

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As I write this letter, a snow emergency has been declared, and Madison is heading into an arctic freeze. We have already broken the December snow record. I've been receiving numerous complaints about side streets not being plowed and impassable, icy sidewalks. Please do your best to comply with City regulations, and be patient with Streets crews who are constantly working hard under challenging winter conditions. Every time snow accumulates to 3 inches, they plow, salt, and sand Madison street miles equal to the distance from here to Las Vegas. The crews also handle numerous winter emergencies such as water main breaks and, soon, the inevitable potholes.

A tough City budget was passed, but the Common Council is facing an impending Metro fare increase and the Overture Center financial dilemma. I strongly oppose huge bailout packages and am reluctant to burden taxpayers with extra expenditures. With safety as my top priority and as a Commissioner for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), I'm encouraging Dane County Habitat for Humanity to explore opportunities to purchase troubled spots within our district (based on calls for police service). Once renovated, these units will be offered to screened buyers, who are expected to be contributing new members of our community.

Although saddened to learn that Cub Foods on Verona Road is going to close, I am quite excited with the revitalization opportunity presented to the languishing Westgate Mall by employee-owned Iowa Hy-Vee Groceries' proposal to build and operate a grocery store at Westgate. This will bring hundreds of jobs to the area and also ensure current small local business owners in this mall can continue to serve our community. I do believe the positive rewards of business competition will benefit consumers, who must watch spending during this economic down turn. The developers are working with City authorities to iron out differences with a strong focus on area traffic safety. Please continue to participate in the planning process to ensure that we all gain from this joint-effort.

I hope you are pleased with the new stoplights at the S. Whitney Way and Raymond Road intersection. I look forward to the next traffic calming project at the Segoe-Tokay-Constitution intersection that should start after spring thaw. Funding has also been approved to replace decaying trees on various medians within District 20, especially along Raymond Road and S. Whitney Way.

The pilot Neighborhood Center barely got MMSD/BOE's approval at the last minute to execute the lease, thus you may have noticed remodeling work in progress at Meadowood Mall. Since this is only a one-year "pilot center," please volunteer your time and service and make your best use of it. I welcome your input on HOW we can work together to make it a community success. City staff will assist us and collect data for a feasibility study to secure permanent funding beyond next year.

Midwest Family Broadcasting just alerted me that unless additional funding and sponsors can be secured by March, our area's twenty-year tradition of July Fourth fireworks at Elver Park won't happen this summer. Since 2007, when Clear Channel dropped sponsorship of this event, Midwest Family Broadcasting Service has graciously stepped in to take over. The costs for police, EMS, insurance, and park permit/fees, etc. total about \$60,000, in addition to \$20,000 for the fireworks display. The City contributes nearly \$20,000, while Midwest Family Broadcasting absorbs the remainder. This is three years in a row I've had to make special efforts to continue this tradition. Please wish me lots of luck!

Talking about luck, I am very thankful to run for re-election unopposed. This definitely will allow me to devote my precious time and energy to working on urgent needs of this district and our city.

All my best,  
Alder Thuy  
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