

# F FORWARD!

## REBUILDING POLITICS IN DANE COUNTY FROM THE GRASSROOTS

### Welcome, Dace...

GROWING UP IN THE VILAS NEIGHBORHOOD, Dace Zeps moved to Madison at the age of four with her parents. She and her life partner Tim live in the



Worthington Park neighborhood with her daughter's son, William. During the day she works on the UW-Madison campus as Office Manager at UW System Administration's Academic & Student

Services. Aside from taking great pleasure in providing service leadership support to PD, in her spare time she is Vice President of the Worthington Park Neighborhood Association, co-chairs the UW System Partners in Giving Campaign, a working member of the Wisconsin Women Equals Prosperity Madison Economic Self-Sufficiency Group, and is studying for her bachelor's degree in Organizational Management.

### ...also Andrew!

ANDREW KELL IS PD'S NEW OUTREACH/Volunteer Coordinator. A native of Sobieski (near Green Bay), he's a graduate of UW-Oshkosh. A year ago he finished his service in Peace Corps Kazakhstan as an English teacher. More recently, he participated in a USAID volunteer program in



Russia working with a non-profit in Siberia. He chose to live and work in Madison after a summer canvassing for WISPIRG. He lives in the International Co-op, which is part of Madison Community Co-operative, has a little brother through the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program, and volunteers at Oakhill Correctional Institute in Fitchburg.

Andrew looks forward to meeting you soon to discuss ways of making Progressive Dane more active in our community. Please feel free to contact him at [organizer@prodane.org](mailto:organizer@prodane.org), or leave a message at (608) 257-4587.

### Nominations for Steering Committee

FALL BRINGS COOL MORNINGS, THE WILLY STREET FAIR, AND PROGRESSIVE DANE Steering Committee (SC) elections. The next election will be held as part of the October General Membership Meeting, Wednesday, October 24. Nominations for the 2007-2008 SC will be taken at the September and October GMMs.

Progressive Dane is a member driven organization; this means that volunteers do much of the work. The 10-member SC is responsible for the day-to-day coordination of the organization. Members commit to attending at least two meetings, two hours each, per month (the SC meeting and the GMM). In addition, the SC deals with setting out the vision and long term goals of the organization, hiring of the staff, and strategic planning.

Currently the SC is taking on the very important job of reviewing PD's mission, the logo, and how to celebrate PD's 15th anniversary. Some skills, talents, and interests that the SC need include fundraising, community organizing, volunteer coordination, special events/outreach, interest in local politics, and policy development.

But really the most important quality is commitment to taking PD into the next 15 years. People interested in volunteering themselves or nominating an individual can contact Dace at [office@prodane.org](mailto:office@prodane.org), or call (608) 257-4985 and leave a message.

### Progressive Dane Learning Series

DON'T FORGET TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND ATTEND THIS INFORMATIVE series on the public process. These are open to the general public and RSVPs appreciated at [office@prodane.org](mailto:office@prodane.org) or 608-257-4985 (leave message, including name and phone number).

**City Council 101:** Monday, September 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Hawthorne Library, 2707 East Washington Ave.

**County Board 101:** Thursday, September 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Lakeview Library, 2845 North Sherman Ave.

**Budget 101:** Wednesday, October 17 at the Pinney Library, 204 Cottage Grove Rd.—City from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., County from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

### Extra Credit to Progressive Dane

*From the Wisconsin State Journal opinion page; Wednesday, September 5, 2007*

PROGRESSIVE DANE IS GRATEFUL TO THE STATE JOURNAL FOR THE TOP billing regarding the Madison City Council impeachment resolution (editorial page editor Scott Milfred's Sunday, Sept. 2, column, "PD distraction isn't worth a vote"). Although we have not endorsed such a resolution, we are proud to say that we have endorsed many of the elected officials who support impeachment.

However, we must share any credit with our fellow travelers of the "hard left," the Wisconsin Democratic Party and its Dane County chapter, the Wisconsin Greens, U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, and most likely the majority of Dane County citizens.

According to their web sites, the Greens, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin and the Dane County Democrats have endorsed impeachment and Rep. Baldwin has signed on to House Resolution 333 for the impeachment of Vice President Cheney.

Once again, the *Journal's* irrational exuberance for Progressive Dane has given us more credit than we deserve. But we thought we'd thank you before we get on with the work of making Dane County a better place for all of us.

— Mary Anglim and Lukas Diaz, Madison, co-chairs, Progressive Dane

*Forward!* is the local chapter newsletter of the New Progressive Party in Dane County, Wisconsin.

Progressive Dane is affiliated with the Independent Progressive Politics Network. *Progressive Dane* is a democratic, membership-run organization. The following committees and task forces meet at the Social Justice Center, 1202 Williamson, unless otherwise noted.

**Steering Committee:** coordinates major activities, oversees the progress of other committees, and sets the agenda for the general membership meetings. Meetings are open to all PD members.

*Co-chair:* Lukas Diaz, (262) 443-3136

*Co-chair:* Mary Anglim, 249-0031

*Next meeting:* Wednesday, October 10, 7 p.m.

#### **Economic Issues Task Force**

*Contact:* Rick Richards, 255-5023;

syzygy1@charter.net

*Next meeting:* Tuesday, September 25, 6:30 p.m.

#### **Education Committee**

*Contact:* T.J. Mertz, tjmertzt@sbcglobal.net

#### **Elections Committee**

*Chair:* Michael Jacob, 245-0894

*Next meeting:* Thursday, October 18, 6:30 p.m.

#### **Housing Task Force**

*Contact:* Jacque Pokorney, 843-9616

*Next meeting:* Sunday, October 14, 6 p.m.

#### **Newsletter Consortium**

*Contact:* Jim Kellerman, 354-7385

#### **Outreach and Fundraising Committee**

*Contact:* Dace Zeps, 257-4985

*Next meeting:* Monday, September 24, 5:30 p.m.

#### **Policy Committee**

*Chair:* Amy Westra, 212-7716

*Next meeting:* Sunday, October 14, 7 p.m.

#### **Transportation Task Force**

*Contact:* Mike Barrett,

mikeb@urbanthoreau.com

*Next meeting:* Thursday, October 11, 6 p.m.,

Escape Java, 916 Williamson

#### **PRODUCTION AND CIRCULATION CONSORTIUM:**

Lynn Alten, Mary Anglim, Jamie Annear, Chris Babiarz, Erik Breilid, Lukas Diaz, John Dupuis, Sheila Guilfoyle, Jim Kellerman, Tom Kozlovsky, Norm Littlejohn, Jacque Pokorney, Richard Russell, Ralph Shively

#### **THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS:** Mary Anglim,

Lukas Diaz, Michael Jacob, Dace Zeps

Submit articles, meeting times and announcements for the October newsletter to Dace Zeps, 257-4985, or office@prodane.org by noon, Tuesday, October 9.

Send all correspondence to:

Progressive Dane

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Visit Progressive Dane on the web at

www.prodane.org



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(608) 257-4985  
office@prodane.org

## Last Month at the General Membership Meeting

By Mary Anglim

IN AUGUST THE MEMBERSHIP HEARD about the draft Dane County Comprehensive Plan, adopted a new mission statement, endorsed two county ordinance changes spearheaded by Supervisor Ashok Kumar, and approved new spending for graphic artist services.

Supervisor Chuck Erickson, co-chair of the county's Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, walked us through a summary of the draft plan. It includes very detailed ideas to guide the county in planning for future growth, managing water resources, and keeping established business, including agriculture.

Once adopted, the plan will have legal force starting in 2010. A public hearing on the plan will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, September 25, in Room 201 of the City-County Building. You can read the plan or view the summary at [www.daneplan.org](http://www.daneplan.org).

The old and new mission statements were published in the July newsletter. The new mission statement is at our website, [www.prodane.org](http://www.prodane.org), under "Constitution and Bylaws."

PD members endorsed two up-coming county ordinance changes.

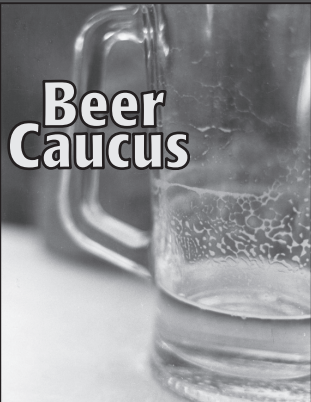
The Equal Benefits Ordinance, now under development, would prevent the county from contracting with private businesses that do not provide the same benefits to employees in domestic partnerships as those offered to married employees.

Ordinance Amendment 12, up for approval at the County Board meeting of

## Teen-Aged PD Logo Needs a Makeover—Please Help!

QUICK—HOW DO YOU LIKE THE PROGRESSIVE DANE LOGO? CAN'T QUITE remember it? It's nice, at least I think so, but some of us are tired of the barn, the silo, and the odd depiction of the State Capital. And many of us agree that we need to spruce up our look, including logo, web page, and newsletter. In honor of our up-coming fifteenth birthday, we've decided to ask a professional to help us develop a unified and technologically up-to-date set of graphics.

We're excited about this prospect, and expect that our new look will help in planned outreach efforts this winter and spring. But to avoid depleting our bank account, we're asking for contributions to this special project. Two thousand dollars would cover all the costs, and a minimum of \$800 is needed. If you'd like to help, please send a check to P.O. Box 1222, Madison 53701, or contribute online at [www.prodane.org](http://www.prodane.org).



**Beer  
Caucus**

**BROCACH PUB  
7 WEST MAIN  
ON THE SQUARE**

**FRIDAY, 5:30  
OCTOBER 5**

September 20, would ban "jail profiteering." It would prevent the county from entering into contracts for telephone and other jail inmate services with the intent of generating income. The county would be required to accept the lowest bid consistent with public safety.

Spending up to \$1,500 for graphic artist services and up to \$400 for marketing services, was approved after a lengthy discussion. The steering committee committed to doing special fundraising of at least \$800 toward the expense.

Alder Brenda Konkel briefly described legislative developments in affordable housing. Watch for this issue to heat up in the City's budget discussions coming soon.

# More Police: How Do We Pay for Them?

*Michael Jacob presented a letter to the City of Madison Board of Estimates meeting of September 10. These are excerpts. See prodane.org for the full text.*

DEAR MAYOR CIESLEWICZ, CHIEF WRAY AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL:

In light of the increased discussions about public safety and the recent request by Chief Wray, supported by Mayor Cieslewicz, for 30 additional officers in the forthcoming budget, we feel it important to broaden the discussion to additional “core services” provided by the City to its residents and begin to get realistic about what it would take to provide funding for these officers through cuts to other departments.

We appreciate that several alders have asked for advice from the public on where to find cuts and appreciate the Mayor’s sentiment that the public will be open to cuts in order to provide this unprecedented increase at the Police Department. But we wonder if the cuts can, or should, be made without doing serious damage to the mission of Madison’s governmental services and the quality of life we have come to enjoy and expect once the scope and depth of the cuts required become clear.

To further this conversation we’ve reviewed the 2008 agency operating budget requests and note below some possible areas to find \$2.3 million. To be clear we are not suggesting the funds be found in these areas, simply articulating the draconian effect seeking such a large amount of money from within an already strained city budget could have.

We urge you to be clear and forthcoming with your constituents about the potential effect of making such cuts and, to the extent there is indeed clear public support for such a large increase in police staffing, that you ask your constituents not only about cuts they’d accept, but also willingness to accept an increase in property taxes or shifting of other revenue in order to satisfy the community’s priorities.

## TOUGH CHOICES

Should the entire \$2.3M come from one area, what core services are you willing to abandon or severely curtail?

Reduce by half the amount of Snow & Ice Removal (Streets, \$4.5M in 2007)?

Reduce by 18% the Solid Waste Divi-

sion (Streets, \$12.8M in 2007), perhaps by eliminating garbage pick-up once every 4–6 weeks?

Eliminate the Streets, Highways & Path Systems (\$1.8M in 2007), plus Sidewalks (\$.35M) programs (Engineering)?

## BEHIND THE SCENES

What else, that people might not think of as the front line of Madison’s services, are you willing to cut?

Eliminate the Planning Division (\$2.3M)?

Nix the Inspection (\$1.9M in 2007) and Health & Welfare (\$.45M in 2007) divisions of Neighborhood Preservation and Inspection? Reduce by three-quarters the Forestry Division (\$2.98M in 2007) (Parks)?

Eliminate city funding for Olbrich Botanical Gardens (\$.96M in 2007),

Forest Hill Cemetery (\$.87 in 2007) and either the Winter Activities (\$.5M in 2007) or Boating/Beaches/Concessions (.4M in 2007) sections (Parks)?

There are, of course, a number of other departments and programs you could consider. What combination of the following are you willing to eliminate or severely cut to expand the Police Department?

Comptroller — \$2.5M

City Attorney — \$2.38M

Dept. of Civil Rights — \$1.39M

We respect the tough position you are in. Such a position requires moving beyond platitudes and generalities and into a real discussion about exactly how tough the choices before us are. We look forward to you all taking that next step with the community.

*Sincerely, Michael Jacob on behalf of the Policy Committee of Progressive Dane*

## Nuisance Ordinance Presents Challenges

*By Dace Zeps*

DURING THE EVENING OF TUESDAY, September 18, just after the volunteers finished putting the labels on these newsletters, Madison’s Common Council will have considered the third substitute version of the Chronic Nuisance Premises Ordinance.

To summarize the ordinance as it is currently written, property owners are responsible for conditions or activities that render the premise a nuisance. A property is a chronic nuisance if there are three or more police calls to the premises within 90 days for a nuisance activity that results in an arrest, a citation, or referral of charges to the city attorney or district attorney for prosecution. Five or more building inspection enforcement actions within one year also label the property as a nuisance.

Owners of nuisance properties are required to take steps to abate the nuisance without violating the Fair Housing Laws or any other laws governing residential tenancy. If the property owner does not satisfactorily abate the nuisance, the City will charge the owners with the costs associated with abating the nuisance.

The ordinance lists 28 nuisance activities that can trigger actions against the landlord. In addition to serious offenses such as crimes of violence, arson, theft,

prostitution, and drug dealing, nuisance activities include possibly less clear-cut offenses such as noise, obstructing a street or sidewalk, loitering, depositing rubbish in violation of city rules, damage to property, and trespass.

Even though the ordinance protects tenants against retaliation by the landlord for reporting problems, it is possible tenants may hesitate to call police or the building inspector if chronic nuisance enforcement may result. Worse, the ordinance may lead landlords to evict or turn away tenants who are, or appear to be, likely to attract police attention, including victims of domestic violence. (full text available at <http://legistar.cityofmadison.com/DetailReport/Reports/Temp/915200716160.pdf>).

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) has been waiting for this third substitution, distributed September 12, to make its recommendations to the Common Council. The EOC was asked not to act on the previous iteration pending this revision. We hope the outcome of the consideration of this third substitution will allow the EOC an opportunity to ensure the ordinance is congruent with current ordinances and other equity concerns. It should also protect tenants from unjustified retaliation or eviction.

