

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

From  
**BRIAN  
BENFORD**



**DISTRICT 12 ALDERPERSON**

**Dear Friends and Neighbors,**

If you have ever read my column here in the *Northside News* (which I am grateful they provide me with the opportunity) you would know that I am not a "traditional politician." When I speak with young adults and youth about city government I start with an icebreaker question. I ask them what the first word is that comes to their minds when they think of a politician. "Crook", "liar", "rich" and "suit" are the descriptor words most used in answering the question. "Male," "pale" and "stale" are the words most often used when describing a typical politician. I might be "male" and sometimes "stale" (through the eyes of my daughters), but I hold the distinction of being one of a handful of local elected officials of color in the history of this City and in Dane County.

I'm very proud of this and the fact that most of my employment is rooted in our community. Every day, while

working at the Neighborhood House, Madison's oldest community center, I have the honor of serving diverse populations. Some of our clients are some of the poorest and most challenged in our community. Recently, I had the opportunity to ask folks about the paid sick leave proposal that was defeated by 10 members of the Common Council. People were not dismayed by the result. They saw this as just a continuation of this community moving forward while leaving behind those most in need. One person I spoke with said it best: "In Madison, politicians just don't care 'cause they would never know my world." As I said in the past, we are products of our reality. I often wish that my peers on the Common Council could spend a day with me at the Neighborhood House so they could open their eyes to my reality. In fairness, I too, could learn from others.

Speaking of ways of bringing our community together, plans are underway for the 1st Annual Northside Block Party to be held on Saturday, September 2, 2006. Volunteers are needed to help with this event. Please contact me if you are interested!

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

From  
**DAVE  
CIESLEWICZ**



**MAYOR OF MADISON**

**Protecting and improving Madison's drinking water**

Madison is fortunate to have an abundant supply of clean, healthy drinking water, supplied by an underground aquifer. Water from aquifer sources is protected from most environmental and other contaminants. Many other communities receive their drinking water from surface water sources. Surface water sources have a number of disadvantages compared to aquifer sources, most importantly that they are more susceptible to contamination (as Milwaukee experienced a number of years ago with their cryptosporidium outbreak).

However, aquifer sources are more likely to include a higher content of naturally-occurring minerals such as iron and manganese. The presence of manganese in particular has generated a great deal of public discussion regarding Madison's water supply.

Nothing is more important than the quality of drinking water. Madison families should not have to question the safety of the water coming out of their taps. That is why I directed the following steps be taken to protect and improve

- Madison's drinking water supply:
1. Develop and implement wellhead protection plans for all 24 City of Madison wells.
  2. Continue the aggressive, ongoing manganese flushing and monitoring plan.
  3. Improve public outreach so residents have easy access to information about their drinking water.
  4. Strengthen the connection between water issues and public health.
  5. Develop an enhanced Water Utility website.
  6. Implement enforceable performance standards for the Water Utility.
  7. Accelerate efforts to replace aging infrastructure and plan for new growth.
  8. Create a technical water quality peer review task force.
  9. Create a citizen focus group to advise the Water Utility on the annual water quality report mailed to every household.
  10. Build collaborative relationships with neighboring water utilities that share our aquifer.
- Ensuring that the water supply is safe and reliable is one of the most important responsibilities of city government. It is my hope that these steps will help ensure that Madison families to the cleanest, safest water possible.

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

From  
**PAUL  
VAN ROOY**



**DISTRICT 18 ALDERPERSON**

Once again summer is just around the corner with the Mallards season already underway when you read this article. If you haven't noticed the team has made some improvements in the field this year including additional seating and a new food service building. I hope to see you at some of the games this summer. Also at Warner Park this summer will be the North/Eastside Senior Coalition summer concert series. The concerts are on Monday nights at the park shelter during June and July. Watch the news or stop at the Warner Park Center for more details, everyone is welcome.

On a personal note, I have finished my year as Council President last month and have been succeeded by Austin King. I enjoyed the year serving in the capacity of president, but I do not miss the extra work that the job entails. I wish my best to Alder King.

There was another public meeting held at Warner park to discuss plans for the Northside. This time the City Planning Department presented their plans for the proposed Cherokee Park Inc. development area. The meeting was well attended with about 160 people in attendance. While the City plan is somewhat different in detail than the Cherokee proposal, in general they

both call for residential development. The City plan calls for more open space and a larger buffer area along the Cherokee Marsh. The City Planning Staff and Cherokee Park Inc. planners continue to work toward an acceptable compromise on the details, and there will be additional public meetings as the process evolves.

The Mayor's committee to work on revisions to the inclusionary zoning ordinance has bogged down, and it now appears that some alternate plans may be developed to provide affordable housing. This is certainly an area that needs attention, however, even the proponents of the ordinance now admit that it is not working as it is currently written. It appears that the ordinance may be fatally flawed, and a fresh start may be necessary. Watch for developments on this subject in the coming months.

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

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