



# Regent Neighborhood ASSOCIATION

[www.regentneighborhood.org](http://www.regentneighborhood.org)

YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

ISSUE >> FALL / 2008

## Pedestrian Safety Needs You

It's time to slow down to speed up in the Regent Neighborhood. Slow down the mph of cars driving around or through the area, and speed up the campaign to ensure pedestrian safety. We've all heard horror stories of people coming close to serious injury along busy streets and intersections, and of motorists running red lights or failing to yield in pedestrian zones (most recently former Channel 3 newsman George Johnson along Monroe Street after a Badger football game in September).

*"Hello lamppost, what cha knowing? I've come to watch your flowers growing."*

For starters, we can all take a page from Simon and Garfunkel's "59th Street Bridge Song" and watch our speed. We can join forces on key blocks to print new "slow down" signs and place them along major thoroughfares. But there's more to be done. While

we're grateful the police have been stepping up patrols, we need to press for the following: more strenuous ticketing of violators; identification of dangerous crossings; more crossing zones and signage, including pedestrian activated crossing lights; and public service announcements developed with the City and participating news organizations. In the coming months, the RNA will contact other neighborhood associations with a view to implementing a "Yield to Pedestrian Campaign," and/or a "Community Traffic Watch" program in conjunction with Madison PD. If you have additional recommendations or would like to become involved in these programs, please contact me at [rlhess@wisc.edu](mailto:rlhess@wisc.edu).

— Ronnie Hess

## Nominating Committee

*Troy Rost, RNA President, will be assembling a nominating committee to fill open positions as well as to fill next year's slate. If you know someone who might be interested, or would like to know more about different positions and what the jobs entail, please contact Troy at 608-320-0232 or [troy1210@yahoo.com](mailto:troy1210@yahoo.com).*

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## President's Message—

Well, I'm back for another year. It isn't necessarily how my wife would like it, but I think my staying on will help make a good transition for our next president. Darsi Foss has agreed to take on that position and we are fortunate to have her. I find her a very likeable, thoughtful and thorough person and I think you will as well.

I think this past year has really brought some great people into our neighborhood association. As you page through the most recent newsletters, you will see evidence of a lot of the work that has been done. We are working hard to be the advocates that this neighborhood expects. From the 4th of July festivities to rain garden funding, I believe the RNA is taking the initiative to get things done.

And the Old University Avenue Corridor Plan is moving as well. Darsi has a lot of experience with the DNR in project management. She is chairing a small group of key opinion leaders to develop a process for this plan. You can look forward to hearing more about that in the near future along with the numerous opportunities for public feedback.

With a little distance now, my perspective really makes me wonder if this type of task should have been taken on by a neighborhood association. It really has been trying for us all and nearly destroyed the association. My goal through this all has been to keep the RNA together and keep everyone at the table. That has not been easy. As we continue down this path, I think we need to remember that the RNA is first and foremost, a neighborhood association and not a volunteer planning firm. Many stakeholders will benefit from a renewed Old University Avenue Corridor, not just the RNA. We may very well have to strongly encourage those stakeholders to become part of this process if it is to be successful.

Thank you for your continued support of the RNA and I look forward to the upcoming year—

Best regards,

*Troy Rost*  
RNA President  
608.320.0232  
troy1210@yahoo.com

## 2009 RNA Board Meeting Dates

The Regent Neighborhood Association Board will meet from 7-9 p.m. in the West High School LMC on the following dates:

January 28, 2009

February 25, 2009

March 25, 2009

April 22, 2009

May 27, 2009

Each meeting agenda will be posted on the RNA Listserv prior to the meeting. If you or your organization would like to add something to the agenda, please contact RNA President Troy Rost at troy1210@yahoo.com.

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## NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS! SAT NOV 8 MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE

### WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Mayor's kickoff and dynamic workshop series.

### WHERE?

Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Dr.

**WHEN?** Saturday November 8, 8:00 A.M. - NOON

### HOW CAN YOU GET THERE?

Take the bus (call Madison Metro 266-4466 for details), bike or drive.

### HOW DO YOU SIGN-UP?

By Nov. 3, sign up online at [www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods](http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods), or call the Planning Division at 267-8727. Language interpretation, special food and disability needs on request.

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## Mayor Dave's Message—

### Monroe Street Library to Stay Open!

It's autumn in Madison and for me that means it's city budget time. High fuel prices and the economic downturn make this the toughest budget in at least two decades.

To give you a sense of how challenging things are, we're estimating that fuel prices will go up more than 40% from what we budgeted in 2008, and our income from investments and building permits will go down about \$2.7 million.

So, I've worked to find responsible, innovative ways to save money and maintain excellent basic services. And despite all the challenges, I'm glad to say we'll be able to keep the Monroe Street Library open. In fact, we'll keep all our libraries open the same number of hours as last year.

But there remained many tough decisions in this budget and there will be some pain. Here are more of my budget proposals as they impact neighborhoods.

- My budget will keep the increase in taxes on the average home under the rate of inflation.
- We'll keep our promise to hire and train the additional firefighters in 2009 needed to staff a new paramedic ambulance in 2010.

- We won't cut police officers, firefighters or crossing guards.
- We'll save money by going to biweekly collection of large items just as we do with recycling.
- We'll keep our commitment to parks maintenance and forestry, and we'll actually hire one more park maintenance worker this year.
- We'll slow down on traffic calming projects this year to save money and review the results of the program.

You can view my full budget by visiting the City's web site at [www.cityofmadison.com](http://www.cityofmadison.com). The budget is now in the hands of the City Council and they will vote on it the week of November 11th. I also welcome your comments at [mayor@cityofmadison.com](mailto:mayor@cityofmadison.com).

— Mayor Dave Cieslewicz

## Your Ad Here

### Attention Neighbors!

The Regent Neighborhood Association invites you to place an ad in our newsletter! Advertising here is an effective and efficient way to reach buyers in your service area while joining your customers in sustaining our vibrant community.

Our newsletters are important communication tools in our neighborhood and are hand-delivered by volunteers to 1,700 single-family homes three times each year. They reach active, involved people with important content about issues that are always close to home. The newsletter, including the ads, is also available on our website: [regentneighborhood.org](http://regentneighborhood.org).

Don't wait! The deadline for the February newsletter is December 30. Contact me for an ad rate sheet and schedule, send in your ad, and we'll take it from there! Then enjoy the feeling of supporting your community through the good work of the Regent Neighborhood Association.

Sincerely,

Mary Sarnowski  
Communications Chair  
Regent Neighborhood Association  
[sarnowski@mac.com](mailto:sarnowski@mac.com)  
608.238.1224



## Election Day, November 4 Temple Beth El Sisterhood's 42nd Annual Food-a-Rama

10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
2702 Arbor Drive  
(Behind Bluephie's on Monroe Street)

*Food-a-Rama includes our famous  
corned beef sandwich or hot dog lunch at Temple,  
our celebrated deli, our legendary bakery and  
our convenient delivery and carry out (238-3123) options.*

Proceeds support Temple Beth El and many community organizations,  
such as the YWCA's Third Street Program, and Hospice.



## From Representative Terese Berceau—

With the exciting Presidential campaign, it's hard to focus on our own backyard, the Wisconsin State Legislature. But a tremendous battle is being waged for control of the Assembly, with Democrats only three seats away from the majority.

That is an exciting prospect for me because I have been in the minority my entire term in the legislature. Under the current way of doing business it is difficult for minority members to even get hearings on their bills. The process has devolved into a "winner take all" situation.

Democrats may not be perfect, but for years we have tried to reform the K-12 school financing system, deal with the core issues behind rising health costs, and eliminate loop holes and tax exemptions that have put a disproportionate burden on the property tax. We've had proposals to tighten our drunk driving laws which haven't even been allowed a hearing. We've endured endless attacks on the University, in particular our scientists, when the University is an incredible economic engine for our state.

How did it come to this? The issue is complex. We have a major economic force, the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, which funds the

elections of candidates from the right of the political spectrum. Those legislators believe strictly in the power of the market to solve all problems. I think the recent Wall Street crisis is a glaring indictment of that philosophy. (As long as I've been in politics I've noticed that business is not reluctant to look to government for subsidies.) They also try to impose their conservative moral code through legislation as well, trying to end all stem cell research at the U.W... We've lost most of our Republican moderates.

Too many voters listen to campaign commercials and don't look at the actual voting records of the people who are vying to represent them, and don't connect the dots as to how those votes are affecting them. (My constituents exempted!) Information in our newspapers on state government affairs is minimal, and often incomprehensible.

There are severe, philosophical differences in our current legislature about what government should do. We need more of the public to pay attention to whether and how they vote....and how that determines the government they get.

— Rep. Terese Berceau

## School Referendum

On November 4, 2008 voters in the Madison school district will decide on a funding referendum that is crucial to the future of our children and our community.

Good schools are the backbone of a healthy community. Our public schools are essential for expanding prosperity, creating opportunity, overcoming inequality, and assuring an informed, involved citizenry. Madison's public schools have been highly successful and highly regarded for many years. We've learned that quality public education comes from well-trained teachers, the hard work of our students and teachers, and also from a steady commitment from the community at large.

After several public forums, study, and deliberation, the Board of Education has unanimously recommended that our community go to referendum, to allow the board to budget responsibly and exceed the revenue caps for the 2009-2012 school years. The referendum is a compromise proposal in that it seeks to offset only about 60% of the estimated budget shortfall in order to keep tax increases low.

The projection is that school property taxes would increase by less than 2%. Even with increased

property values and a successful referendum, most property owners will still pay less school property taxes than they did in 2001.

Most importantly, this November 4th, the voters in Madison can recommit to public education and its ideals by passing a referendum for the Madison Metropolitan School District.

Thank you so much for your work and support for Madison's Public Schools, Communities and Schools Together (CAST) – a grassroots organization devoted to educating and advocating on behalf of quality schools -- needs your help in support of the November referendum. We need volunteers to help distribute literature, put up yard signs, host house parties for neighbors, write letters to the editor—but most of all we need your support by voting YES on the referendum question.

Keep our schools and communities strong by supporting the referendum.

To learn more, donate to the campaign or get involved—visit Community and Schools Together (CAST) at [www.madisoncast.org](http://www.madisoncast.org).

— from the RNA Listserv

## Dane County Board Candidates Statements—

Dear RNA Neighbor,

As a lifelong Madison-area resident, I have benefited from and come to appreciate all that Madison has to offer. As a graduate of Madison's highly regarded public school system, a former All-City League swimmer and youth hockey participant, a recreational sailor, and the beneficiary of Madison's rich community life, I know how important it is to protect the things that make Madison a wonderful place to live.



*Jeremy Levin*

I have always believed that a strong community is one whose citizens are engaged and who carry on a tradition of service, which is why Madison is great, and why I have dedicated much of my time and career to coaching and officiating youth sports, serving on public interest committees and advancing progressive ideals and the candidates who champion them.

Now, I want to put my experience to work for you on the Dane County Board. It is important to me to continue my service to Madison's near-west neighborhoods, and I believe that my experience working with city, state and federal government will enable me to do so on the Dane County Board. Our supervisor must continue the committed service and responsible leadership that our district is accustomed to receiving; I pledge to serve in this tradition. As your representative on the County Board, I will:

- Ensure a cost-effective and efficient county government that provides the valuable safety-net services for residents in need;
- Advocate for comprehensive transportation solutions that ease congestion and partner with our neighboring communities;
- Work to improve the public health and safety of our community to keep Madison a vibrant area for work and play; and,
- Protect our rich natural resources for future generations.

On November 4th, I hope that I will have earned your trust and your vote in this special election.

—Jeremy Levin

Dear Friends and Neighbors—

I've lived on Chamberlain Avenue for 12 years and my wife and I have treasured the privilege of raising our kids among wonderful neighbors and in great schools. Like so many of you, I've been active in the community—in my case, helping in the schools and as a youth soccer and baseball coach. I've worked at the DNR for 20 years protecting our lakes and groundwater quality and improving our recycling program.



*Brad Wolbert*

As a progressive, I believe government can be a force for accomplishing good things. Even in these challenging budgetary times, I think the Board has the ability to improve the quality of life in Dane County. They demonstrated that ability just last month in passing a countywide smoking ban and mandating domestic partner benefits for companies doing business with the county.

Over the next several years, we need to anticipate further growth in the county and proactively address how we'll manage that growth. I think commuter rail and regional bus service has to be part of the answer, along with robust enforcement of zoning laws and promotion of compact, transit-friendly, mixed-use development.

We'll also need to ensure that our human services programs continue to support and care for our elderly and disabled friends and neighbors to keep them integrated in community life. The advent of Family Care in Dane County will challenge us to maintain quality services while reducing waiting lists for those services. There are unmet needs in child protection that cannot be ignored. At the same time, initiatives like Kathleen Falk's alcohol treatment and intervention programs promise real quality of life improvements for Dane County individuals and families.

I'm proud to reside in the Regent Neighborhood, and I'd be honored to serve you as your representative on the Dane County Board.

—Brad Wolbert

## RNA Garden Tour Set for 2009

The summer-long re-construction of Eton Ridge caused the Garden Tour Committee to defer its planned tour of gardens in that vicinity until 2009.

Taylor Elkins, a professional landscaper who lives on Eton Ridge, will be the local coordinator for the 2009 Tour. Gardens on Eton Ridge, Hollister, Regent, and Rugby Row will be included. Several of these are shade gardens, some have water features, one has hillside patio, and another houses laying hens. Newly-installed terrace rain gardens from the Eton Ridge re-construction will also be featured.

The Froth House has offered to provide hospitality and will be a venue for lecture-demonstrations.

— Ron Rosner and Pat Wood  
Garden Tour Committee

## Gardening on Traffic Calming Islands

While Regent Neighborhood residents may have differing views about the need for and the practicality of traffic islands, there is little argument that the flowers and plants contained in the islands add to the attractiveness of our neighborhood. All Regent Neighborhood residents owe the many volunteers who plant, water, and weed the islands a big thank you.

The City takes responsibility for planting the traffic calming islands after they are first built, but the year-to-year maintenance of the gardens is the responsibility of the neighborhood residents, and for our neighborhood, that is a formidable task. There are eleven intersections in the Regent Neighborhood that contain a total of sixteen traffic calming islands. Franklin and Farley each have four intersections that contain traffic calming islands while three traffic calming islands are located at Spooner intersections.

Anyone interested in helping out with the gardening activities necessary to keep the planting in the islands healthy and beautiful contact Steve Arnold at 231-1784 (siarnold@sbcglobal.net).

— Steve Arnold  
Green Space Committee Chair

## Gypsy Moth Control—

During the month of July, swarms of gypsy moths left tan, quarter-sized egg masses on trees and in nooks and crannies throughout our neighborhood. These egg masses will survive the winter and in the spring just one egg mass can produce up to 600 caterpillars to begin the cycle again. These pests, crawling up and down our trees and leaving droppings everywhere, are not only unsightly but eat our beautiful oak trees. They will also eat crabapple, apple, willow, aspen, birch, basswood, linden, and more. Trees that are already stressed may not survive this gypsy moth cycle in our neighborhood.

We can take our own precautions as homeowners. An informative brochure, entitled “What to do About Gypsy Moths in Your Backyard,” can be found online and gives you steps to take at every stage of the gypsy moth cycle. The online address is <http://datcp.state.wi.us/static/gypsymoth>.

You can also notify the DNR and Madison City Forestry to alert them about our infestation and request that our neighborhood be given additional doses of the aerial BT spray in the spring. BT is a bacterial tree spray which kills leaf eating caterpillars and is not harmful to humans or animals.

The City Forestry number is 266-4816.

The DNR contact person is:  
Mark Guthmiller  
SCR&SER Supp. Coordinator-DNR  
3911 Fish Hatchery Road  
Fitchburg, WI 53711  
275-3223  
[mark.guthmiller@wisconsin.gov](mailto:mark.guthmiller@wisconsin.gov)

In addition, some homeowners have found that an extra double dose of BT spray applied by a certified arborist is very effective in reducing the number of gypsy moths. You can contact an area arborist who will come out and give you an estimate for spraying the trees on your property.

If you have questions call or email Martha Bowhan at 238-2310, [msbowhan@hotmail.com](mailto:msbowhan@hotmail.com).



## Park Preservation, Police, and People Like You!

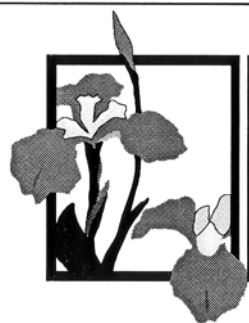
The Madison Parks Department, in conjunction with the Madison Police Department, is launching a PARKS WATCH initiative designed to raise community awareness of the city's beautiful park system in an effort to better protect our beautiful public spaces.

In much the same fashion as NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH, we are asking the generous people of Madison to extend their watchful eyes and ears to the public spaces throughout the City of Madison. We are particularly interested in securing the cooperation of citizens whose homes or businesses overlook the public parks and public spaces as well as asking visitors who use these attractive and friendly facilities to serve as park ambassadors. The many generous volunteers who regularly tend to the parks and

raise money for the park system will also be included in the process.

Madison Police Department representatives will be available to train residents in the processes of PARKS WATCH, focusing specifically on how to be a good witness, as well as when and how to contact the 9-1-1 Center. After training the volunteers, the City of Madison will provide signs for the parks that have been "adopted" by the neighborhood.

If you are interested in organizing your neighborhood for a PARKS WATCH please contact Laura Whitmore at 266-5949 or at [lwhitmore@cityofmadison.com](mailto:lwhitmore@cityofmadison.com). You may also contact Officer Mary Anne Thurber at 266-4238 or [mthurber@cityofmadison.com](mailto:mthurber@cityofmadison.com).



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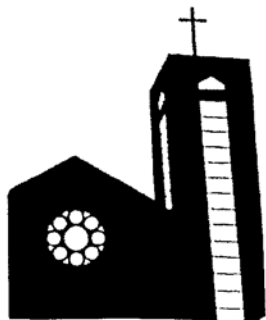
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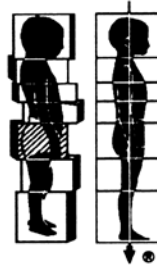
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## 2008 Ironman Neighbors

The RNA is proud to have two Ironman finishers living amongst us! This year, two Regent Neighborhood residents competed in the event which took place on September 7. The race, as many of you are aware, is comprised of a 2.4-mile swim in the inviting waters adjacent to the Monona Terrace, a 112-mile bike ride encompassing much of Madison and its scenic environs, and ends with a marathon (a mere 26 miles) that takes participants through downtown Madison, the UW campus and parts of our illustrious neighborhood!

Ann Heaslett made us all proud by finishing sixth in her age group, out of 110 competitors! Wow! This was Ann's fourth Ironman, and in addition to this year's great showing, Ann last year earned the opportunity to compete in the 2008 Ironman World Championship in Hawaii by virtue of her 2007 second place finish! (The top three finishers in each age group earn a spot in the World Championship event in Kona, Hawaii in the year following their top-three finish.) She is a multiple USA Track & Field titleholder and four-time USA 100K team member, in case you weren't already impressed enough!

Another neighborhood headline-maker is Kim Korevec who placed third out of 90 competitors in her age group, qualifying her for the finals in Hawaii next year! This was Kim's fifth Ironman, and her best finish to date. As a native Madisonian, she relishes the chance to race in her hometown, where family and friends who support her are in ready supply. Qualifying for Hawaii has been a dream of hers since she was young and watched the event on TV with her dad, so Kim (who, it should be known, hit her goal time to-the-minute) feels very fortunate to have the chance see this dream become a reality. Pretty cool.

Congratulations and best of luck to Ann and Kim in the World Championships this year and next! If there are more RNA Ironman competitors out there who we've overlooked (quite likely), please let us know by sending an email to Peg Cullen at [pegeen14@yahoo.com](mailto:pegeen14@yahoo.com). We'll make sure to give them their due in our next newsletter!

— Peg Cullen

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## Building Community, One Block Party at a Time

*Having just enjoyed our 15th consecutive block party last Saturday, I started wondering about other neighbors' block party traditions. The weekend we held ours (traditionally the Saturday after Labor Day) three other adjacent blocks were also hauling out the city's "street closed" barricades and enjoying one of the last opportunities of the season to socialize with neighbors (that didn't involve shovels).*

*We'd love to hear your block parties stories. Be sure to give as many details as possible...how many years you've been doing it, who organizes, what is eaten and played, how many neighbors usually attend, and how late you keep the party going! And if you're wondering how to start your own, we promise to share a "Block Party Kit" with you in the next issue.*

— Peg Cullen

❖ With just three years under our belts, the 2600 block of Kendall is a relative newbie to the block party scene in the Regent Neighborhood. Chloe Lauer has expertly planned the event each year (thank you, Chloe!) with contributions of time, materials, and a dish to pass from all. Two out of the three years, our block party has been dampened by rain storms, but this has only added to our fun. Last year, we sought refuge in a garage and continued on with the festivities including grilling and our potluck. This year, one of our neighbors brought a screen porch tent from the backyard into the street and we all huddled together underneath to avoid the raindrops. The rainy conditions have been a blessing in two ways. First, close quarters have provided an opportunity for neighbors who don't normally interact to get to know each other better. Second, our kids (twelve of them under age 7) have loved playing in the rain. This year's event ended with the kids racing popsicle sticks down the gutters and splashing in the puddles. A laundry nightmare to be sure, but a wonderful memory for all who attended. — Sarah Terry-Rost

❖ We on the 2600 block of Chamberlain just had our annual block party on September 6, the Saturday after Labor Day (note to self: must stop scheduling the block party on the same day as Fighting Bob Fest, which I've learned, through painful experience, is also held on the Saturday after Labor Day). Although longtime residents tell stories of block parties of years long past—the last of these apparently taking place more than fifteen years ago—its modern incarnation began in 2006 with a conversation I had with Margaret Krome of the block next door (2500 block), which has had an annual block party of their own for many, many years. I told Margaret that we were

interested in starting an annual block party of our own as a way to promote "block cohesion" and get to know each other better (since we spend so much of our time in close proximity with each other anyways). Before talking to Margaret it seemed like a daunting task—daunting enough, perhaps, that it might never make it out of the planning stages—but after sharing her "Block Party Kit" with me and explaining that there really wasn't a lot of work involved (as long as the workload was evenly distributed), I walked away confident that it could actually happen.

And it did happen later that year...in late June, but it was subsequently moved to its current time slot in early September in following years. Our block parties run from 3:00 pm till dark and, like the 2500 block, we bring a few tables and grills outside, everyone brings a dish to share (and drinks and grillable materials, if they like), we all gather out in the street, eating, talking, and drinking, etc. Street wiffleball is always a highlight, and we sometimes have other planned activities like water balloon toss and egg races as well, although it's a pretty spontaneous happening for the most part. There are plenty of kids on our block, and they seem especially to enjoy the activities—which many of them have been eagerly anticipating for the past 6 months or so—as they skillfully weave their way in and out of the crowd on their scooters and bikes. When darkness begins to fall, the renowned Chamberlain Avenue Boys, a folk/bluegrass band consisting (mostly) of 2600 block-ers, get out their instruments and start entertaining and inspiring the crowd. And we always hate it when our time runs out, and we have to take down the barricades and hand the street back over to the City, because there's an entirely different—and wonderful—dynamic operating during those few special hours when we claim the street as our own and all of the physical and psychological barriers that it normally represents are temporarily dissolved.

— Gordon Heingartner



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# 5th District Common Council Alder's Report—Alder Robbie Webber

## Downtown Plan

Although we are not part of downtown Madison, most of us work, shop, eat, play, and visit the downtown area frequently. The city is in the midst of a Downtown plan, and they want your input. What do you think of the downtown? What do you like, and what would you change? Do you like the mix of uses? How to do travel to downtown? Is that easy or hard? Are the public spaces well designed?

These are just some of the questions and input the city is seeking as it updates its plan for our central core. There is a newly opened storefront at the corner of West Mifflin and Fairchild, across the street from the Central Library. You can see drawings, give your opinion, and ask questions. The city also has a web site just for this plan at <http://www.ci.madison.wi.us/neighborhoods/downtownPlan/index.cfm>

## Zoning Code Rewrite

Also underway is a revision of the city zoning code, which hasn't changed since 1966. Our neighborhood and many of our favorite places could not be built under the current zoning code! The lots are too small and too close together; there isn't enough parking; multi-family buildings and retail are mixed with single-family homes; and big houses are close to small houses. We love our neighborhood, and places like Monroe Street, Willy Street, and the Vilas, Atwood, Dudgeon-Monroe, and Marquette Neighborhoods. At the same time, developers are trying to build more urban, mixed-use communities under a zoning code that makes that very difficult.

So the city is trying to rewrite that zoning code to facilitate the development and construction of the types of places we want. But it will be an interesting discussion. Should we require or even allow huge parking lots to serve dense developments? Or are we willing to or even eager to share parking between different buildings? Should accessory dwelling units, such as "granny flats," be allowed? What about other alternative housing options like co-ops, co-housing, group homes, or other shared residential arrangements? Do we want a zoning category for things like big-box, suburban-style retail? Or should we make those harder, or even impossible to build in Madison?

This is an ongoing process, but it is important that we weigh in with our opinions. There have been public input sessions, and some from our neighborhood have attended. You can also go to the web page below to get more information. There is a committee guiding this process in addition to the public input sessions. As with all city meetings, these are open to the public and allow testimony.

For more information and a calendar of future meetings, go to: <http://www.ci.madison.wi.us/neighborhoods/zoningRewrite/>

## Snow Emergency Zone

As part of our analysis of last winter's record snows, and the street clearing and parking issues that resulted, I have been working with city staff and a handful of alders to make some changes to how we deal with both notification of "snow emergencies" and getting people to move their cars when there is a snow emergency. The Regent Neighborhood area will likely not notice most of these changes, unless you fail to move your car when it snows.

First, a few definitions. The Snow Emergency Zone is the area of the Isthmus where you do NOT have to move your car every day November through March UNLESS a "snow emergency" is declared when it snows 3 inches or more. This area runs from the Yahara River to Park St, with Regent and Proudfit being the southern boundaries. Therefore no area of the Regent Neighborhood is included, so we all have to do "alternate side parking," that is, park from 1-7 AM on the even side of the street on even numbered days, and the odd side of the street on odd numbered days.

The change that is under consideration now is to raise the fine for not moving your car during a snow emergency from \$30 to \$60. This will affect the entire city, including our neighborhood. This change is to give people more incentive to move their cars, so the plows can get through. Especially in the crowded downtown area, some drivers seem to feel a \$30 ticket wasn't enough incentive to shovel out the car, look for a new parking space on the proper side of the street, and move the car.

In order to make sure that everyone knows when a snow emergency has been declared, and give people fair warning and pertinent information—such as alternatives to parking on the street—we also worked with the city Information Technology Department, Streets Department, Mayor's office, as well as the University to make a communications plan for snow emergencies.

The other change that I am working on is to expand the Snow Emergency Zone to cover the Regent Neighborhood. This would in no way affect alternate side parking when it snows. You would still have to move your car to allow plowing when there is a snowfall of 3 inches or more. But most of our winters have featured more rain than snow, and for four of my five winters in office I've gotten complaints about the requirement that cars be moved when there is no snow to remove. "Why am I *(continued on page 16)*

# 10th District Common Council Alder's Report—Alder Brian Solomon

**Election:** We have two candidates running for Dane County Board in the northern part of our district (District 10), to replace Dave Worzala. Thanks to Brad Wolbert and Jeremy Levin for stepping up at this important time. Obviously, turnout will be high given that this is the most important presidential election in some time. Given that, here is a quick update from our City Clerk about how they'll be handling absentee voting and polling locations:

- **Absentee Voting:** The Clerk's Office will be extending its hours for absentee voting the three weeks prior to the Presidential Election. We will be open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fridays, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. By offering extended hours, we hope to save absentee postage.
- **Reducing Lines at the Polling Places:** All poll books will be split (A-L, M-Z) in November. We are seeing a record number of early registrations, which will save voters time at the polls. I estimate that we will have 1,800 people working at the polls in November. Recruitment is going well, with an average of 7 people a day signing up to work at the polls. All poll workers are required to attend training before working at the polls. In 2004, only the Chief Inspectors needed to attend training. We started training all poll workers in 2006, and have seen a big difference in the completeness of Election Day documents since then.

Also, we are trying to organize drivers to help people get to the polls. More information to come, but if anyone is interested, please let me know.

**Budget:** The big news is the budget. You have all heard by now that this will be one of the hardest budget's in recent memory. Proposed changes that have been floated already include closing the Monroe Street Library branch, reducing community services, increasing Metro fares by 50 cents to \$2.00, and more. Alder Kerr and I have been in regular touch with the Mayor on the Monroe Street library. My priorities in this coming budget are the library, the weed and seed coordinator position, protecting Metro and community services, and keeping a close eye on property taxes. If you have thoughts or ideas, please let me know. Here is an article from today's paper on the budget. It talks about a 25 cent fare increase for Metro, which I am concerned is still too high. <http://www.madison.com/wsj/home/local/307081>

**Library Update:** The Mayor announced on Thursday night at the Library Board meeting that libraries will be fully funded this coming year. That includes full funding for the Monroe Street branch. Our efforts have been successful—so thanks to Alder

Kerr and members of DMNA and Vilas who have spoken loudly about the importance of this issue. Congratulations everyone!

**Other Budget Update:** Unfortunately, the rest of the budget does not look as promising. The Mayor has proposed a zero percent increase in community services. We provide cost of living increases to agencies, so this means cuts to vital community services. The Mayor has also proposed a 50-cent increase in Metro fares—up to \$2.00. I am very concerned about this and have asked Metro to analyze impacts on ridership—especially low-income riders.

**Traffic Calming Update:** I've been meeting with traffic engineering and WisDOT and have gotten a couple exciting D10 traffic calming projects scheduled for this fall:

- **Odana Road:** We will finish the bike lane from Midvale to Nakoma/Monroe. We'll have bike lane and parking on the east side of Odana, heading up the hill toward Midvale. On the west side, heading down toward Nakoma, we'll have bike lane and parking between Midvale and the bike path, but no bike lane from the bike path to Nakoma (its downhill and there isn't enough room).
- **Allied Drive:** We should have two speed bumps installed this fall, one on either side of MSCR and its heavily used playground. These will be 25 MPH speed humps and will hopefully address the huge speeding issues currently prevalent on Allied Drive.
- **Monroe Street Planning:** Nakoma/Monroe St. continues to see increased traffic and speeding issues. I believe, given the increased volume from commuters, major redevelopments in our district (Monroe Commons, Wingra Shores, the upcoming Regent/Monroe Hotel, etc.), and speeding on Nakoma, two schools, and clear intersection problems at Edgewood, Knickerbocker, and Seminole (among others), it's time to look at the whole corridor and see what traffic improvements make sense. I've met several times with Traffic Engineering to begin discussions; more to come.
- **Verona Road/Home Depot Intersection:** I've asked WisDOT to look into this intersection and they agreed. Many Allied area pedestrians use this intersection to get to Cub Foods and we can all imagine how much fun it must be trying to cross Verona Road on foot. WisDOT has agreed to repaint the crosswalk and add pedestrian crossing signs—both in advance of the crosswalk and right at the crosswalk with a down arrow pointing to the crosswalk. *(continued on page 17)*



## 5th District Common Council Alder's Report (continued from page 14)

moving my car every day, when it's 45 degrees and drizzling?" people would ask, "I don't drive every day, so moving my car just to the other side of the street is both polluting and sort of stupid."

And I agree. Although the change will probably not be in place for this coming winter, I am working with other close-by alders to change the ordinance to include other areas of the city where parking is in short supply and many people park on the street at night.

Again, this would in no way change snow plowing or the requirement to park on alternate sides when there is snow. It would only allow you to stay parked when there is no need to plow the streets. Let me know what you think. Are you in favor of this change?

### City Budget

As you may have heard, the 2009 city budget is going to be very challenging. For many reason, ranging from a slow-down in the economy to increased fuel prices, difficult choices will have to be made. Many of us have heard about the possibility that the Monroe Street Library would be sacrificed as a cost-cutting measure. In addition, the Mayor's proposed capital budget has major cuts to the traffic calming and "pedestrian improvements on arterials" budgets. He has also proposed: picking up large items – couches and other furniture, building materials, etc – only every other week instead of every week; suspending brush pick up, cutting the Parks Ranger program, cutting funding for WYOU, and a number of other cuts. The Mayor's operating budget will be introduced to the public and Council on October 7, and the Council will debate and adopt both the operating and capital budget in mid-November, so I have not seen the Mayor's proposed budget as I write this.

### Short bits

Below are a few updates and issues I'm following:

The Madison Police Department was doing pedestrian enforcement on Monroe Street, in part due to pressure from myself and other near-west alders. Although they are moving the enforcement activities around to other parts of the city, the efforts have resulted in not only tickets, but publicity that reminds all drivers that yielding to pedestrians is the law.

The Village of Shorewood Hills is continuing their planning efforts for the area just north and west of us, including a new medical office building at the corner of University Bay Drive and Marshall Court.


Although this is another jurisdiction, with their own planning process, we all realize that many Regent neighbors shop and travel through this area, and their decisions can directly affect our traffic and daily interactions. They have been keeping us up to date via the Joint West Campus Area Committee. George Hall, Nan Fey and I all sit on that committee.

In addition, a UW class last year worked on a theoretical update of the University Ave Urban Design District, which runs from Farley west to the border with Middleton. Alders Tim Gruber and Mark Clear are interested in possibly updating the urban design guidelines for this area. However, we don't even know if there will be funding to do this.

All of University Ave/Campus Drive, from Allen Blvd in Middleton to Broom St will be either rebuilt or resurfaced in 2009. There are various segments that will receive different treatments, so some segments will have completely new pavement, and others will only be repaved. "Old" University Ave will NOT be part of this process, only Campus Drive in our area.

Needless to say, this is going to be a very painful process on many levels. There will be traffic congestion, delays, frayed nerves, dust, noise, and inconveniences. However, no one who has driven, walked, or biked University Ave and Campus drive can deny that the road is in horrible shape. Although it's going to be an ugly year on University Ave, at least most of us have good transportation alternatives for many of our daily trips. 2009 will probably be a good year to take the bus, walk, or bike even more than we do now.

On a happier note, and to wrap up, I have been getting lots of positive feedback on the new Campus Drive Bike Path that opened officially in early August. I'd like to thank UW Transportation Services for making this wonderful path a priority and MG&E for the great solar lighting of the path. If you haven't tried this path, try it out while the weather is still nice!



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## 10th District Common Council Alder's Report (continued from page 15)

**Allied Drive Update:** The redevelopment is going well. Demolition is almost complete and construction is slated to begin in late October. The relocations of residents to the two remaining buildings went well. So far, 11 residents have been hired for redevelopment related jobs. 12 more local residents will be hired for jobs during the construction of phase one. The Allied Task Force has formed a public safety subcommittee, which County Supervisor Baird and I both serve on (as we did on housing and employment). We look forward to working with residents, police, city staff, and the Task Force to implement some innovative new measures to address this important issue. The Cap Times ran an interesting article last week on the CDA and their work in Allied, among other projects. Check it out if you haven't seen it: [http://www.madison.com/tct/archives/index.php?archAction=arch\\_read&a\\_from=search&a\\_file=%2Ftct%2F2008%2F09%2F24%2F0809230240.php&var\\_search=Search&keyword\\_field=&pub\\_code\\_field=tct&from\\_date\\_field=20080924&to\\_date\\_field=20080924&var\\_start\\_pos=0&var\\_articles\\_per\\_page=10](http://www.madison.com/tct/archives/index.php?archAction=arch_read&a_from=search&a_file=%2Ftct%2F2008%2F09%2F24%2F0809230240.php&var_search=Search&keyword_field=&pub_code_field=tct&from_date_field=20080924&to_date_field=20080924&var_start_pos=0&var_articles_per_page=10).

**Mayor's 2008 Neighborhood Roundtable:**

Saturday, November 8, 2008, Warner Park Community & Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Drive, 8:00 – 12:15 p.m. Mark your calendars for the training session offered this coming Fall. Information on the workshops will be coming out later this month. Contact Jule Stroick, Planning Division at 608-267-8744 or [jstroick@cityofmadison.com](mailto:jstroick@cityofmadison.com) for more information.

**Police:** You've probably all noticed the recent articles about violent crimes and police reporting. This is something that concerns me and that I'm planning on discussing with representatives from the police department. In the meantime, police have been active partners in Allied on the Allied Drive public safety subcommittee; more on that shortly. Finally, here is a link to recent police district newsletters: South came out with a September newsletter (<http://www.cityofmadison.com/police/southnews/September.pdf>). West's most recent newsletter was in August (<http://www.cityofmadison.com/police/westNews/WPD200808.pdf>).

**Madison City Channel Update:** Effective Tuesday, September 30th, the Madison City Channel was supposed to have moved from cable channel 12 to Cable Channel 98 on Charter's basic tier of service. This is good news from what Charter's earlier plans were, because you will not need any additional equipment nor incur any additional charges to be able to continue to watch Madison City Channel on channel 98. However, I just checked and while

MCC is no longer on 12, it doesn't seem to be on 98 either. I'll find out what's up. The channel was also supposed to move to the Charter digital lineup as channel 994. I looked: it's there! To receive Madison City Channel on channel 994 you will need either a television with a built-in "QAM" tuner or subscribe to Charter's digital services and use a Charter digital converter box. Those of you that already have Charter digital services are all set.

**Arboretum Projects:** UW, DNR, the City of Madison, the arboretum, and other partners are working together on a long term project to protect the arboretum from stormwater runoff. UW and the arboretum already held two meetings this summer to discuss these projects. For more information, see the attached flier.

**Well 10:** The water utility briefly operated Well 10 this summer so they could collect water quality samples as required by the US EPA and Wisconsin DNR. None of the Well 10 water was pumped into the distribution system but was pumped into the storm sewer for observation and sampling. Earlier in September, the operation was concluded and Well 10 was no longer operating. If you would like to receive these updates on Well 10 and other water quality issues, please sign up at <http://lavos.wiscnet.net/mailman/listinfo/drinkingwaterquality>. If you have any questions about water or water quality, please contact the Water Utility at 266-4654.

**Madison Parks:** Here is a link to the September Madison Parks newsletter (<http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/newsletter/2008%20September.pdf>). Sorry it's a bit late, but still interesting. Also, parks is working on a new program called "Parks Watch." Please see attachment for more information on how to get involved in this exciting program. Dunns Marsh residents are already pulling something together for Marlborough Park.

**Monroe Street Festival:** The 31st annual Monroe Street Festival was great, despite the drizzle. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make it happen and to everyone who came. Here is the link to the festival website, including photos of this year's event (Monroe Street Festival web site). While we're at it, a great article was posted by Dean Robbins about Monroe Street and DMNA on the Daily Page a few months ago: (<http://www.thedailypage.com/isthmus/article.php?article=23255>).

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### *University Relations Committee*

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### *Zoning Committee*

Ron Rosner, 238-1828  
rosner7@charter.net

## Events Calendar

### **November 4**

Election Day

### **November 4**

Food-A-Rama (see page 3)  
Temple Beth El

### **November 8**

Mayor's Neighborhood  
Roundtable 8am-Noon  
Warner Park (see page 2)

### **November Thursdays**

The Coffee and Tea Series  
The Froth House, 6-7:30 pm

### **November 11, 7:00 pm**

### **November 20, 4:30 pm**

Regent Neighborhood  
Poetry Club, The Froth House

### **November 5 & 19**

Intro to Roling  
The Froth House, 6-7:30 pm

### **January 28**

RNA Board Meeting  
West High School, LMC, 7 pm

*Check the RNA web site  
and Listserv for even more  
information*

## The Regent Neighborhood Association Listserv

You can keep abreast of what's going on in the neighborhood by participating in the *RNA Listserv*, a discussion group for residents in the Regent Neighborhood.

To subscribe, send an email to [RegentNeighborhoodAssn-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:RegentNeighborhoodAssn-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). (You will receive an automatic response to your email address to which you must respond in order to finalize your subscription.)

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To visit the group on the web, go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RegentNeighborhoodAssn/>

The list owner is Robbie Webber. Contact her at [RegentNeighborhoodAssn-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:RegentNeighborhoodAssn-owner@yahoogroups.com).



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This newsletter is a tri-annual publication of the Regent Neighborhood Association with a circulation of 1,700. The next edition's deadline for articles is December 30, 2008. We welcome articles of general interest to the neighborhood, discussions of local issues, personal interest stories, etc. Please address items or inquiries, or for current ad rates, to Mary Sarnowski, 238-1224, [sarnowski@mac.com](mailto:sarnowski@mac.com). Letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Regent Neighborhood Association.