December 19 - 6:30 p.m.  
Salvation Army, 3030 Darbo Drive



Contact me:  
692.8416 (home)  
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## Lake Edge Park Master Plan Meeting

For the past several months, I have been working with neighbors of Lake Edge Park to consider the creation of a Master Park Plan. Master plans are important because they assist City staff, the Parks Commission and the Common Council decide what improvements to make to any City park. Without an adopted plan, little change will occur in a park.

Recently, I sent a survey to residents in the Lake Edge Neighborhood, asking for their feedback and usage of the park. Hopefully this will re-establish a direction for this Park Planning group.

At a previous planning meeting, residents who attended were asked about the various aspects of the park. Here's the breakdown of what they like, want to improve, and their dream park:

### What we like about our current park

- Trees
- Informal - neighborhood focus
- Play equipment
- Open green space - contours
- Well planned - many activities can occur at the same time (e.g., shelter and free space)
- Relationship to: schools, YMCA, bike path, library
- Softball diamond
- Shelter
- No designated parking area
- Clean restrooms

### What we would like to change (physical)

- New shelter
- New restrooms
  - Better location
  - More visibility (MPD)
  - Better connection to shelter
- Natural plantings
- Benches
- Landscaping - would like more color
- Park sign - plantings (neighborhood project)
- Good lighting
- Infield ball diamond

### What we would like to change (social)

- Garbage
- Why people use park?
- Walking path
- Fitness route/course
- Movies in the Park
- Neighborhood leadership for events
- Alcohol

### Our dream park would be...

- Native plantings (balance)
- Educational component
- Youth design input
- Color
  - Summer
  - Fall
  - Winter
- High and low trees
- Playground and exercise area
- Programming
- Maintain green space

If you live in the Lake Edge Neighborhood, please return your survey!

## Please Note:

A District 15 Alder Report will not be published in the first quarter of 2007 because of the election. Please be sure to go to my Website for further meeting notices:

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/council/District15/index.html>

Announcements will also be mailed to nearby affected residents.



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.

Email:

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### Eastmorland Park Plantings

In October, Parks staff began seeding the area above the drainage ditch on the slope on Silver Road with wildflower and other native planting seeds. This is a part of last year's Eastmorland Park Master Plan that indicated a desire to replace overgrown lawn grass with more environmentally appropriate plants that will enhance the beauty of the park. In the Mayor's latest budget, this form of park beautification was encouraged. I expect Phase II of the park's native plantings will be implemented in 2007.

In addition, congratulations to the neighborhood group working to enhance the park's playground equipment by adding an additional location at the end of Silver Road. It is my sincere hope that this equipment will be in use next summer!

## Milwaukee Street Traffic

Recently, there was a meeting with City Traffic Engineering, several Eastside alders, and select concerned residents about traffic along Milwaukee Street. Traffic Engineering presented us with a compilation of several neighborhood plans, the Starkweather Creek Plan, and an Eastside traffic group's proposals, all of which dealt with traffic, pedestrians, and bicyclists on Milwaukee Street.

This is a good first step to improving traffic on Milwaukee Street. As a very long street that passes through many neighborhoods and several aldermanic districts, it is important not to push traffic around our neighborhoods, instead directing it appropriately. Hopefully this collaborative effort will result in positive changes to traffic on Milwaukee Street.

As your alder, I am recommending to Traffic Engineering that the following items be reviewed for the area between Stoughton Road and E. Washington Avenue:

### Milwaukee Street-Marquette Street intersection

- Hold additional neighborhood meetings with Ald. Judy Olson, District 6.
- Create a pedestrian refuge at the intersection across Milwaukee Street using the 2007 pedestrian arterial enhancement budget.
- Enhance pedestrian stripping on one additional intersection.

### Milwaukee Street-Fair Oaks Avenue intersection

- Review intersection (traffic counts) and signage; make additional recommendations.
- Designate outbound Milwaukee Street left turn lane.
- Plan for future reconstruction of intersection.

### Milwaukee Street-Walter Street intersection

- Strip inbound Milwaukee Street left turn lane onto Walter Street.
- Right lane would create single lane towards Fair Oaks Avenue.

### Milwaukee Street-Schenk Street

- Schenk Street is now part of the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (which installs additional traffic calming devices on neighborhood streets).

It is important to note that other efforts are being made, such as a review of signage, the addition of commuter bus parking at Swiss Colony to alleviate parking concerns near the East Transfer Point, and encouraging pedestrian-friendly enhancements near Schenk Street. However, because these plans are not specific to Milwaukee Street nor have they been finalized, I have not included them in my current Milwaukee Street recommendations.

I will continue to have neighborhood input into the process, especially as recommendations are finalized and implemented by Traffic Engineering. As your representative, your voice is important to me. I encourage you to share with me your concerns, suggestions or other comments about traffic on Milwaukee Street.

## Starkweather Creek Pedestrian Bridge Meeting

On **Tuesday, December 19, at 6:30 p.m. at the Salvation Army, 3030 Darbo Drive**, there will be a neighborhood meeting to discuss the Starkweather Creek pedestrian/bicycle bridge over E. Washington Avenue and the related path parallel to the creek to Milwaukee Street. This project will occur at the same time as the reconstruction of E. Washington Avenue.

In June, nearby residents attended a neighborhood meeting about the project and expressed concern about the proximity of the smaller pe-

destrian bridge over Starkweather Creek as the path crosses from Clyde Gallagher east to Clyde Gallagher west. Residents had a desire to see the bridge be constructed more mid-block, between Darbo Drive and Milwaukee Street. City Engineering has been working on revising this plan, keeping in mind the Wisconsin DNR's requirement that any plan cannot raise the 100-year flood levels.

Your neighborhood input is especially important to this project, and I encourage you to attend.

## Davies/Maher/Dempsey Intersection

On **Tuesday, November 28, at 6:30 p.m. at Allis Elementary School**, residents near the Davies Street/Maher Avenue/Dempsey Road intersection in the Lake Edge Neighborhood will be invited to a meeting to discuss traffic concerns at this intersection.

Residents requested a review of the intersection to slow traffic and increase safety for all users. When City Engineering studied this intersection, they discovered the geometrics were so bad that they have proposed a substantial modification of the intersection to help traffic flow.



Most of this involves tightening the street (i.e., not making the same wide expanse of pavement on Maher Avenue, Davies Street and Pinchot Avenue) and installing a traffic circle - not a roundabout - in the center of the intersection. While a drawing has been made, no plans have been created, and no money has been appropriated for this project.

Your input is imperative to starting this project. Nearby residents are essential to the development of a plan and helping the City follow through, and I hope you will attend this important meeting.

## Royster-Clark

We continue to have Royster-Clark “Steering” Committee meetings once a month on the **first Monday at 6:30 p.m. at Pinney Branch Library** (except for the month of January, when the committee will not meet). All residents are invited to attend.

The City of Madison is committed to working with neighbors to ensure that the best use of the land is found. Even with their current workload, the City Planning Unit will be dedicating resources to develop a site plan with the neighborhood in mid-2007. Until a formal

plan can be developed, there is much that the neighborhood residents can do to ensure the success of this plan.

The committee has decided that more information must be brought together before action can be taken. This includes information about the development/planning process, environmental steps, and how to involve more community members in any future development process.

I hope to see a strong dialogue about what our community desires at this site.

## City Budget

It’s budget time again! With a low increase in health care premiums, the Mayor’s budget had “room” for additional police protection with additions added by the Board of Estimates, expanded library services, no service cuts to Metro Transit, a substantial reorganization of the City’s Department of Planning and Development, and a host of other items.

Unfortunately, the proposed budget is a little above average for property tax assessment. There are still real dollar costs to these services. Future budgets will most likely not have

this same health care fortune, therefore any new spending in the 2007 budget will become the new base for all future budgets.

The Common Council will again devote up to three meetings to the 2006-2007 budget. **The meetings will be November 14 - 16.** Residents are invited to speak on November 14 about their budget concerns.

I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about the budget and how it will impact you.



**Your opinion counts:**

**Please share your ideas and comments**

**with me. I can be**

**reached at**

**692.8416 or**

**lpalm@cityofmadison.com**

## Stoughton Road Revitalization Process

The Stoughton Road Revitalization Process (SRRP) has a new Website: [www.stoughtonroad.com](http://www.stoughtonroad.com).

We’re entering into a more “public” phase of the project and will soon be selecting a consultant to formulate a plan for the Stoughton Road corridor from Milwaukee Street to the Beltline.

So far, the SRRP has raised over \$50,000 for the plan! We’re still looking for more people to represent the Eastmorland neighborhood on the committee. If you’re interested, please let me know.



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## Madison Planning and Development Reorganization

For the last several months, the City's Department of Planning and Development has been under intensive review for a potential reorganization. This department covers so much in the city: planning, building inspection, economic development, neighborhood development, the Madison Senior Center, and Community Block Development. Some feel that the department should be reconfigured to work better for residents and businesses. The text of Mayor Cieslewicz's P & D plan is available at:

[www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/pdfs/PlanDevReorgRpt.pdf](http://www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/pdfs/PlanDevReorgRpt.pdf)

### **Why should residents and neighborhoods care?**

First, they are your tax dollars, and an inefficient and cumbersome system does not benefit our community. Having said that, this reorganization is not about "saving money," but rather about getting the best use of all the money we currently spend.

I think that the real benefit to the city's residents and neighborhoods is the potential rededication to neighborhoods and their associations, as well as a smarter development process.

On a local level, our neighborhood associations are important to us. The plan calls for publishing a State of the

Neighborhoods report, streamlining neighborhood assistance by clarifying staff responsibilities, improving the neighborhood Website, revitalizing Neighborhood Resource Teams, and adding an additional neighborhood planner as part of the Mayor's 2007 budget.

And while developers might benefit financially from a streamlined development process, the use of new technology such as an online permitting process will allow residents to "peek under" the proposals and review them at their leisure, hopefully without the need to attend committee meetings or to drive to the Planning Department to look at proposals. This information should be readily available to all residents so that you can understand development in your neighborhood and take appropriate actions.

The 108-page report at the Mayor's Website has a lot of information in it about the Department of Planning and Development reorganization. This is the starting point for Council discussion. Pieces of the plan will find their way onto alders' desks in the coming months. Your input would greatly assist us in making the right decisions.

**The Mayor has planned a special public hearing on Tuesday, November 28, at 6:30 p.m. at the Madison Public Library, 201 W. Mifflin Street.**