



District 20 November 2007 Newsletter

Dear District 20 Constituents,

This is my first experience working on our City Budget and I am determined to keep Madison fiscally sound while basic City Services are improved and our taxes are acceptable. I am devoting a large amount of my time to this important task. The recently approved State Budget is more favorable to Madison than expected, and the closing of several Tax Incremental Financial Districts (TIF) provides Madison a windfall this year. The challenge for our city is to spend wisely and not set us up for a budget crisis next year.

My last few months have been packed with productive interactions with Mayor Dave and Police Chief Wray. I am pleased to report that our District 20 has become the most visible and has set an example of civic engagement for other districts. Both our August 8, 2007 Listening & September 13, 2007 Response Sessions had tremendous turnouts. Our great success resulted in the Madison Police Department (MPD) receiving unprecedented resources to protect our safety and quality of life. The Mayor, after hearing us “loud and clear,” has declared Public Safety his top priority and I have pledged my full support to him in this initiative. The Chronic Nuisance Abatement Ordinance was recently passed 18-2 at City Council, ending a two year stalemate on the issue. This is a great start and we must continue working with MPD in good faith and make sure our resources are used wisely. I strongly encourage everybody to join our Neighborhood Watch Program and be the “eyes and ears” for our community. The continued efforts of area volunteers in organizing and maintaining our watches in collaboration with MPD are greatly appreciated. I am working on obtaining some city funding to recognize and support these important efforts.

The October 17, 2007 meeting on Gypsy Moths was a great success thanks to City Forester Marla Eddy and District 20’s “tree expert” Greg Bell. I solicited Mayor Dave and other alders’ support to fund spraying next spring in time to suppress this pesky invasion. We were successful in having \$25,000 for this task included in the proposed 2008 City Budget.

My sincere gratitude to ALL area volunteers and city staff who have put in numerous hours serving on the Southwest Steering Committee and have brought District 20 a beautiful, well-thought out plan that is the envy of other neighborhoods. The Community Development Bloc Grants Commission and I were especially impressed with Durrell Rammer, Lisa Subeck, and Tim Johnson who did a splendid job presenting the plan and got unanimous approval of \$120,000 CDBG funding for several area projects. Based on recommended priorities from this SW Neighborhood Plan, I am pushing for both expanded facilities and enhanced services at Meadowridge Branch Library. I am also fighting for a Neighborhood Center in the Meadowood Mall to serve the needs of area youths, seniors, and families. I am soliciting \$25,000 in city funding to initiate satellite services and another \$20,000 to conduct a feasibility study for a permanent community center in our district. The Mayor and several other alders have agreed to sponsor my initiative.

Please observe the city's regulations on leaf collection and alternative parking that are already in effect. If you feel that you would rather have the smaller trash bin (65 gallon instead of 95) please visit www.cityofmadison.com/streets or contact the West Streets Division at 266-4681 to request a replacement.

Whenever my hectic schedule permits I attend meetings of all four neighborhood associations in District 20. It has been a pleasure to meet and work more with you at these gatherings. Please let me hear from you on issues of importance to our community. I can be contacted via email: district20@cityofmadison.com or by telephone (608) 957-4433, at 5406 Denton Place. I heartily encourage everyone to join area neighborhood associations.

As we wrap up 2007 I am sending my warmest wishes to all for a Happy and Safe Holiday Season. We have much to be thankful for and I am honored to have been given the chance to represent our District.

Sincerely,

Thuy Pham-Remmele
District 20 Alder