

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Madison has already broken the seasonal snowfall record with more yet to come. I have been swamped daily with issues people experienced while coping with this unprecedented winter. The elderly and people with mobility issues are more severely affected. Madison does make allowances for those who are unable to comply with City snow regulations in a timely way. If a citation is received, please contact the number on the citation door card for special consideration or further assistance with snow removal. City staff will do their best to pair you with Independent Living (274-7900, 274-9181), South Madison Coalition for the Elderly (251-8405, 251-9082), or Westside Coalition for the Aging (238-7368, 238-1260). They may even ask the court to dismiss the citation, if deemed appropriate. I ask for your patience with and appreciation for City Streets crews who are working extremely hard to make our streets safe for all. I have already received some complaints about potholes, so please watch out for them once snow melts, as consequences can be quite costly. Winter hardships also bring out the best Wisconsin traits that remind us how nice it is to call this community our home.

The 2008 City Budget included funding Gypsy Moth spraying this spring. This means our valuable trees will be protected from the devastating effects of these pesky moths. However, some areas will have to be excluded due to three homeowners who publicly opposed this treatment.

Our District's listening sessions last August and September resulted in the Mayor making public safety his top City priority this year. It's great that our concerns were publicly acknowledged, and our request for additional police officers was approved in the 2008 Budget. It takes time to prepare these law enforcement officers to serve in our community. In the meantime, please continue to participate in your Neighborhood Watch programs.

The Madison Police Department recognized our frustrations with the current self-report system and is fine-tuning the process to make it more responsive.

I am planning a small group meeting later in March for area representatives to meet with West Police Station staff to share concerns and implement the next steps for this ongoing partnership.

Recently, Caleb Bedford, our Neighborhood Officer for Theresa Terrace and Hammersley Road, said farewell to us as Officer Mike Hanson, a long time neighborhood resident, takes over this position by mid-February. Officer Hanson can be reached at 209-9526 or mhanson@cityofmadison.com.

I am attempting to tap Emerging Neighborhood Funds through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Office to rent the space recently vacated by Jacobson Bros. at Meadowood Mall. I hope to bring Madison School & Community Recreation's satellite services to our district. This site would provide space for youth activities after school, adult programs and neighborhood gatherings.

By the time you read this, a public hearing will have been held on February 20 at Midvale Elementary to discuss the Segoe Road and Tokay Boulevard intersection. To enhance traffic safety, City Traffic Engineering and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation will add all-way stop signs and some additional modifications this spring.

I was one of the two alders who voted against the Allied redevelopment. It is a \$28 million project, a tax burden that will be with us for a long time. I strongly believe all tax dollars – local, state, and federal – should be handled with great care and respect. In the rush to meet the federal deadline, this proposal didn't provide enough details for me to be convinced that it is a wise investment for our city.

I continue working to remind people that Madison is more than just Downtown. I'm pleased that after much hard work by many dedicated friends and neighbors, the Southwest Neighborhood Plan was recently approved. Please take part in its implementation by discussing it with your neighbors, and encourage everyone to attend the several neighborhood meetings that will take place this spring.

It's wonderful to notice several neighborhood volunteers who took public service to heart and stepped up to the plate to give back to our community. Casting your vote is the most effective way to make a difference! Please get out and vote in the upcoming spring election on April 1.

It has been my pleasure to participate in each Neighborhood Association's activities, whenever my busy schedule permits. I continue to rely on your feedback to faithfully represent you in City government. Please stay in close touch, and email me your concerns. I can also be contacted by letter or phone.

Warm regards,

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