

Alder Thuy's Summer Newsletter

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

Due to various area newsletter deadlines and the recent homicide in our neighborhood, this is my update to keep you all informed.

I am pleased our community tradition will continue with the "Woodman's Elver Park Fireworks" on Friday, July 3. Woodman's has agreed to sponsor the full cost of this year's event, which allows Mid-West Family Broadcasting to add some family- and kid-friendly activities in the early evening. I truly appreciate the willingness of the Madison Police to provide security and reduce costs from about \$60,000 to \$18,000 by flexibly scheduling the event on the eve of Independence Day.

The June 9 murder still shocks our community and calls for immediate intervention. I strongly disagree with Mr. Cieslewicz's saying that "Our city is exceptionally safe and our schools are some of the best public schools in the country" and "Misperceptions lead to fear." The loss of a young life leaving two youths incarcerated and a toddler without a father is a stark REALITY. It is unacceptable that many criminal activities continue to affect our quality of life, yet several alders and others who don't live here play down the severity of our safety concerns. I was disappointed that the "Curfew Ordinance," which I co-sponsored with Alder Jed Sanborn as a tool to curb juvenile delinquency, didn't pass. As warm weather generates more negative activities late into the night, we need to exercise vigilance and participate in area Neighborhood Watches. My thanks to all who took time to send me kind words of support and positive suggestions to improve area safety. I plan to convene a meeting for us to take action and reclaim our neighborhood. Please continue sending me your suggestions; together we shall overcome.

Summer means street construction season. As no project can satisfy EVERYONE, please be patient as we get used to the traffic modification in our area. However, it is important to pay attention and voice your opinion in a timely way at public hearings when projects are proposed, as I have almost NO control over ongoing City projects that usually take years to materialize and are often out-of-sync with alder tenure. I understand it can be frustrating to participate in City processes when some projects seem to be a "done deal" before public hearings take place.

Exercising his right to assign whomever to serve his pleasure on ALL 80+ City committees, commissions and boards, Mr. Cieslewicz ignored my requests and limited me to serve only on the Vending Oversight Committee, which has no relevance to our District's needs. Several area residents volunteered their service to City committees, only to be turned down in the same fashion. As a result, District 20 has little representation/voice on citywide issues. Facing this deplorable situation, I only have control over my individual vote at Council level and will keep my pledge to you to continue doing the right thing. My priority is always my constituents' best interests, regardless of how difficult it is to maintain my stance.

The Meadowridge Branch Library's lease was recently renewed, and our pilot Neighborhood Center is thriving under the strong leadership of Center Director, Cristine Reid (467-8918) together with Youth Program Director Cory Raymond (467-8360). We are very fortunate to have their outstanding services. Please contact them with suggestions and participate or volunteer to help make this a continued success for our community.

I am happy to report that Habitat for Humanity has closed on the property at 5834 Russett Road and will be officially kicking off the project on July 8 at 1:00 p.m. This is a great step to revitalize our area. I will work with Economic Development Director Tim Cooley not only to recruit new businesses to Madison, but more importantly, to retain and assist local small businesses.

I just turned 61 and feel very blessed that my husband Dave and both our 90+ year old mothers are in good health. My warmest wishes as we celebrate the birth of our nation and enjoy summer in our beautiful neighborhood with friends and family.

Alder Thuy
district20@cityofmadison.com