

# DISTRICT 20

## ALD. THUY PHAM-REMMELE

### JUNE 2008 NEWS

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

After our record-breaking winter it's great to enjoy Madison's beautiful spring before we quickly move into summer. I am happy to report street crews are working hard to fix the numerous potholes around town created by last winter's weather. With weather cooperating spraying for Gypsy Moths was successfully carried out. Now we need to be vigilant about the Emerald Ash Borers that are heading our direction!

I personally consider my service on Madison Common Council purely an opportunity to give back to the community. Therefore, I proposed an ordinance that will make Madison the first city in WI to apply the law recently signed by Gov. Doyle permitting elected officials to forgo their salaries. This will allow any alders, school board members, and even the Mayor to voluntarily refuse salaries, thus save the city their gross pay and benefits.

In late May, I met with Chief Noble Wray and later with West Station Capt. Jay to be updated on MPD plans and preparedness for this Summer. I requested Chief Wray to provide a report specifically written for District 20 for me to share with my constituents. Here's Chief Wray's message:

**" District 20 highlights:**

*On June 18, 2008, 12 of the 30 officers that were approved in the 2008 budget will graduate and be ready for assignment throughout the City of Madison. The good news is, one of the officers that was targeted for District 20, we were able get him started early and he is already having an impact. In April the West Community Policing Team (CPT) received another officer (Officer John Amos) who will spend half of his time in the Russett/Balsam area. He has been working with Toki Middle School, landlords in the area, Meadowood Mall and providing foot patrol in the area. Officer Amos and the West intern will be working on a project this summer that will help find programming for children who live in the area. Other District highlights: Officer Mike Hanson, the neighborhood officer for Theresa/Betty's Lane, has organized neighbor walks, has worked with Falk School to open up the school for neighborhood programming, and provides foot patrol in this area. West District Patrol officers, CPT officers, and TEST officers had two traffic initiatives last month on S. Whitney Way that netted 35 speeding tickets and 25 no left turn violation tickets in an effort to make this a safer area. There has been an individual that has exposed himself on six different occasions over the last 18 months to bike riders on the bike path that runs next to the south side of Odana Golf Course. The West District Crime Pattern Response Team, which consists of a representative from patrol, detectives, CPT, and lead by the West Field Lieutenant, developed a plan that included surveillances, undercover work, and increased directed patrols. A suspect has been developed, and a case of window peeping has been developed against this individual. The investigation continues."*

For a second year Midwest Family Broadcasting will sponsor July 4th Fireworks at Elver Park. Let's celebrate our Independence Day with friends and neighbors by participating in our district's many gatherings, picnics, and parades before the fireworks. I have asked the sponsor to allow area associations to set up information/recruiting/fund-raising tables at the event. This is a great opportunity for us to promote area associations, fund raise, and recruit volunteers for Neighborhood Watches. Interested area associations & groups please contact me as soon as possible to ensure your place.

Although the grant proposal for Neighborhood Watches in District 20 was rejected for the second time I truly appreciate the residents who dedicated so much time and hard work to the effort. I was quite disappointed to learn that it will be at least 2010 before any money is available for expanding & enhancing the Meadow Ridge Library Branch. I have secured the space recently vacated by Jacobson Bros. and supported the plan to pilot a multi-purpose Neighborhood Center for area residents to use for community activities. Madison School Community Recreation (MSCR) will operate the Center and offer some satellite services such as Health & Fitness exercises, Hobbies, Art & Craft classes, and some After-School Youth Activities supervised & mentored by RSVP or adult volunteers. The purpose is to strengthen our community by connecting people within our neighborhoods. If all go well I hope operation will start in July. I am soliciting your ideas on how to put this space to the best use for our community. Library Clubs/Extra activities, area Bridge club, Quilting circle, Boy or Girl Scout Troops, Neighborhood Associations & Watches... are encouraged to sign up for group meetings here.

Looking forward to next fall and 2008-09 school year, I have made plans to work with both Toki Middle & Orchard Ridge Elementary School Principals to alleviate nuisances caused by their students' behaviors after school. West PD has also accepted my request for them to work with the schools on improving students' respect for area persons and property.

**A Reminder:** District 20 has a date to **revisit with West Police staff at their West Police District Station, 1710 McKenna Boulevard at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 7, 2008.** All concerned residents in District 20 are welcome to attend as we review progress and share concerns over Public Safety issues. I encourage ALL of you to work with MPD and report all suspicious/criminal activities in your neighborhood.

Please keep in touch!

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