

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

From
**BRIAN
BENFORD**



DISTRICT 12 ALDERPERSON

I am writing this article minutes before the start of the summer camp I direct at the Neighborhood House. At 9a.m. over 40 kids between the ages of 7-18 will flood into our building for seven hours of recreation, learning and enrichment. Over the last six weeks I have played more kickball, dodge ball, basketball and swam than any 47-year-old person should be legally allowed. I'm not complaining, I'm staying in shape and have the pleasure of working with some of the most wonderful and diverse (over nine languages spoken) kids in town.

Recently I was appointed to serve on the enhanced Dane County Gang Task Force. I have the honor of serving with many knowledgeable, dedicated people including former East High principal Milt McPike and retired Madison police assistant chief Luis Yudice. This task force is charged with finding creative strategies to address the rising issue of gangs in Dane County. As a family advocate, educator, program

director and policy maker I have a unique perspective on what it takes to provide youth and families the tools they need to succeed. We live in a society that has its priorities out of whack. We spend almost thirty thousand dollars to lock someone up in Dane County for a year. If we used a fraction of that money on prevention programs such as summer camps, after school programs, family resource centers, employment training and providing educational opportunities for all, we wouldn't have the overcrowded jails and the ruined lives that exist now.

Over the last three years I have been accused of social engineering. I will always fight for low-income youth and families. I will always fight for social justice. And I am damn proud to embrace diversity whenever possible. Speaking of diversity, please come out to the first annual North Side Block Party on Saturday, September 2nd. Look for more information in this paper and at the Northside Farmers Market or call me. This will be a great chance to meet people from all over the Northside. Thanks for the honor of serving you.

*Ald. Benford can be reached at:
332-3098 or
district12@cityofmadison.com*

From
**DAVE
CIESLEWICZ**



MAYOR OF MADISON

Building Strong Neighborhoods

One thing that makes Madison such a livable community is our strong neighborhoods. That's why I am proud to announce the approval of this year's annual grants to support neighborhood activities and planning throughout our community.

On the Northside, those grants include \$3,750 to the Sherman Neighborhood Association for a neighborhood sign and \$500 to the Eken Park Neighborhood Association for a bike rack. Congratulations to both of these organizations for their successful grant requests.

Keeping Madison Housing Affordable

As Madison housing costs continue to increase faster than income growth, keeping Madison housing affordable is one of my top priorities. That is why I am pleased to report that the Common Council has approved a number of provisions to strengthen our Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) ordinance.

IZ is one of many programs the city uses to make Madison housing affordable for families from all walks of life. It requires that for all new developments, a certain share be priced at lev-

els that are affordable to families of modest incomes. For more information about how IZ might help your family, contact our Community Development Block Grant agency at 267-0740 or visit www.cityofmadison.com/cdbg/iz/.

Budget Time Again

It's that time of year again - I am now in the process of developing my proposed 2007 city budget. There are two components to the budget: capital and operating. The capital budget is our borrowing program for building streets, fire stations, replacing water mains, etc. The operating budget is where we pay for services like fire and police protection, community services and libraries.

As in years past, this will be another tight budget year. This is largely due to factors beyond our control, such as dramatic increases in fuel and health care costs; continued population growth; and declining assistance from the state and federal governments. My focus will continue to be on providing quality basic services at a price taxpayers can afford.

I would welcome hearing about your budget priorities and ideas, you can send them to mayor@cityofmadison.com. I will submit my capital budget in September and my operating budget in October.

Mayor Cieslewicz can be reached at 266-4611 or Fax: 608-267-8671 or mayor@cityofmadison.com

From
**PAUL
VAN ROOY**



DISTRICT 18 ALDERPERSON

A major topic of concern on the Northside is the proposed Cherokee Park Inc. (CPI) development on several sites owned by CPI. There have been several meetings on this subject over the last number of months to discuss the potential development, and the City Planning Department and CPI have presented proposals for discussion. Although there has not yet been anything officially submitted to the City for consideration by the Plan Commission, there certainly has been

a lot of background work by the City and the Developer.

This proposal has already received closer scrutiny than many development proposals of this size that the City has approved in recent years. There is good reason for this close attention because if the environmentally sensitive nature of this area. While I am sure not everyone will be pleased with the final development plan once it is approved, I am confident that the Cherokee Marsh will be protected, and the impact of the development will be minimized. I encourage everyone to stay engaged in the process and also to be patient as this proposal works its way through the approval process.

On another subject, I have decided not to run for reelection to the City Council this next spring. The reason for announcing this decision at this time is

to give any potential candidates an opportunity to consider running for the seat. I have been 18th District Alder since April 2001 and will have completed three terms by April 2007. I have enjoyed this opportunity to serve the 18th District, and I consider it a privilege to have served. I appreciate the confidence you have shown in me by electing me to this position. I have done my best to represent the District and will continue to do so until next April.

If any of you who live in the 18th District are interested in running for the seat, I would encourage you to do so, and I would be glad to meet with you to discuss serving on the City Council and what it entails.

*Ald. Van Rooy can be reached at
663-9500 or
district18@cityofmadison.com*

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