

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

From
BRIAN BENFORD



DISTRICT 12 ALDERPERSON

Dear Friends and Neighbors,
I would like to start off by publicly thanking all the good folks who put this paper together. By their efforts, we as a community have a great tool to keep us informed and a link to bring us together.

As many of you know, I am not a traditional politician by many definitions. Male, pale and stale is best used to describe most of our current policy makers. With that said, I also acknowledge that we are all products of our realities. We know what we know and we are who we are. What we value as individuals often comes from our experiences.

Currently, the Mayor and the Common Council are in the process of formulating next year's budget. In my mind, the budget is a reflection of what we hold dear as a community. For example, do we spend more money to hire additional police officers, or use a

fraction of this money to fund prevention programs to prevent youths and others from choosing a life of crime? Do we fund quality childcare programs so folks can go to work or school to reach their full potential, or do we shell out that money for additional parking ramp signs? As a community, are we willing to continue to let the poorest and neediest struggle in our indifferent society in order to save taxpayers the cost of a cup of cappuccino?

While it is noble to use taxpayer's money prudently, it is insidious to pit homeowners against those in need. That is exactly what has happened during the three years I've served on the Council. I know that there are great, kindhearted people who, if they knew the need, would not object to a slight raise in their tax bill to help others. All I hope is that my colleagues will take the time to ask their constituents and themselves this question. I think you can be fiscally responsible and, more importantly, morally caring in setting a budget. But that's just my reality. Let me know what you think.

*Ald. Benford can be reached at:
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From
DAVE CIESLEWICZ



MAYOR OF MADISON

A New Duck Pond?

One of the great things about Madison in the summer is Mallards baseball. The team plays hard, the tickets are affordable and the hot dogs are excellent. In fact, the Mallards have been so successful that success is breeding challenges. The team is looking to replace its current home with a newly configured stadium on the same site. This gives us a chance to think about how the facility is used, what we can do to address some of the parking challenges we've experienced and how the stadium can work as an even better neighbor to the community.

Later this year I will convene a committee of neighborhood representatives, team officials, city parks staff and others to work through all of the many issues surrounding the current and new facility. The goal is to have a consensus plan in place by the spring, with implementation to follow.

Warner Park Pool Starts to Come Into Focus

The Goodman Pool, Madison's first municipal swimming pool, marked its first season with attendance outpacing expectations. We had anticipated 55,000 visits, but about 77,000 visitors enjoyed the pool this summer. While it is a great facility, its location near the Alliant Energy Center is a long way from the Northside.

That's why we've planned a second city pool for Warner Park. A group of active Northsiders has started the Circle of Friends campaign to build support and raise money for the pool. I have put a placeholder for a Northside pool in

my five year capital budget, but success is contingent upon finding another major donor or donors like the Goodman Brothers. The Goodman Pool was built with a partnership of 75% private resources and 25% public. We'll need the same kind of generosity in place before we can move ahead with the Warner Park project.

A Chance to Make a Difference

The Northside has sent terrific representatives to the City Council. Paul Van Rooy and Brian Benford have served their constituencies well and they've been tremendous advocates for the Northside. Now they've each decided to move on to different kinds of public service when their terms end in April and I wish them well. The election in April will send two new alders to the Council from the Northside.

I have heard about the potential candidacies of several fine people and I encourage anyone with an interest in this level of civic involvement to consider running or to get involved in one of the campaigns. Paul and Brian will leave big shoes to fill, but there are many Northsiders equal to the challenge.

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

From
PAUL VAN ROOY



DISTRICT 18 ALDERPERSON

The Mayor has introduced his annual capital budget, and by the time you read this he will also have introduced the operating budget. The capital budget continues the Mayor's focus on public safety, with plans to build a new Westside Fire Station in 2008. The Eastside Police Station was just opened this past July, and the police will add additional tasers so that in four years all officers will be equipped with this alternative to deadly force.

The Capital Budget also continues funding to upgrade major streets like University Avenue and Mineral Point Road. The City is doing several things to save money on streets in the coming years. Streets will be upgraded when possible by replacing single lanes at a time rather than closing the street for a complete rebuild. This technique saves money and is less disruptive for traffic.

Another innovation in street maintenance involves an experimental program, which was implemented in the 18th and 20th Aldermanic Districts

this summer. A number of streets in these districts were treated by chip-sealing before they reached the point where they needed to be repaved. This process will add many years to the life of the street and save many thousands of dollars per mile in repair costs.

The Streets Department has also purchased new street repair vehicles that make pothole repair much faster and less labor intensive. The new units allow one person to repair potholes with the new trucks while past practice required two vehicles and four people. This will save time and money in the future.

Other money-saving activities in the budget include the automating of the trash collection system which will be the same as the automated recycling program that was implemented last year. This system is already saving money and decreasing the amount of waste going to the landfill. Automated trash collection will be implemented in September 2007.

If you wish to comment on the budget, watch for the hearing schedule in October and November. The City Council will adopt the budget in November.

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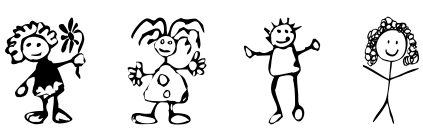
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