

To move, or not to move - that is the question

The James Madison Park Surplus Committee is charged with the task of determining the fate of the three houses in James Madison Park: 640, 646 (pictured), and 704 E Gorham (the Collins House). One of the central issues the committee will decide is whether to move the houses at 640 and 646 E. Gorham or keep them in their current location. Two members of the Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood Council – Joe Brogan and Joe Lusson – have different opinions on the fate of the houses and we present their viewpoints. The history of the houses, meeting agendas, and other relevant information can be found on TLNA's webpage at http://www.danenet.org/tlna/. The next meeting of the committee is January 13.

Move the Houses

by Joe Brogan

The decision to move the buildings boils down to an issue of fairness and balance. Early Madison pioneers did not provide space for downtown public access to the lakes. In 1916 the city was willed \$75,000 to buy land and build a park for downtown residents. People were just beginning to understand the connection between the quality of urban life and open space.

James Madison Park development has been a long saga winding its way through nine decades.

Now a committee in place is preparing to make defining decisions about the park's future. Here is some history to bring us up to date.

It all began on a square of land that was to be one end of an isthmus canal connecting Mendota and Monona lakes. Doesn't Madison have intriguing history? The canal never happened but along the way public spirited leaders continued to envision the need for a park that provides lake access near the downtown for city residents, and over time, acquired all the land east of N. Butler Street to the other side of the Lincoln School Apartments building, for the park.

One of the earliest visionaries for park building was John Olin. In 1894, 3.5 acres (Orton Park) was the only land preserved for park space in Madison. By 1909, while John Olin was president of the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association, park land expanded to 269 acres. Wow that's a legacy to behold!

The vision and passion of John Olin and other early leaders remains a beacon today when making decisions about park land. In the light of this beacon, Park Commissioners

Keep the Houses in Place

by Joe Lusson

Contrary to what was argued in these pages in the last issue (Fall 2010), the two historic landmark houses in James Madison Park (640 and 646 E. Gorham Street) should most certainly **not** be moved.

Proponents of removal seem to think that ridding the hilltop of these historicallyand architecturally-significant buildings will somehow create a few more seconds of lake view for passing motorists. But why should that be a priority?

The city owns the houses and the land under them and all the way to the lake, including the bikepath and the shoreline. This means there is ample park space behind the houses, including nearly to the back of the houses, for the public to enjoy. That hilltop, if the houses were removed, would not be pleasant parkspace given the traffic noise, unless you were to build a berm or fence and plant a barrier of trees and shrubs, which would defeat the motorist-overlook concept.

The current parkspace behind the houses is appealing and would be more so with improved landscaping. It provides a quiet spot to walk and contemplate, to hear the waves on the shore and enjoy tranquil views of the lake. This more protected space nicely complements the wide open playing fields of the middle and western end of the park. The whole park need not be the same.

Whats more, the houses provide balance to that end of the block, creating a safer and more neighborhood feel. This **is** a neighborhood after all, one of the oldest in the city, which provides both charm and safety. Tenants or owners of those two houses watch over the dark end of the park and

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The deadline for the Spring, 2011 issue will be March 1. Views expressed in the newsletter are the views of the writers and not the views of the TLNA Council. The contents of this newsletter along with back issues can be found at TLNA's homepage: <u>http://www.danenet.org/tlna/</u>.

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Community

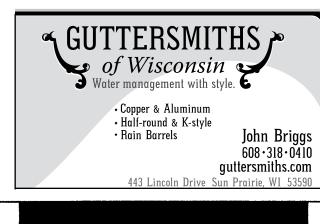


Harsh Weather and the Reality of Homelessness

The Salvation Army of Dane County's facility at 630 East Washington serves as the gatekeeper for all Dane County publically-funded family shelters. This means that when a family faces homelessness in Dane County, the family calls The Salvation Army to be put on a waiting list that currently has over 50 families waiting for shelter. As soon as a room opens up in The Salvation Army's Family Shelter or at the YWCA, a family is moved off the waiting list and can begin its shelter stay.

Where do families go if they have no place to sleep during the long wait? The Salvation Army's East Washington facility also has what's called The Warming House: an emergency shelter for families seeking an immediate place to sleep. The Warming House is funded to sleep 16 *people* (not families) on mats on the floor in The Salvation Army's back hallway. The Warming House was historically created to be a place for families to sleep from November through March. In 2008, The Warming House opened its doors to become a year round emergency shelter. Now nearing 2011, Warming House has served over 633 families since it became year-round. Unfortunately, Warming House has also had to deny record amounts of families due to lack of space.

This winter, the Warming House has had more families seeking shelter than any previous winter. Additionally, the Single Women's Shelter, 30 beds located in the gymnasium of the 630 East Washington facility, has had more women seeking shelter than ever before. The Salvation Army staff, along with its other community partners, are left to problem-solve with families and single women during a time when not only weather is deteriorating, but resources are constrained and depleted. The domestic abuse shelter is full, transitional and subsidized housing options have long wait lists, health and mental health services are facing major budget cuts, not to mention the struggling economy and the personal hardships many of the people in the community are facing.



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For many people, the holiday season brings joy and fulfillment, but many of those seeking shelter and safety at The Salvation Army face desperation and hardship. The Salvation

Army is grateful to

be a part of the Tenny-Lapham Neighborhood, a place full of active and caring people. In this cold weather, do not forget about your neighbors in need, over 100 of whom are residing at The Salvation Army's shelters at 630 East Washington Avenue. The Salvation Army will happily take donations of lightly-used or new blankets and pillows at its 630 East Washington Facility.

- Anne Eichmeyer

"Breathing new life into. . .Willy St. is. . .Ground Zero, a very accommodating full service coffee shop offering sandwiches, soup, baked goods, juice, lots of elbow room, and strong coffee to boot."

--Isthmus



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Community

The 41st Day

In mid-June of this year, eight teenagers and two sponsors, from various parts of the country (Florida, New York, Oregon, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania), gathered in Portland, Oregon to start biking across the country. Their final destination was New York City. They were biking under the sponsorship of Teen Treks, a program offering bike adventure travel camp for teens 12 to 18 to encourage com-

panionship, learn about the country and people and challenge their endurance.

On the 41st day of their trip, they arrived in Madison and parked themselves, their bikes and their backpacks



on the lawn of James Madison Park. It was August 4th, a sunny, warm day. The flower garden at the upper level of the park needed a drink which I was eager to supply. Unfortunately, my eightyone year old bones lacked the strength

> to drag the heavy reel with the garden hose up from its storage room below. Upon seeing the biking group, I asked if anyone would give me a hand. Immediately two young men volunteered. They hauled the hose, connected it, and helped me water.

Of course they also pulled it back down and stored it away when we were finished. All done with a warm smile.

One good deed deserves another so I invited them over for an early breakfast the next morning in our back yard. They had spent the night as guests of the Anarchist Puppet Theater group in a large old house on Gorham Street. After breakfasting on bagels and cream

cheese, peanut butter and jelly, fruit, juice, coffee and hugs all around, they left at 10 am and headed towards Milwaukee and Muskegan where they would take the ferry across Lake Michigan.

Two weeks later, we received a post card sent from New York City, signed by all ten announcing their safe arrival at their final destination.

Our James Madison Park had provided a connection across generations and geography.

- Ilse Hecht

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Housing

New Apartments a Model for Green Building



City Row Apartments, located on the 600 block of E. Johnson Street and close to James Madison Park, are now complete and 100% leased according to spokesperson Richard Arneson. City Row includes 83 classically designed apartment homes, comprising efficiencies, 1, 2, and 3 bedroom units. What's very impressive is that City Row Apartments is one of only seventeen Energy Star multifamily high rise buildings in the nation and the first in Wisconsin. Residents can expect a high level of comfort and lower utility bills.

The developer, Stone House Development, Inc., achieved the Energy

Star distinction by integrating numerous energy-efficiency measures.

To qualify for Energy Star certification a building must be 20% more energy efficient than a building constructed to standard specifications. This recently established certification comes from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA).

"To have the City Row Apartments recognized by the EPA as the first ENERGY STAR qualified high-rise apartment building in the state is a great honor for us and one we worked hard to achieve," said Rich Arnesen, vice president of Stone House Development, Inc.

Wisconsin's Focus on Energy worked with the developer to incorporate energy saving measures. These include qualified compact fluorescent fixtures, lighting occupancy sensors, insulation to maximize the buildings high efficiency radiant heating and cooling systems, renewable energy with a solar electric system and two solar hot water systems, and ENERGY STAR qualified appliances and windows.

Solar panels line the roof. Other amenities include a resident business center, community room, fitness center, and outdoor courtyard.

Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority assisted funding the project. The result is, very high quality rental housing affordable to Madison residents.

City Row Apartments is a beautiful addition to the near east side and sets a standard for future development to follow.

- Joe Brogan



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Gains from the Past Will be Under Attack



When I wrote to share news at the beginning of the last session, the landscape was far different. We were faced with the worst economy since the Great Depression, but we approached

the session with a jobs agenda, plans for economic recovery and a list of longfestering issues that we were determined to resolve.

And we accomplished much of this in one session. We passed more than 50 economic development initiatives, all targeted at job creation, retention and recovery. We passed protections for domestic partners, took on the insurance companies to make sure people with pre-existing conditions were no longer denied health care and expanded access to health care for people and families that were struggling in this economy.

According to census data, Wisconsin became among the top states in the country for health care access and quality.

We balanced a budget that had a \$6.6 billion deficit with historic spending cuts, while protecting the most vital areas of education, public safety and healthcare from the deepest cuts. We did this by bringing back tax fairness: For example, we made sure that large corporations that had been dodging Wisconsin taxes by locating a PO Box in Las Vegas or Delaware now pay their fair share of Wisconsin taxes. Ending such accounting gimmicks meant that corporations could no longer dump their share of taxes on families and Wisconsin businesses.

And we brought serious campaign finance reform with public financing for the Wisconsin State Supreme Court races, instituted a statewide phosphorous ban to help our lakes and cracked down on drunk drivers, predatory payday lenders and puppy mills...problems that had not been addressed for years.

I look back on what all of us, working together, were able to accomplish – despite the awful global recession – with pride. In emails, letters and phone calls, I heard from so many of you who sought these changes and fought for them. Thank you for taking the time to stay in touch and work with me to make these needed changes a reality.

Now, this coming session, we face a far different kind of work – and your help is all the more necessary. Much of what I've just listed above is under attack. Republicans campaigned talking about creating jobs, but now they are vowing to lower corporate taxes (at the expense of the rest of us) and reverse social gains.

In the days and weeks right after

the Nov. 2 election we heard talk about voter ID, concealed carry, restricting a women's right to choose, ending domestic partner protections and banning life-saving stem-cell research.

My decision is that I will work tirelessly – with Republicans – when they are true to their promise to focus on job creation and economic recovery. This crisis is too serious to have one party sitting off to the side doing nothing. But if Republicans pull a bait-and-switch and get lost in a social agenda that is not what Wisconsin wants or needs, we must be ready to fight it.

I hope you will join me in 2011 in working hard to stand up for Wisconsin values and in making sure all our citizens are well represented. Happy New Year!

- Rep. Mark Pocan

Early Deadline for the Next Newsletter

The Spring issue of the TLNA newsletter will feature the candidates for 2nd District Alder. The deadline for articles/changes in advertisements will be March 1.



Mayor's Report



While economic recovery has not come as swiftly as we hoped, the city continues to weather the recession with steadiness and consistency and to move

forward in challenging times. Here's a look at some of our accomplishments in 2010.

The city passed a budget that added \$250,000 in community services, added eight police officers and maintained basic services at their current level. While it wasn't without hard choices, we delivered a budget that makes smart investments in our neighborhoods and protects the services our citizens rely on.

Thanks to the generosity of the community and the Goodman Foundation,

responsiblenergy

Year in Review

we opened a great, new South Branch Library at the Villager Mall.

We also saw the opening of the Urban League's Center for Economic Development and Workforce Training at the Villager, further strengthening the services provided at this important site on the South Side.

Through a series of public meetings, we developed an impressive new design for the Central Library. We'll continue to refine that design next year and break ground in the fall.

After much hard work and good discussion on the City Council, we passed an agreement for the future of the Overture Center. It's an agreement that protects taxpayers, is fair to Overture staff and puts Overture on solid footing to be successful in the long-term.

Unfortunately, the end of the year was marred by the Governor-Elect's de-

cision to stop high speed rail. The 5,000 or so construction workers who could have been employed by the project have Scott Walker to thank for their continued unemployment. And, the loss of rail also means the loss of the tremendous economic development potential it created for not just Madison, but the entire state.

As we look forward, new leadership at the State Capitol will present challenges for Madison. But, we'll work hard to fight for the modern economy –one that invests in and encourages sustainability, one that values domestic partner benefits, one that defends important industries like stem cell research. And, as we've seen over the past few years, one that weathers the recession better than most cities in the country.

- Mayor Dave Cieslewicz



how can you turn this down?

It's that time of year for a simply irresistible energy-saving opportunity. By setting back your thermostat just 1° Fahrenheit, you could save \$25 per heating season. Bigger setbacks save even more. If we all set back just

1° Fahrenheit this winter, we could save enough gas for 3,100 homes. To find out how much you can save with larger setbacks, visit **mge.com/setback** and use the calculator.





Alder's Report Some Tips to Survive the Winter



H e 1 l o Neighbor! The new

year is upon us, and so is winter! From the fun of ice skating at Tenney Park to the "fun"

of winter parking, I'd like to help you with all of your needs as we navigate the slush and snow together.

My holiday gift to you: some helpful winter city information!

Is it snowing and you're not sure if tonight counts as a snow emergency? Visit www.cityofmadison.com/winter to find out! You can also register for email or text messages that will be sent to you directly to let you know. This link also

has other valuable winter city information, including parks information. If you don't have access to the internet, you can call 261-9111 to receive the information.

If we're in a "Snow Emergency" that means that alternate-side parking rules are in effect. Not sure what side of the street to park on? If tomorrow morning's date is an odd number, park on the oddnumbered side of the street (and likewise for even days).

If you're in an area with parking on only one side or if you just don't want to have to dig your car out, I'd recommend using the Capitol North parking ramp at the corner of E Mifflin and N Butler Street. Parking is free during snow emergencies from 9pm-7am. If you have to leave your car there for the day, it will be about \$8 to park, which is nothing compared to a \$60 ticket, or \$110 if your car gets ticketed and towed.

Is there a street that needs plowing or sand? A curb ramp, crosswalk or bus stop that needs clearing? Go to: www. cityofmadison.com/residents/Winter/ accessible.cfm to report it directly to the proper Streets Department staff (and feel free to email me as well).

Did you know? As Alder, I can request post-and-tows, partnering with the Police Department and the Streets Department to require cars to move so snow can be plowed away. For thoroughfares like Johnson and Gorham Street, or narrow streets with limited parking like Washburn and Castle Place this is a valuable tool to get the streets properly cleared, but I can't do it without your help. If your street is narrow or becoming dangerous to navigate or park, please email or call me to discuss



Alder's Report

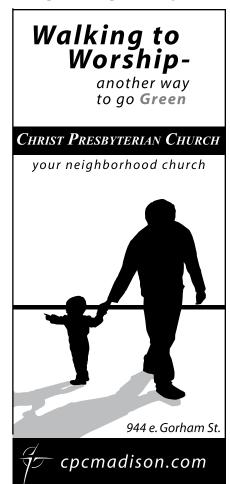
the situation. Post-and-tows are used in Metro staff, not to mention all of your limited situations, but there are locations in our neighborhood where they can be put to good use.

When the snow flies, sidewalks need to be cleared by noon of the day after the storm. "Cleared" means shoveled down to the sidewalk, and if you can't get the ice off, you need to put salt or sand down so pedestrians can have traction. If your neighbor has not properly cleared their sidewalk by the deadline, call Building Inspection at 266-4551 to report the property.

Some additional snow removal information:

When it comes to garbage day, please shovel out a place in the snow banks, instead of sticking the bins on top of the snow. Also, please put bins side by side, instead of stacking them one behind the other.

If you have a fire hydrant or bus stop near you, please take the time to shovel out the spot and help our firefighters and



friends and neighbors who might need these services.

Sometimes terrace trees lining the sidewalk become damaged or downed during a snowstorm. Please call the Forestry Department at 266-4816 to report any damaged limbs in need of collection.

While winter may bring trouble navigating the streets, it also brings fun. Our neighborhood is privileged to have Tenney Park at our fingertips.

Want to know if the ice rink is open? Go to www.cityofmadison.com/ winter and click on the Parks link. City staff has informed me that they regularly update their information, frequently on an hourly basis. You can also go to https://my.cityofmadison. com/ and sign up for a MyMadison account that will directly send you email updates on changing ice conditions.

A reminder that mid-February is when ice conditions deteriorate quickly due to increased sunlight from the changing angle of the sun. If you'd like to take an active role in maintaining the ice quality at Tenney Park, the

(continued on page 20)





THE

Writer's Corner

You Oughta Be on Stage* *There's one leaving in five minutes (da da dum)

Imagine yourself racing around an eye-level clearing in a crowded basement of a pizza place while dodging the hot-lava-topped pizzas being maneuvered past you. If several other eye-rolling, prat-falling, ape-walking, chortling folk are up there with you, doing their best to weave that old magic spell that convinces the audience that they are in a store that features things like Madonna's making papier mache bowling balls, you might be in an improv show.

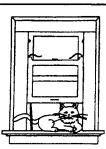
Believing that laughter is indeed good medicine, and feeling the winter doldrums, two years ago I enrolled in a comedy improv class under the auspices of Monkey Business Institute, one of a few local improvisational workshop providers. My reasons were varied-I am of a "certain age" and in a "bi-state" marriage (my husband Ken works and resides part time in Chicago). With our one child five blocks (and five-hundred miles away psychologically) in college and the cats and chickens being pretty poor conversationalists, I sometimes crave human contact and try to build in some social occasions.

Comedy improv had been on my bucket list of things to try since I began attending the performances featuring Dylan Brogan. Then part of the now defunct offshoot group Out on a Limprov, Dylan rose up through the ranks and is now a permanent fixture in the troop directed by Brad Knight, who helped found Monkey Business Institute about six years ago and has been running it as an LLC along with Linda Hedenblad since 2008.

Brad was my first teacher and I found the class frankly a tad terrifying, but definitely worth the money and effort. Though people find it hard to believe about me, I was once so shy I would tape-record my class oral reports and feign laryngitis rather than suffer through the terrifying specter of standing and delivering in public. Needless to say, thirty years of teaching cured me up (and some might say I went clean out the other side in extroversion) and I have done plenty of amateur improvisation when the lesson plan threatens to put the students into a coma. Still, while good players like the monkeys named above make it look easy, there are a few things to know about this business of simply playing the fool for laughs and a bit of cash.

One of the great things about improv is that there are very few "rules," but the few are crucial—1) Leave your real life at the door—a very odd thing to say, but refreshing since improv can only work as a kind of magical realm if you are willing to give up your favorite worries and concerns. Spontaneity and going with the flow are really not possible if you can't let go of your day job. 2) Be there now, to paraphrase Baba Ram Dass and "there in your head 100%" as another sage, Baba Rum Brad Knight, says. 3) Say "yes" instead of "no"— even if you secretly believe your idea for a sketch is better than another's, if your fellow improv-ers make an "offer" you should do your best to accept and build upon it. 4) Be courteous in all the ways your mama taught you. Improv requires a lot of close quarters-close up and personal can mean you breathe each others' air-and beer and cigarette breath and underarms are not all that much plusses in close work. 5) Play, but play nice-"no physical violence (though plenty of people get "play shot") emotional abuse, verbal slander, playground bullying, or comparisons of the superiority of your ancestors " (To which I add this caveat "unless they are Irish who are so obviously superior") JOKE!

Another interesting dictum is "nobody cares about you as much as you do." This sounds alarming, but is actually a way to avoid paralyzing concern about being funny. You will screw up sometimes, but chances are nobody will notice or remember it as much as you do. (And when you do blow it, go BIG! Make it part of the tomfoolery.) Some people are nimble-witted, some require a little more time; some are great physical comics and can do pratfalls; some, including me, have to find ways to "die" onstage near a chair. I was concerned that the age difference would be too vast-that my knowledge of pop culture references was limited to the sixties, but this was not usually a problem. (Except I am still convinced a Kardashian is some



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Writer's Corner

kind of dog-sweater) Though the average age tends to be younger rather than older, these are extroverts-they keep themselves aware and make an effort to make their gags broad enough that most people can "get" them. Improv actors need to be versatile, since the suggestions, the elements that make the games delightfully spontaneous, come from the audience. True, the interlocutor (usually Brad or Sheila or Matt) is judicious and selective about accepting the yelled out suggestions. (How can it be that CHUCK is always in every audience when we are playing the name-rhyme game?) So it's not really as chaotic as all that. And the games and exercises are sometimes magical fun.

If you ARE by nature a little uptight on a given night, the sheer energy of a person like Linda or Sheila or Sarah will infect you with the terminal whimsy almost against your will. Did I mention the aerobic benefit? I taught a late class in Whitewater this past semester and could not even careen into town until about 15 minutes before class started. my head still in teacher space. Right away, we would form a circle and do warm-ups-physical and verbal-literally shaking out our limbs, doing silly walks, making nonsense sounds, and (one of the things I dreaded) limbering up the memory and response time with a dreadful game called "zip, zap, zop" which requires not only fast reflexes but also frequent changes of direction and

rules. It's appropriately energizing, but I still have nightmares. (KIDDING!)

As with many pursuits in life, however, one gets out of it approximately what one puts into it. I felt a little calcification of my bones and my brain setting in and wanted to fight it. Improv helped with that.

It promotes stretching one's comfort zone a little, but the games are so varied and interesting that a bonus is that you may find new activities at which you have some unknown talent. (Some improv-ers come from a theatre background and so know a few things about "saving" scenes that are floundering, for example.) Some hope to make performance their careers, though most reasonably are holding demanding day jobs or being students. One person I was in class with, who could make any scene hilarious, is the chimp-walking Sean Moore. He recently competed in a large regional stand-up competition and won, so he will be going on to the national level next. Suffice to say, most of us don't have the talent or drive to try to make our hobby a career (though I was, I humbly submit, pretty darn good at the rhyming games, since I sorta make my living in the poetry biz, so it may work the other way.)

After my first class two years ago—an introductory short-form improv class, I was qualified to enroll in the second—the all-new Musical improv classes now being offered by Monkey

Business Institute. Each class ends in a public show after seven or eight weeks. Right now, the Glass Nickel at 2916 Atwood Ave lends its basement space to these gala events. While many people are great singers, despite the title of the class, one does not have to have sterling tone sense or silver tonsils to do well, especially since our class had the able accompaniment of Andrew Rohn on keyboards. A purist would likely wince, but this is 3 parts comedy and maybe 1 part "music." I mean how seriously can a person take a bunch of people engaging in "foreign opera," which is mockingly presented in the sophisticated manner of "Masterpiece Theatre" but sung in total gibberish and frequently culminating for some reason in attacks by bears or robots?

So would I recommend it? Oh yeah. The silliness alone in this literally cold, cold world is worth the price of admission. As the regular newspapers say, "If you go, go to <u>www.classes@</u> <u>monkeybusinessinstitute.com</u> to find the schedule. Right now, there are two shows—one rated GP and the other rated ...uh...not the schedule is every Saturday, All Ages Show@6pm for \$5 and Late Show@8pm for \$8.

Humbly submitted by Norma Gay Prewett, Roving Girl Reporter, for the TLNA newsletter.





Tough Choices in County Government



The years are flying by! It's hard to believe that this is my fifth report on our annual budgets that I've

been involved in since taking office as Dane County Board Supervisor of District 2. Every year proves to be challenging and as our overall national economy has been affected, so has the county.

Dane County had tough choices to make in attempting to fit government programs with taxpayers' ability to pay for them. With the value of property in the county actually dropping for the first time in many voters' memories, we were faced with growing needs to help families and protect the public without significantly increasing spending.

I'm happy to report that the **Department of Human Services** didn't take an overall hit this time around, although we needed to take away funding from some specific programs to break even. The potential 1.5% cut in the Developmental Disabilities

(DD) area, introduced as an amendment, ultimately didn't flesh out either.

The final budget raised the county's spending increase just over 2 percent. Some highlights:

Radio. We're now investing in a new \$18 million public radio system, enabling all public safety and public works officials to talk to each other during emergencies. Cities, villages and towns outside of Madison will contribute to the operating costs and 75% have already agreed to it which means construction will begin next year and the entire system will be finalized by January 2013.

Sheriff's department. The sheriff's department initiated a study to assess the adequacy of staffing levels within the department. The study recommended major cuts, however the Board narrowed it down, cutting three community deputies, while adding two deputies to staff the Dane County Airport (paid out of airport funds), and cutting two other positions.

Completing the Lower Yahara River Bike Trail to McFarland. The Board voted to approve \$830,000 in borrowing to provide the necessary 20% county portion to qualify for the \$3.1 million state grant for the construction of a trail linking McFarland with Lake Farm Park and the Capital City Bike Trail system. This project has been in the works for years, but finally came to fruition with the col-



laboration of Wisconsin Southern Railroad, the State Railroad Commission, DNR, DOT, Dane County, McFarland, Madison and Monona. It should be completed in 2012.

Shoreland zoning demonstration project. By early next year, rural county homeowners will need to comply with new state shoreland zoning laws when they build new homes or add onto existing ones. The substantial changes lower from 30% to 15% the homes and out buildings' "footprint," or coverage of the lot. That percentage also includes all impervious surfaces such as driveways and sidewalks. However, the law also has significant flexibility, allowing homeowners to "grow" up to the 15%

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Supervisor's Report

by installing water capturing structures that slow down runoff, such as rain gardens, buffer strips and driveways that allow water to soak through them. We approved two demonstration projects to show how these structures would work and to study them to see how much runoff they'll contain.

Conservation Fund. The Board voted five years ago to spend \$5 million a year to acquire sensitive environmental lands such as wetlands, rural land bordering urban areas that could serve as future parks and wildlife preserves or trails. We did just that, living at a time with willing sellers in a buyer's market, extremely low interest rates and a significant chance of state reimbursement for many of the purchases.

Foreclosure Task Force. The Board approved a proposal to renew a staff position to help homeowners avoid foreclosure and understand their options if they can't. It has been a great success and has been of great value to many homeowners.

Racial Disparities Task Force. The Board also extended funding for a parttime person to staff the Racial Disparities Implementation Team, which has been working on helping to reduce the arrests and incarceration of minorities in Dane County. Both the Governor's and Dane County's Task Forces on Racial Disparities have studied and made recommendations to help reduce the significant disparity that exists.

Economic Development. Funding was approved for staff to actively coordinate the economic development committee's efforts. Recently the county has been helping our 61 diverse communities' efforts in economic development, contrary to having each fend for its own. The county serves as a clearinghouse for the communities, only six of which have economic development coordinators. One example in which

the county can take pride is having a subsidiary of Spectrum Brands be located in DeForest instead of northern Illinois and creating 50 jobs.

Institutional Food Market program. The program helps small farmers aggregate their crops for sale to institutions and large quantity



distributors. It's been very successful with 350 growers and buyers now participating. The funding will keep the program in operation and the increased staff time will enable the creation of of a paying membership program to help the program pay for itself.

These are just some of the highlights of the county's 2011 budget. If you have any questions or would like to know more about this or any other information, you can contact me via email at Vedder.barbara@countyofdane.com or calling 249-8428.

- Barbara Vedder





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(Brogan - from page 1) and other leaders, strongly resist selling any land now dedicated as park space or future park space.

Buildings 640 and 646 E. Gorham Street, the Collins House (formerly, the Collins House Bed and Breakfast), and the Lincoln School apartments are all owned by the city. They were acquired along with the land that was purchased, over time, for the purpose of building James Madison Park.

Buildings 640 and 646 E. Gorham (the subject of this debate) were purchased in the early 1990's and scheduled for demolition. After the purchase they were granted landmark status, halting demolition. Since then the city has rented the buildings.

More recently, the mayor proposed expanding James Madison Park by moving the buildings toward Blount Street. Preservationists are opposed to moving historic buildings and have gotten their way so far.

On the table now, as a result, is a plan to sell the buildings without selling the land. The new owners would enter a 66 year renewable lease for the use of the land; in the deal, park land is not sold and historic buildings are not moved. That sounds like a good win-win plan. However, notably, no additional park space is made available for building the park. Is this the best plan? I think we're taking ourselves off the hook and taking the easy road.

Surprising to me, park space advocates have not come forward to express this concern about the plan. John Olin's

Move the Houses

impassioned advocacy and vision embraced civic life in Madison beyond his time, it was for the next generations to come that he planned.

Let's say the above mentioned plan to sell the building and lease the land is successful and we are at the end of the lease term and renewal term. That's 132 years. If the plan works, the buildings would still be in good shape and a long future would be possible. I was recently in Boston in the Paul Revere house built in 1701. It's a very simple wood structure that's still in very good shape today.

Asking when the land under the buildings in James Madison Park will become park space is a fair and reasonable way to criticize the plan presently being considered.

Park advocates need to ask if waiting 200, 300, 400 or more years, to expand James Madison Park is good enough. With the downtown population growing, in as few as 10 or 20 years this park space may be greatly needed. Park space advocates need and should come forward.

In resolving the issue, preservationist need to realize an historic building can be relocated without undue loss in stature or place in history. The Gates of Heaven Synagogue is a good example.

Some loss may occur when moving an historic building. But this can be mitigated by relocating to a site and setting that supports the building's historic significance.

A recent proposal to move the buildings to the 800 block of E. Mifflin makes a lot sense in this context. The buildings would be nearby historic Breese Stadium. New residential development planned for the area would be enhanced by the wonderful contrast of old and new, making lively the feeling of being part of a vibrant New Urbanism.

In contrast and in truth, buildings 640 and 646, where they are now, are not the fabric of an historic district or neighborhood, but look rather isolated where they are. An analogy comes to mind - they look like a thumb attached to a wrist.

I have heard argued also, the place where the buildings are now would not make good park space, anyway. With this I completely disagree. This area would make wonderful additional park space. It's much more than the land under the buildings. It's the land behind the buildings and the extremely valuable water frontage and all the land east of the buildings to Blount Street. Yes, it's on a hill - that's all the better. Can you hear the kids on sleds propelling down the hill screaming "to the lake and beyond"?

We should open up park space where we can and where it's reasonable because it's the right thing to do and necessary for a vibrant urban city in the future. At the turn of the last century our forefathers did that for us.

The land east of Blount St. can be reserved for the future. Let's open now a little park space for a growing downtown population. They will need a little extra peace and tranquility to deal with all the other problems we're leaving behind.

- Joe Brogan



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Keep the Houses in Place

(Lusson - from page 1)

the sidewalk in front. Plus, with houses, there is more incentive and inducement for passing motorists to slow down, recognizing that people live here.

The sensible compromise between parkspace, lake views and historic landmarks already exists with these houses as they are situated now. What we need next is for the city to stop allowing the houses to deteriorate, and to get some private owners in there with a mandate to maintain and restore the houses.

This is the conclusion the Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood Association council came to at its November meeting. After some debate, the council endorsed the following position:

"The TLNA does not support the City of Madison's plan to move the (2) houses in James Madison Park at 640, 646E. Gorham St. The houses should be maintained in the current location and be sold on condition that they be restored (from 2006 motion), as the TLNA values officially designated landmarks. The TLNA also encourages the city to restore current park land between the houses and lake."

This sentiment was amplified at the public hearing Dec. 9 before the city's James Madison Park surplus property committee. 100 percent of the speakers and registrants who addressed this issue wanted the homes to stay right where they are, and/or indicated that it made no economical sense to move them. Among those at the hearing who favored keeping the houses on site included Richard Linster, president of TLNA, presenting the council's position, the James Madison Park district of Capitol Neighborhoods Inc, and the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation

To many people, this is deja vu. A different city committee studied the issue in 2008. After a year of meetings and much public input, including

a well-attended public hearing, they concluded the houses should stay where they are, be sold to private owners with conditions for their restoration and the majority of proceeds going to park improvements. A similar battle was waged in the 1990s, with a similar outcome.

The mayor, unfortunately, is persisting in his fantasy of wanting the homes moved away, perhaps 100 yards to the east, turning them to face the dead end of N. Blount Street. He is not reading the writing on the wall, and refuses to let go of a bad idea.

The homes are official city landmarks, designated as such by the Common Council in 1993. They are also contributing structures to the Fourth Lake Ridge National Historic District. Those designations should mean something and afford predictability for people who move to and invest in a neighborhood. We assume that our landmark neighbors will remain. (As an example, my wife and I are restoring our 1877 home directly across Gorham and an 1856 rental property immediately to the east).

The city-owned houses share a familial and architectural history with the former Collins House Bed and Breakfast building next door (702 E. Gorham). They were all built for the Collins family, owners of the Collins Lumber Company, an influential Wisconsin firm in the early 1900s.

The architecture of both is significant. The larger house was designed by local master architects Claude and Starck, incorporating an interesting blend of Oueen Anne, Prairie and Elizabethan Revival styles. It was built in 1908 of brick, with locally-quaried sandstone trim. The smaller colonial revival house, while simpler, is thought to be that of Edward Starck, half of the Claude and Starck team, thus an important example of him working on his own. These are also significant given their proximity to other Claude and Starck prairie style gems on nearby Prospect Place and Sherman Avenue.

Selling the homes on the condition they be moved will generate considerably less revenue for the city than selling them on site. A buyer incurring the cost of moving a home could only be expected to pay a nominal sum, perhaps \$1, for the house. That's a lost opportunity to generate much-needed city funds.

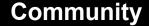
Finally, when buildings are moved, historic details are lost, including the foundation and other detailing. This, and the fact that the houses were designed with a given orientation toward the lake, should not be ignored. Moving them 100 yards to a deadend, creating a Disney-esque grouping with the former B&B building is an unnatural act that disrespects the houses, the history and the neighborhood, for very little, if any, gain.

Private owners can and should be found for these homes, which the city has not had the money to properly maintain. These new stewards would be in the position to restore and repair the homes. The city would retain ownership of the lakeshore and the land under the homes, giving the owners a long-term lease to the land.

The future and the past can thrive side-by-side. James Madison Park is the perfect place to make it happen.

- Joe Lusson

The Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood Association is now on Facebook



The "Y Combinator" - a Model for the Collins House?

The city committee considering the future of the homes in James Madison Park is beginning to discuss what purpose the structures may serve in the future, especially the Collins House located at 704 E. Gorham. In early December they heard from members of the public. Beyond a Bed and Breakfast, there were ideas like a new home for the Edenfred Arts Residency or a second location for the Aaron's House program - ideas that fit wonderfully with our neighborhood's values of encouraging the arts and providing hope and support. I spoke to the committee about a way to bring new jobs to Madison and preserve the historic Collins House.

There are lots of ways to start companies, and no "One True Way" among them. In the software world, one model that's becoming popular is the "Y Combinator" model. Basically, a venture capital firm takes a few very small companies who have the beginnings of an idea, gives them enough money for a couple of months of work, and tells them to "go for it." It's aimed at younger entrepreneurs – it's assumed that you can continue to live like an undergrad and just build a great product, and since you don't have kids or a mortgage or really any other obligations, you can take 6 months and just see where it goes. If it fails, then move on.

Y Combinator picks a couple of these companies every few months, gives them \$15,000 or so for a few months of work, and takes a small percentage ownership of the company. So far, they've funded about 150 companies – at least a few of them look like they're going to be fairly big hits (DropBox, Posterous, Scribd – any one of which could sell out or go public for more than enough to recover the costs of all 150 companies.)

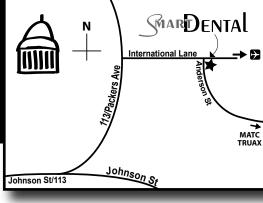
The point of a Y Combinator company is you have to be cheap for the beginning year or two of the company. Most "companies" live together as roommates at the beginning, or certainly don't work out of offices, but instead work out of the dining room or the garage. As a local example, the bulk of recently-funded PerBlue spent its first two years with most of the company all sharing a big apartment, and simply working together. In a more famous example, id Software (creators of games like Quake, Doom, and Wolfenstein 3D) got their start in Madison, but as they were mostly from the south, couldn't handle the winter and headed back to Texas.

My idea for the Collins House is let's use it as free lodging for a company or two that want to start under this









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model. Here's how it'd work.

An entity like UW Research Park buys the Collins House with a land lease wherein the buyer agrees to pay for the restoration and remodel of the property. The new owner would partner with a local venture firm to help select startups and funding, and, also, connects with "Y Combinator" or another resource and support network such as Kegonsa Capital Partners or MerlinMentors.

The startup team lives and works at the Collins House for up to a year or two. If all goes well, we've bootstrapped new companies and created good jobs.

Maybe it's tied in with something larger: Research Park's Metro Innovation Center or MG&E's Madison Enterprise Center are just a few minutes away, as is Sector67 and Network 222.

This isn't just for Madison startups, or for people we can talk into spinning out of Epic. While it'd be easiest just to recruit out of the UW-Madison, we could and should recruit nation-wide or even world-wide.* If you're fresh out of college from say the University of Nebraska and just turned 23, Madison, WI is a pretty great place to live.

If you have a vision for a great software startup, normally you'd just go to California, but free rent in an amazing house on the lake, in a jewel of a park with easy access to the downtown - well that's a heck of a way to entice someone to Madison instead. There's technically nothing special about Collins House we could do this anywhere in the city. However, if you're looking to attract the "Y Combinator Crowd", it's an advantage to pick something with character - a boring cookie-cutter house in some suburban tract development, 15 miles away from anything that stays open past 9 p.m. isn't going to do it. We could get started with Collins House as a pilot and bring more online elsewhere around the downtown in a few years. If we're serious about revitalizing East Wash, this could be part of the effort.

There is no single silver bullet for economic development, and we need every trick we can find in our toolbox. There are things in our region that only Madison can pull off, and this is one of them. And, for virtually no cost, let's give it a try.

* As an example of thinking worldwide, Madison last month (hopefully only temporarily) lost a startup to Santiago, Chile. Chile went out and recruited 25 startups to come down for 6 months with \$40,000 and free office space. For \$1 Million, if just two or three of the 25 stay and do well, that was a great investment by Chile.

- Erik Paulson



Dear Neighbor,

If elected, I will work hard on the following issues:

Public Safety: I favor community policing and policies that will address racial disparities in our justice system.

Sustainable Development: We should maintain the east-side's historic character, and the city should listen to the community and not just high-paid lobbyists.

Good Transportation: Let's make Madison Metro great. I support maintaining current bus stops in the district and I oppose any new fare increases.

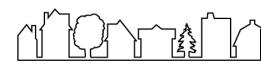
Listening: If elected, I will listen to your concerns. I want to know about problems with sidewalk repairs, snow plowing, and construction. I will work to fix these problems.

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Sam will be a breath of fresh air — actively advocating for District 2 residents and helping to move our city forward.

— County Supervisor Barbara Vedder



Favorite Books from 2010

What is usually a joyful task—picking our favorite books of the year—was a bit less joyful this year. Slim pickin's, one might say.

On top of both of our lists, of course, is <u>War and Peace</u> by Leo Tolstoy. We didn't just read this book; we experienced it with a small group of passionate, feminist women.

Jean's List

The books I've listed provided me with a new way of looking at the world.

Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope by William Kamkwamba. (non-fiction) A tenacious Malawi teenager builds a windmill from scraps and brings electricity and hope to his family and community.

Plenty: One man, one woman and a raucous year of eating locally by Alisa

Smith and J B MacKinnon. (non-fiction) A young couple living the 100 mile diet, told with humor, insight, and enjoyment.

No Impact Man: The adventures of a guilty liberal who attempts to save the planet, and discoveries he makes about himself and our way of life in the process by Colin Beaven. (non-fiction) The title says it all. You may have seen the movie; the book is better.

Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins This is the first book in the Hunger Games trilogy set in the future North America. It is a haunting, suspenseful, thought-provoking book.

The Year of the Flood by Margaret Atwood

I was looking forward to this book. It is related to Atwood's <u>Oryx and Crake</u>. I got lost in it.



Ann's List

The Awakening by Kate Chapin

This was a reread for me made more poignant because I read it with my 21-year-old daughter.

How to Read the Air by Dinaw Mengestu

This author's first novel, **The Beau**tiful Things That Heaven Bears, made my favorites list last year. Mengestu's books are not quick reads because the writing is so beautiful I frequently need to set the book in my lap and catch my breath.

Zeitoun by Dave Eggers

This is a true story that takes place during Hurricane Katrina. I believe Eggers has matured as a writer.

The Sum of Our Days by Isabel Allende

I've given up on Allende's fiction, but I believe no one surpasses her in the memoir genre.

Don't Let's Go To the Dogs Tonight: An African Childhood by Alexandra Fuller

My daughter studied abroad in South Africa last spring so I read a lot of books about Africa while she was gone. This was one of my favorites.

Calling all Faulkner readers! This winter we are reconvening our powerful reading quartet to tackle Faulkner. We will read: <u>As I Lay Dying</u>, <u>The Sound</u> <u>and the Fury</u> and <u>Light in August</u>. We'd be happy to hear your Faulkner experience. Please send comments to: <u>rulseh@aol.com</u>. Put "Faaulkner" in the subject line.

- Jean Dunn and Ann Rulseh



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414 N. Livingston	908	\$165,000	
1140 E. Dayton, #205	928	\$169,000	
625 E. Mifflin	725	\$169,900	
644 E Johnson	1434	\$174,340	
308 N Blair	1632	\$179,480	
1133 E Mifflin	1048	\$189,900	
625 E. Mifflin	756	\$199,900	
2 Sherman Terrace, #5(2 units)	1704	\$202,600	
123 N. Blount	1092	\$209,900	
109 Dayton Row	1346	\$215,000	
415 N Ingersoll	1686	\$219,900	
113 Dayton Row	1346	\$220,000	
435 N Ingersoll	1526	\$224,000	
317 N. Baldwin	1449	\$249,000	
309 N. Blount	1313	\$249,900	
1221 Sherman	1638	\$259,900	
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625 E. Mifflin	1321	\$299,900	
201 N. Blair	1515	\$360,000	
1026 Sherman	3718	\$595,000	
752 E. Gorham	5839	\$749,000	
1022-1024 Sherman	3250	\$798,000	
1662 Sherman	3234	\$939,900	
	Pending		
1225 Sherman	1821	\$274,900	
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8 Sherman Ter #5 12		\$90,000 \$72,000	
1142 Curtis Ct	32	\$125,000 \$120,000	

These statistics were compiled by the editor and Tobi Silgman of Stark Company Realtors. If you have any questions about what your home may be worth, please contact Tobi at 608-279-3591 or by email at tsilgman@StarkHomes.com.



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Alder's Report

(Alder's Report - from page 9)

Parks Department has the Adopt Ice Partnership. The program combines city resources with volunteer power to provide the community with quality outdoor hockey and ice skating. Volunteer crews help to clear snow from the ice and to assist with the upkeep of the ice. Please visit www.cityofmadison.com/ parks/winteradoptice.html and contact Steve Donniger, Community Services Manager at 608.266.6517 or sdoniger@ cityofmadison.com to learn more about the program.

Finally, neighbors are organizing a

day of winter events at Tenney Park on Saturday, January 15 as a fundraiser for the new park shelter that will be breaking ground this spring. Check out tenneyshelter.org for more event details.

So don't hibernate! Get outside, enjoy our neighborhood, help your friends, neighbors and strangers in need this winter season and please let me know if I can be of assistance to you.

- Bridget Maniaci District 2 Alder district2@cityofmadison.com



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