

## **Weed & Seed Update**

### **June, 2009**

- Funding for the Weed and Seed program will end September 30, 2009 through a “no-cost” extension and with the use of some City of Madison funds.
- The Neighborhood Services Coordinator is working with the Allied Stakeholders in updating the Allied Service Directory.

The June Stakeholder meeting included a discussion of the Allied Wellness Center’s future planning process. The proposal thus far by the Steering Committee looking at the issue is to create a co-op of services in the Allied Drive neighborhood. The proposal is in its very early stages and OCS staff will be meeting with representatives of the Steering Committee to discuss their ideas.

Other topics of interest at the June Stakeholder meeting included an update from one of the Neighborhood Police Officers about the recent shots fired in the neighborhood and upcoming safety walks; the success annual festival put on the by Allied Drive Neighborhood Association the past weekend; and issues and concerns being raised by residents about the move to the new housing development or out of the neighborhood from the City owned property of Birch Hill Square.

- The Association, Alder and Neighborhood Services Coordinator have determined that there is insufficient interest at this time on the part of Allied Drive residents for a grocery store shuttle. Service providers speculate that residents are getting rides from friends and family and more are using Walgreen’s as their source of food. There is no significant development on the Cubs site to report at this time. The Neighborhood Services Coordinator will be working with the Alder to get information out to the neighborhood about bus routes to other grocery stores.
- With the anticipated end of the Weed and Seed Program in the fall of 2009 along with a desire to continue a close working relationship with Police the Neighborhood Services Coordinator is now participating in quarterly Operations Team meetings of the Police Dept. These meetings are attended by the Chief, Assistant Chief and all Captians. The first issue that is being discussed between the two departments is that of Youth Courts. Both departments fund Youth Courts and OCS staff are working to get collaboration, consistency and coordination with Police on this emerging service area. No progress has been made on this issue as of yet. A reminder of the need to discuss the future of Youth Courts has been sent to the Police Dept.
- OCS is working with the Police Department on funding Youth Courts and Domestic Violence programming through their Stimulus funding.
- The Neighborhood Services Coordinator will be scheduling a meeting of the Steering Committee in the next few weeks. A portion of that meeting will be to discuss how to sustain successful Weed and Seed initiatives after the grant expires. This may impact City budget requests on the future.