

August 2007 Newsletter

Dear District 20 Constituents,

I was happy to have met many of you at area Fourth of July parades and picnics where families participated in fun intergenerational activities. On behalf of District 20 I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to Tom Walker, Mid-West Family Broadcasting (Q106) who stepped in to sponsor our traditional Elver Park Fireworks when Clear Channel pulled out at the last minute.

You may have noticed new traffic islands on Reetz Road recently. Three speed bumps will soon be installed on Tawhee Drive to slow down speeders. Please be open minded and patient to allow these remedies some time to work. It is also very important to be actively involved in neighborhood issues so you can have your say when public opinion is solicited. Please help city managers work with you and for you to achieve satisfactory results. With public input from the May 31st hearing about the dangerous Whitney Way and Hammersley Road intersection City Traffic Engineers are wrapping up the proposal for traffic calming devices. If approved by City Council, work will begin in 2008. A public hearing about short-term solutions for Verona Road is scheduled for September 20, 2007 at St. Maria Goretti Church (5:30 p.m. -7:00 p.m.).

Repeatedly you made it very clear to me that our District has been festered with increasing criminal activities. For many of you, quality of life has been negatively impacted, and more than ever, you demanded your basic right to feel safe in your home and on our streets. I also realize that we cannot do this alone and a strong collaboration based on trust must be forged with Madison Police Department. In June, I invited MPD Chief Noble Wray to a Listening Session with District 20 constituents so he could directly hear your grave concerns, and I was pleased to have his enthusiastic acceptance. The tragic murder of a young man on July 23rd spotlighted the obvious need for more effective law enforcement in our District. The whole city was amazed by the unprecedented August 8th turnout of almost 700 residents eager to speak up to reclaim our neighborhoods. I am grateful for and proud of your outpouring of support and commitment to stand together for our common goal. District 20's united voice resonated everywhere and compelled both Mayor Dave and Chief Wray to acknowledge our critical needs. They immediately declared public safety as their first priority and agreed to increase police staffing significantly. The Police Responding Session is slated for September 13th at St. Maria Goretti Church (6:30 p.m. -8:00 p.m.) when Chief Wray and West Side Station Staff will talk to us on how together we can fight crime to reclaim our neighborhoods. I encourage all of you to attend this very important event and participate in our quest for safety. I sincerely look forward to a continuing partnership with MPD. I am very thankful to Father Mike for offering his church facilities to us. He has graciously promised to accommodate an even larger returning audience on September 13th.

You have demonstrated exemplary participation in the purest form of democratic governance. I could not be more proud to serve as your alder! I will need your support at Council meetings to pass the upcoming Chronic Nuisance Premises Ordinance that gives law enforcers an effective tool to deal with chronic criminal activities. I will work to bring back the anti-loitering ordinance to help police bust drug trafficking that fuels crime on our streets. Please consider attending the City Budget hearings where you have the opportunity to influence City spending.

I will vote against RTA with its funding by increased county sales taxes. Enhanced Metro Transit bus service remains the most economical means of public transportation for Madison and Dane County. It's annoying that Madison Water Utility remains mismanaged so I will have to keep pressure on our Mayor to clean up this mess.

Recently many trees in our district have been infested with Gypsy Moths. Neighbors immediately worked together to halt this invasion and I am soliciting support from other alders to secure funding for spraying next spring. I have invited City Forester Marla Eddy and a Gypsy Moth expert to give a presentation at Good Shepherd Church on ~~September 11th~~ **Wednesday, October 17th** (6:00 p.m. -7:30 p.m.) to educate us on how to protect our valuable trees from this menace. I encourage you to attend this presentation where you can also learn more about Japanese beetles and Emerald ash borers.

Last spring the City announced the automated trash pickup soon to be in effect. Please watch for your new receptacle and make sure it is the size you selected. Follow the instructions provided and don't use them prior to your area starting date come September.

Thank you for taking time to leave your comments and contact information at the August 8th Listening Session. I am compiling a database for our District to keep you updated and informed on important City issues. Please continue to stay in touch,

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