



JANUARY

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---|---------|-----------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| | | | | 1 New Year's Day | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 MMSD Schools Reopen | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 MMSD MS and HS Early Release | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Schools Closed | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 MMSD Early Release | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

FEBRUARY

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 MMSD Middle Schools No School | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Valentine's Day |
| 15 | 16 Presidents' Day | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 Flag Day | 25 Ash Wednesday | 26 | 27 SWEIO Convention - No School | 28 |
| | | | | | | |

MARCH

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|---------------------|----------|
| 1 | 2 MMSD Kindergarten Registration | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 MMSD Early Release | 17 St. Patrick's Day | 18 | 19 | 20 Spring Begins | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

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Alternate Side Parking – What Are the Rules?

The alternate side parking rules require that vehicles must be parked on the even house numbered side of the street from 1 a.m. until 7 a.m. on even numbered days and on the odd house numbered side of the street from 1 a.m. until 7 a.m. on odd numbered

days. Madison's alternate side parking rules are in effect from November 15th through March 15th. These rules are in effect for most of Madison seven days a week, regardless of weather conditions.

Keeping Sidewalks Clear of Snow and Ice – Q&A

By what time do I have to clear my sidewalk?

Here's an example: Snow starts to fall on Monday morning. The snow stops at 11:59 p.m. on Monday night. The sidewalk would have to be cleared by 12:00 noon on Tuesday. If the same snow continued until Tuesday morning at 12:00 midnight, the sidewalk would have to be cleared by 12:00 noon on Wednesday. Additional snow events will not extend the snow removal deadline. Prior snowfalls are required to be removed by the original deadline.

Will the City issue a warning before they issue a ticket for failure to remove snow?

No. Snow is considered a safety issue. Warnings are not issued. On occasion, the City has delayed enforcement after large snow events. It is still in your best interest to remove the snow as soon as possible. Delaying removal only makes it more difficult.

How much of my sidewalk do I have to clear?

The ordinance requires the property owner to clear the entire width of the sidewalk, from edge to edge.

If I own a corner lot, do I have to clear the curb ramp, the portion of the sidewalk leading to the street?

Yes, the ordinance requires the removal of snow and ice from the curb ramp regardless where the snow and ice came from. If you cleared the curb ramp and snow was pushed back onto the curb ramp, you will be given a warning by way of a door card to clear the curb ramp by the next day. Failure to do so will result in the issuance of a ticket.

Is it illegal to deposit snow into the street?

Yes. Madison General Ordinance 10.23(2) prohibits depositing snow or ice from private property upon any

Please see Snow Removal on page 5.



District 17 Update

By District 17 Alder Joe Clausius

A New Year's greeting to all Westchester Gardens residents! The holiday season has now passed and we are well into our winter season that hopefully, will not result in another record snowfall.

As promised in my last newsletter article, I would like to review the 2009 Madison city budget with area residents. Soaring fuel costs and a deeply troubled economy, along with the need to keep up with infrastructure and public safety demands, made the city operating budget for 2009 one of the most challenging in years. However, the city council buckled down and after two nights of deliberations, enacted a solid operating budget for 2009. The budget will amount to an increase of 3.3% on the average homeowner's tax bill or roughly \$59.

The new budget preserves virtually all existing services with no cuts to police officers, firefighters or crossing guards. In addition, a new fire station for the city was added and a long needed recycling program for our city parks was authorized. The most notable changes for city residents will be the reduction of large item trash pickup from weekly to twice monthly and an increase in city bus fares.

As many of you are aware, the most contentious segment of the city budget dealt with increasing cash bus fares from \$1.50 to \$2. The bottom line was that bus fares have been flat for nearly a decade with the last increase in 2000. During that time the city subsidy to Madison Metro has increased nearly 70% or more than 10 million in taxpayer dollars.

The choice before the city was either to raise fares or cut services. Actually the fare increase will also benefit bus users by committing additional funds to improve and add routes. I speak personally here as employers in the Hanson Road business park have contacted me regarding extending bus service to their area. The increase will provide for better security at transfer points for rider safety and increase funding for helping low income people afford bus passes to work. At the time this article was written, the increase still needed approval by the city Transit and Parking Commission but I remain optimistic.

The recent decline in fuel prices will certainly help with the city's ability to stay within the adopted 2009 budget. Meanwhile, keep our fingers crossed for a mild winter. In closing, my wishes to all residents for a healthy and prosperous 2009. If you have questions regarding our district or city, please contact me at district17@cityofmadison or 608.244.5066.

YOUR TIMING WON'T BE OFF WHEN YOU INVEST REGULARLY.

If one of your worries is whether you're investing at the right time, it shouldn't be. By investing a set amount of money regularly, you establish a simple routine that can help make your financial goals a reality.

In addition, investing regularly can:

- Make it possible to use market fluctuations to your advantage
- Add potential growth and diversification to your portfolio
- Keep your long-term financial goals in focus

Investing a set amount of money on a regular basis does not ensure a profit and does not protect against loss in declining markets. Such a plan involves continual investment in securities regardless of fluctuating price levels of such securities. You should consider your financial ability to continue the purchases through periods of low price levels.

To learn how investing on a regular basis can help you reach your financial goals, call or visit your local financial advisor today.



Paul D. Bennud
Financial Advisor
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Inaugural Column

By Kelda Helen Roys, Representative Elect, Wisconsin State Assembly

On January 5th, thanks to your support, I will be sworn in as your new representative to the State Assembly. I am so honored that the voters have placed their trust in me. I take the responsibility of serving in public very seriously, and I ask for your partnership in helping me become the best representative I can be.

Thanks to the people of the 81st District for granting me this privilege, and also to Representative Dave Travis, who has served our community as a thoughtful, progressive voice for three decades. I'm grateful for his generosity and guidance. In addition, I thank my five hardworking opponents, who challenged me and made me a stronger, sharper candidate. Many of you may have supported one of these good gentlemen, and I hope that I can earn your trust and support in the coming years.

I enter the State Assembly at a time of tremendous promise, but also of incredible difficulty. With new leadership and a diverse, energetic caucus, I am confident that we will be able to tackle some of the most pressing public policy concerns facing our state. Yet we are also confronted with a \$5.4 billion deficit, a troubled economy, and the need for reform in many areas: campaign finance, health care, education, energy, taxation, and state spending.

I promise to do my best to represent you well, with thoughtful leadership, integrity, and passion. My door will always be open, and I hope you will continue to share your ideas and concerns with me. Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to be your state representative.

Please join me for an informal reception in my new office in the State Capitol, Room 7 North, immediately following my swearing in (approximately 3 p.m.), on January 5, 2009.

Contact information before January 5:
608.513.7697
rep.roys@gmail.com

Contact information after January 5:
Room 7 North, State Capitol
608.255.5340
rep.roys@legis.wi.gov



This Year Consider Local and Practical Gifts

By Senator Jon Erpenbach, 27th Senate Dist.

Wisconsin neighborhoods are loaded with opportunities for shoppers that want to spend their hard earned money close to home. This year, consider locally produced items as holiday gifts. Whether purchasing locally-made food products, artistic items, or other items for the home; buying locally is a way to purchase in your own neighborhood for the benefit of your neighborhood.

Local retailers need our support this year and if they don't carry the item you want they are often willing to order it for you. Saving your time and gas money can mean a saving in your own family budget and the knowledge that you have built the greater community.

Locally grown produce and other food items not only ensures that your food is fresh, but you know that your product didn't need to travel across land and sea burning fuel to reach your dinner table. The Dane County Farmers Market offers winter locations that can make the trip from the farm to your table a lot shorter. The winter Dane County Farmers Market is at the Monona Terrace every Saturday, November 15th through December 20th. From January 3rd through April 11th it moves to the Madison Senior Center.

Having a hard time deciding what to buy for that person that has everything and stay within your budget? How about a gift certificate to their hairdresser or barber, gas station, or local grocery store? This year as families struggle to make their holidays a time of joy while living within their family budget, thinking creatively and locally can help. I wish you all a season filled with hope, joy, and lots of time with family.



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Madison, WI 53716
mswita@wismetalroof.com
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Westchester Gardens Board Members

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Chad Spencer 240.1012
 17 Chive Court *chad.spencer@emerson.com*

Beth Sweeney (Secretary) 249.3752
 3314 Old Gate Road *mercedesbs@charter.net*

Mary Swita (Treasurer) 243.1442
 3369 Basil Drive *maryswita@charter.net*

New Board Members always welcome! Contact any board member if interested in participating.

Legislators and Important Contacts

17th District Alderperson Joe Clausius..... 244.5066
district17@cityofmadison.com

Dane County Board Member Paul Rusk..... 249.9667
rusk@co.dane.wi.us

Mayor's Office..... 241.0765
mayor@ci.madison.wi.us

State Representative Kelda Helen Roys 266.5340
rep.roys@legis.wi.gov

State Senator Jon Erpenbach..... 266.6670
Sen.Erpenbach@legis.wisconsin.gov

Police Traffic Bureau 266.4622

City Traffic Engineer..... 242.9096

Crime Stoppers..... 266.6014

Newsletter Ads/Rates

The Westchester Gardens Neighborhood Association is a non-profit organization established for its residents to provide useful information about issues of concern to its residents. The *In and Around the Park* newsletter is published to communicate this information and is distributed to nearly 450 residents, businesses, associations, and public officials. Businesses wishing to advertise in this newsletter should call Beth Sweeney at 608.249.3752 for more details.

| Ad size | Per issue rate* |
|---|-----------------|
| 1 business card space (2”h x 3.5”w - 1/8 page) | \$10 |
| 2 business card space (4”h x 3.5”w or 2”h x 7” w - 1/4 page) | \$20 |
| 3 business card space (6”h x 3.5”w - 3/8 page) | \$30 |
| 4 business card space (8”h x 3.5”w or 4”h x 7”w - 1/2 page) | \$40 |
| 8 business card space (8”h x 7”w - full page)..... | \$75 |

Want to Receive Your In and Around the Park Newsletter Electronically?

Email Beth Sweeney at mercedesbs@charter.net to be added to the Westchester Gardens Neighborhood email list.

2009 Deadlines for Newsletter Articles and Ads

The following are newsletter article and ad submission deadlines for the *In and Around the Park* newsletter, published quarterly.

| <u>Publication</u> | <u>Submission Deadline</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Jan/Feb/March | December 1, 2008 |
| April/May/June | March 1, 2008 |
| July/Aug/Sept | June 1, 2008 |
| Oct/Nov/Dec..... | September 1, 2008 |

Neighborhood Resource List

Quilts and Clothing Alterations


Jean Schnick
 6 Chive Ct.
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 E-mail: alan@sanderfoot.com
 Web: www.sanderfoot.com

Free advertising is available for neighborhood members. Contact Beth Sweeney to be added to the Neighborhood Resource List or to place an ad. See “2009 Deadlines for Newsletter Articles and Ads.”



NEIGHBORHOOD BABYSITTER GUIDE

Jake Bergstrom244-5967
 Kylie Bergstrom244-5967
 Amber Clifcorn241-4756
 Rachel Mazzara244-3740
 Ashley Salas.....241-2522
 Jennifer Sweeney577-8791
 Heidi Thiel244-6443
 Lucy Williams249-1975

responsible@education

say watt?



252-7117. It's the number to call to reduce the cost of lighting your home. Our MGE Home Energy Line experts help estimate energy savings and suggest important features to look for. But there's more than watts on our mind. We answer all kinds of home energy questions.

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Board of Education Progress Report – December, 2008

By Arlene Silveira, Madison School Board President

The major focus of our meetings in November was on aligning the work of the Board to the district’s mission and research regarding effective school boards. The emerging literature regarding the role of school board governance in improving student achievement suggests that the manner in which the Board does its work can lead to positive student achievement results.

Superintendent Nerad has provided us with a great amount of research and experience to guide us in our discussions. An overview of some of our major changes is below. There are a lot of details behind each of the items listed below. If you have any questions, please let us know by sending email to comments@madison.k12.wi.us or calling me at 608.516.8981.

Committees: We voted to replace the existing committees with the committees listed below in order to create a greater focus on student achievement and the need for improved student achievement and related development outcomes for the district. The committees are structured along key governing lines. Each committee is composed of the board as a whole with co-chairs.


- Student Achievement and Performance Monitoring: Focuses on the district’s mission and will consist of matters related to factors leading to the improvement of student learning. Governance function: district’s mission – work and related accountability for student learning. Co-chairs: Johnny Winston Jr., Maya Cole
- Planning and Development: Focuses on ensuring effective planning related to the district’s strategic plan, demographic planning, facility planning and budget planning. Governance function: planning for improved results. Co-chairs: Ed Hughes, Marj Passman
- Operational Support: Focuses on financial management, building maintenance and operations, land purchase and district administrative operations, retention and hiring of staff and staff equity issues. Governance function: internal functions and ensuring quality business, finance and human resource systems. Co-chairs: Lucy Mathiak, Beth Moss

Engaging/Linking Stakeholders: We are expanding engagement practices with the goals of determining stakeholder perceptions about the district and educating members of the public to build public will and support.

- 6 Regular board meetings/year will be held in different schools. As part of the agenda, host principals and staff will present learning data and their School Improvement Plan.
- Each Board member will serve as a liaison to seven schools to assist the Board in understanding the learning-related work in our schools.
- The Board will schedule 4-6 meetings/year within the community to collect input from community stakeholders regarding “big” questions related to the district’s strategic plan and/or educational programs/services.

Please see School Board Report on page 5.

GREAT LOANS for



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Calendar of Events

Mark your calendar for these upcoming neighborhood events.

Neighborhood Garage Sale – June 5-6, 2009

Kids’ Day and Neighborhood Picnic – July 11, 2009
(NEW Combined Event and NEW Date)

Annual Holiday Party – TBA

Internet Provides Helpful Weather-Related Information

Use these Internet links to find helpful winter weather-related information.

Traffic information and road conditions
www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/driving-cond.htm

Snow conditions report
www.travelwisconsin.com/snow_report.aspx

Snowmobiling resources and information
www.snowtracks.com/wisconsin/

School Board Report

Continued from page 4.

Ensuring a Focus on Results and Accountability:

- Data retreats: As part of the work of the Student Achievement and Performance Monitoring committee, four meetings per year will include a data presentation related to specific student achievement and student performance measures.
- Program evaluation: As part of the Student Achievement and Performance Monitoring committee, a schedule of program evaluations will be identified and implemented.
- Improvement benchmarks: When the district’s strategic plan is completed. District level improvement benchmarks will be identified for each student-based strategy within the plan.

Snow Removal

Continued from front page.

sidewalk, roadway or street, or causing or ordering the same to be done. The ticket is \$109.

Do I have to clear my driveway or private sidewalks?

Madison General Ordinance Section 10.28 only pertains to public sidewalks. However, Madison General Ordinance 27.05(2)(d) requires private walks, driveways and parking areas to be maintained in a safe condition. Snow-covered and slippery private walks, driveways and parking areas may result in the issuance of an Official Notice directing the owner to clear the affected area by a specific due date. Historically, the City has not enforced this on a single family, owner-occupied property. The Postal Service may refuse to deliver your mail if your sidewalk is snow-covered/slippery.

I removed the snow but my sidewalk is covered with ice. What should I do?

Free sand is provided at numerous locations across the city. Generously apply sand to the ice-covered sidewalk to eliminate the hazard. Applying salt to the sidewalk may accelerate the removal of the ice. Keep the sidewalk sanded until the ice is gone.

Terry Balding & Associates Investments & Insurance

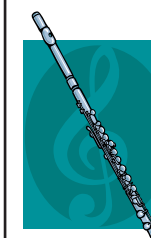
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