

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

While we enjoyed perfect weather for the Taste of Madison and Labor Day, these two events also marked the end of summer and the return to school for our children. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer with friends and family.

I am pleased to report that the Community Development Block Grant Commission (CDBG) appropriated funding for three projects in the Southwest Neighborhood Plan:

1. \$27,000 to Community Action Coalition (CAC) for capital enhancements to community gardens in Lucy Lincoln Park and up to 3 new gardens in the area.
2. \$13,000 to the City Parks Division for safety improvements and pedestrian paths at Hammersley Park.
3. \$10,000 to Project Home for loans and grants to income-eligible households in targeted areas for security improvements.

To mark the first anniversary of District 20's unprecedented Listening Session with the Madison Police Department (MPD), we held a "Stop-n-Check Revisit" with West District Police on August 7. Captain Jay Lengfeld reported on Calls For Service (CFS) that indicated areas of concern. He pointed out changes in criminal activity patterns, noting that open drug dealing is moving into residential areas to avoid the scrutiny of cameras in more public places. Police Chief Noble Wray graciously dropped in to personally address our district's needs and share staffing information. He assured us that we will get our fair share of increased police resources. The West District has two new detectives who, for the first time, will also work weekends. A Gang officer has been added to serve both the West and South Districts. We will have a Community Policing Team (CPT) of five officers and one sergeant and a new, 24-hour a day (three shifts) beat officer will be added in February 2009. The MPD has added a human touch to the Self-Reporting procedure, providing citizens with three improved options:

1. Call 245-3662. An officer will return all calls to complete the report.
2. Report online at <https://www.cityofmadison.com/police/SRU/>.
3. Pick up a paper form at any police station, complete and return it by mail or in person.

Please continue to report all criminal activities to help police determine our need for resources. MPD is now assigning case numbers to many quality-of-life problems, which were not recorded in the past.

District 20 received Emerging Neighborhood funding for a neighborhood center in the former Jacobson Bros. space in Meadowood Mall. A public hearing was held on August 6 to solicit ideas and suggestions from area residents on how to make it a successful gathering place for our community. Madison School & Community Recreation (MSCR) plans to start operation by November. Currently, I am working with City staff and mall businesses to reach a compromise about what youth activities will be offered at this center. I have met with principals of both Toki Middle School and Orchard Ridge

Elementary to initiate a partnership between school and community in addressing ongoing problems with unsupervised youths harassing patrons at both the mall and the library. Our community supports public education, is proud of our schools, and expects school staff to partner with us in teaching students to respect all community members and property. As a community, we all need to work to provide activities that reduce rather than increase these unacceptable behaviors.

The start of fall in Madison also is the beginning of many street repairs. Our district is slated for several intersection modifications: A stop light at Raymond Road & S. Whitney Way, redesigned traffic flows at Hammersley Road & S. Whitney Way, four-way stop signs at Tokay Boulevard & Segoe Road, and a yield sign on Pioneer Road at Westbrook Lane.

Madison is facing a tough budget, and the Mayor is requesting a 5% cut across the board. I'll be devoting the next couple of months to working on a budget that maintains basic services without burdening taxpayers. The Mayor has proposed \$2.5 million in the 2011 budget for Meadowridge Branch Library's expansion and service enhancement. This will increase availability of Internet access, offer more books and media, provide more educational programs, and offer much needed space for neighborhood meetings, and group study and tutoring in the near future.

If you missed our two public meetings and would like to share your input about police services and/or the neighborhood center, questionnaires are still available at Meadowridge Branch Library. Please complete the form(s) and leave at the library's Front Desk.

Please stay in touch.

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