

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

From
PAUL RUSK



DISTRICT 12 SUPERVISOR

Airport

As a member of the Airport Commission, please note that winter weather has slowed construction on the parking ramp that will add 1,200 stalls and a "green" exit plaza. Completion should occur late in 2008. Parking fees fund this project.

The Dane County Regional Airport continues to receive awards, including being named one of the Top 20 of the world's most noteworthy airports for 2008 by Passenger Terminal World, a leading industry publication. The airport also won the Airports Council International second place award for Excellence in Airport Concessions. Local favorites The Great Dane, The Wurst German Bar, and Ancora Coffee Roasters offer options.

A thriving airport is critical to economic development in our region. Soon you will be seeing an innovative advertising campaign geared towards business travelers who often use neighboring airports. With the hassles

of flying today, a key priority is more non-stop flights.

Gypsy Moths

As the county board liaison to the Tree Board, we are very concerned about gypsy moths. Next spring a total of 2,429 acres will be sprayed versus 538 acres in 2007. Although spraying is increasing, I'm pleased municipalities are working together with the DNR. The active ingredient in the Btk insecticide is a naturally occurring soil bacterium that kills gypsy moth caterpillars when they eat it. A public meeting was held in January, and most municipalities send informational letters to affected residents.

Child Protective Legal Services

As part of the budget, I shepherded through a complicated transfer of all child protective legal services to the corporation counsel. As we projected, the federal government has promptly approved the dollars to add two new legal positions to work in this challenging area. This initiative will significantly improve services to children in dangerous situations. We received excellent applicants with an early February start date.

Supv. Rusk can be reached at 249-9667 or rusk@co.dane.wi.us

From

DOROTHY WHEELER



DISTRICT 18 SUPERVISOR

Human Services Budget

The Health and Human Needs Committee focused on helping people get jobs - from teens who are coming off a detention to inmates getting out of jail to unemployed people in the community. Our committee felt that getting people back to work or into some kind of training would be the best way to help both the individuals and our community.

To facilitate this effort, several amendments were brought into the budget for 2008:

1) \$100,000 was added to the Youth Gang Prevention Task Force to help with job skills training for disconnected youth.

2) We increased the offender re-entry program by \$50,000 to provide assistance for education and employment.

3) We added two employment and training specialist positions at JFF sites to bring job information and

training into the communities where disadvantaged individuals need that help.

4) We added another position in the Economic Assistance and Work Services Division to help connect homeless individuals with employment.


Dane County Job Center

Most people on the Northside are familiar with the Job Center on Aberg Ave. where people can get assistance with obtaining a job. When I visited the site, the lines were long with people wanting information about jobs or state-funded benefits. Many people were using a program on the computers to look for employment. This effort is a mixture of state and county initiatives, but the addition of more computers using a program called ACCESS will be up and running soon. This technology will help citizens and county staff because the need for face-to-face interviews will be greatly reduced. Consumers will continue using the computers to search for job opportunities. Those citizens on food stamps or in W-2 will get assistance with locating and obtaining a job so they can have a more productive future.

Supv. Wheeler can be reached at 244-4711 or djwheele@juno.com

Upcoming County Board of Supervisors Meetings
Feb. 7 ~ Feb. 21 ~ Mar. 6 ~ Mar. 27
All County Board meetings are on Thursdays at 7 pm in Rm. 201 at City-County Bldg. 210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

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Sunday
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1423 Northport Dr. 241-0777

From

KATHLEEN M. FALK



DANE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Kids in Challenged Neighborhoods, Criminal Justice Reforms, Lakes, Top 2008 "To-Do" List

How a community invests its precious tax dollars says a lot about its priorities.

The 2008 Dane County budget reflects what matters most to citizens. We increase our investments in vital public safety and human services while enhancing protections for our lakes and land.

We were able to fund these priorities—and still lower county property taxes for most—by implementing reforms in the criminal justice system that make it more cost efficient and, in turn, keep us safer. These cost savings we converted to hiring more deputies and to adding dollars for mental health and homeless services.

In 2008, we will expand our new Lakes and Legacy Fund to preserve

more of our beautiful natural areas for future generations and double our dollars to protect wetlands that help prevent flooding and make our lakes cleaner. We'll continue our work with farmers to find alternatives for disposing of manure to keep phosphorous out of our lakes and streams.

And for our most important priority—our kids—we are expanding in 2008 the work we began in our Early Childhood Initiative to two more neighborhoods in need. Family by family, we're helping moms and dads get jobs and give their children a great healthy start from the get-go.

My most heartfelt hope is that 2008 will be the year we as a community have a thoughtful conversation about what we can do better to solve the human misery that misuse of alcohol has on us all as individuals, families and the entire community.

This is, I know, an ambitious agenda for the coming year. Through the good will and hard work of our almost a half a million people, we can and will come together to achieve our hopes.

County Executive Falk can be reached at 266-4114 or falk@co.dane.wi.us

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