

From: [Sara Allee-Jatta](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: SAY NO -Vote on demolishing Dairy Drive
Date: Friday, August 29, 2025 1:49:04 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from sara.aj@kabbainc.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

My name is Sara Allee-Jatta and I am the director and founder of Kabba Incorporated, formerly Kabba Recovery Services. Together with Madison Street Medicine, we developed and provided the services on site since its inception in 2021. Many of my staff have been there with me since the first day.

Over the past 4 years, we have been able to connect with individuals that historically no-other team or program was able to. We have housed so many of that same population and many are still maintaining that housing. We have gotten people into treatment, re-connected to families, resolved outstanding legal issues, and have overall improved the lives of those who participated in this program. Additionally, this program has benefited the community in many ways as we have worked alongside MPD, CARES, Crisis, and our neighbors to adjust and improve throughout the program.

Please say no to demolishing Dairy Drive. Please keep us going at LEAST until the new men's shelter opens in the spring of 2026. We will be pushing people back outside just when the seasons are changing and we are transitioning into fall and winter months. People will unfortunately die without the support and resources that we provide on a daily basis.

I am available to answer any questions or if you need any other information.

Sincerely,

Sara Allee-Jatta, CSAC, ICS, SAP

Clinic Director

License number: 16292-132



Kabba Incorporated

2001 W Broadway, Ste 2

Monona, WI 53713

sara.aj@kabbainc.com

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Cell: 608-291-5024

Fax: 608 716-8526

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From: [Pamela Alsum](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#); [Mayer, Davy](#)
Subject: homelessness in our city/county
Date: Friday, August 29, 2025 11:03:23 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from pbalsum@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello, I'm writing to ask how the City of Madison and Dane County are planning to address the growing population of residents who cannot afford housing basically anywhere. I realize this is a plight and challenge across our country, and believe that Madison and Dane County can take a lead in making a priority of the issue of housing every resident safely and comfortably. Our leaders could commission and enact model programs which other communities could adopt. The plan needs to be comprehensive in the sense it encompasses present plight and future easing of the root causes, which is a huge issue and deserves full hearted attention. Plan for a society welcoming to all.

Specifically I hereby state my opposition to the closure and demolition of the Dairy Drive campground, echoing the data provided by words from Progressive Dane: the Dairy Drive campground is "a program serving unsheltered people experiencing homelessness with the highest vulnerabilities, 70% of whom were experiencing chronic homelessness when they entered the program. The need for programs to serve people experiencing unsheltered homelessness is significant and likely growing due to the end of other COVID relief housing assistance programs, the loss of dozens of housing units available to the people experiencing homelessness, and reduced shelter capacity in the new men's shelter which will only accommodate 250 people (the current shelter served as many as 400 per night last winter). Both HUD, funding the Dairy Drive program annually with \$200,000, and Dane County, funding at \$226,000 in 2024 and \$174,500 in 2025, have recognized the value of this program. Since opening mid-November of 2021, the campground has served 97 single adults experiencing unsheltered homelessness and 77.94% have left to positive destinations, far exceeding goals of 60% for outreach programs."

These costs appear to be reasonable to save a very important program.

Sincerely,
Pamela Alsum MD
resident of District 6, Madison

From: [Nick Berigan](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Dairy Drive
Date: Friday, August 29, 2025 5:24:31 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from nberigan@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Alders, I recommend that you vote to maintain the Dairy Drive tiny house encampment for another year. We don't have any other big solutions for homelessness on the horizon right now so what's the rush. You can always revisit this next year. Hold for now.

Nick Berigan
Marconi St.

--

nb
[channel](#)

From: [Gail Bliss](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Dairy Drive Campground
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2025 10:39:31 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from gail3511@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Please support the extension of the Madison Street Medicine contract to operate the Dairy Drive campground through the winter. The County Health and Human Needs committee unanimously opposed the demolition, moving to communicate their opposition to ending Madison Street Medicine's (MSM) program to serve people experiencing unsheltered people and; to support extending the City's contract with MSM to continue the program at least through April 30, 2026.

Demolishing these units, which we paid \$1.5M to build just 4 years ago, when there are so many people in need of a place to stay seems a shame. It is my understanding that non-city funding is available to operate the campground through the winter.

The people placed at Dairy Drive were mostly chronically unsheltered folks with very high vulnerabilities. Since opening mid-November of 2021, the campground has served 97 single adults experiencing unsheltered homelessness and over three quarters have left to positive destinations, far exceeding goals of 60% for outreach programs. This is a challenging population, and the results have exceeded predictions.

The need for programs to serve people experiencing unsheltered homelessness is significant and likely growing due to the end of other COVID relief housing assistance programs, the loss of dozens of housing units available to the people experiencing homelessness, and reduced shelter capacity in the new men's shelter which will only accommodate 250 people (the current shelter served as many as 400 per night last winter).

The Dairy Drive Campground initiative demonstrates that successful solutions to homelessness include providing legal and safe places for unhoused people to live and connect with service providers to secure permanent housing. At a time when other jurisdictions are turning to law enforcement and criminalization of homelessness, Madison should continue to facilitate the operation of this campground which is now an important part of the homeless services continuum.

Sincerely
Gail Bliss
5309 Regent St
Madison 53705

From: [Rick Bogle](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Dairy Drive Campground
Date: Monday, September 1, 2025 12:32:46 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from rick.bogle@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Let's be humane. Please don't demolish the Dairy Drive Campground; let's use however much it would have cost to demolish it, to improve it.

There isn't a rug large enough to sweep all the homeless and struggling people under.
Kindness is always the best option.

Rick Bogle
5133 Maher Ave
Madison

From: [Aileen brown](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Do not destroy homeless housing
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2025 2:50:23 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from aileenbrown91@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Please use the \$200k to continue to fund the tiny house encampment. No to tearing it down

Please and thank you
Aileen Brown
East side Madison citizen

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jennifer Bull](#)
To: [Mayor](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Homeless
Date: Saturday, August 30, 2025 9:00:45 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jenniferwellsbull@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Give them shelter because they are people. Feed them because they are people. Heal them because they are people. Jennifer Bull taxpayer city of Madison 5207 Aspen Way Madison WI 53718

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Maxwell Butler](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Against Demolition of Dairy Drive Encampment
Date: Friday, August 29, 2025 3:22:03 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from maxwell.butler@fammed.wisc.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good afternoon,

I am emailing to express my opposition to the demolition of the Dairy Drive encampment. This encampment has been instrumental to help provide housing for people who struggle with housing instability. As an addiction medicine physician, I have witnessed firsthand the importance of housing in people's lives, as well as the devastating impacts of homelessness. I urge you to reconsider the demolition and defunding of this project.

Thank you for your consideration.

I am a resident of Madison and live at 310 S Livingston St Apt 215, Madison, WI 53703

Sincerely,

Maxwell Butler, MD
Addiction Medicine Fellow 2025-2026
Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

From: [Cathy Cornell](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Save Dairy Drive Campground
Date: Monday, September 1, 2025 2:40:50 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from cathy@cathycornell.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear city of Madison Alders and Mayor,

Please don't demolish Dairy Drive Campground until we have a better plan to respond to the increasing homelessness in our community. We need every space we have for people to shelter in safety.

Thank you,
Cathy Cornell

--

Cathy Cornell
711 S. Few Street, 1E
Madison, WI 53703
(646) 648-0731
cathy@cathycornell.com

From: CATHERINE COUTURE
To: All Alders; Mayor
Subject: Housing decision?
Date: Monday, September 1, 2025 10:31:44 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from mcsee@aol.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Please do not spend \$220,000 to demolish the campground that the city spent \$1.2M setting up.

Instead, consider a funding limit of only \$200,000 per year for the campground. Given the massive push for increasing housing in the city, how is this step into housing for the homeless not valued?

My cynical nature suggests that no one is making money on the project, so it must go. Probably to be replaced by yet another cookie cutter high density residential project without adequate services in place. Please prove me wrong.

Cathy Couture
608-445-8668

Fear cannot coexist with gratitude, humor, or curiosity.

From: [Lester Dore](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Do not destroy the campground near the Expo Center
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2025 1:20:50 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from lhdore@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Alders,

Let your choices be guided by compassion for those who are less fortunate than you

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/17Bv1zBy5y/?mibextid=wwXIfr>

Lester Doré

Gate gate pāragate pārasaṃgate bodhi svāhā...

From: [Bob Entwistle](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Dairy Drive Camp
Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 9:10:15 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from baentwistle77@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi everyone,

There is currently talk of keeping Dairy Drive open with a figure of \$200K per year. I believe the current cost is closer to \$60-70K per MONTH.

If the latter cost is correct, I urge you to close it now. Also would be good to publish how many people are currently there and what other options are for them given the new larger facility is not yet ready.

Bob Entwistle
2709 Center Ave.
District 15

From: [Marilyn Feil](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Keep Dairy Drive campground open
Date: Monday, September 1, 2025 11:11:25 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mfeil@sbcglobal.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello Madison Alders and Mayor:

I strongly oppose the closure and demolition of the Dairy Drive campground. This program serves people in our community experiencing homelessness who have the highest vulnerabilities -- 70% of its residents were experiencing chronic homelessness when they moved in.

The need for programs to serve people experiencing unsheltered homelessness is great and is likely growing due to the loss of dozens of housing units available to people experiencing homelessness (a decrease in Porchlight rental units, Tellurian closing some of its housing, etc.) and reduced shelter capacity in the new men's shelter which will only accommodate 250 people (the current shelter served as many as 400 people per night last winter).

The Dairy Drive Campground initiative demonstrates that successful solutions to homelessness include providing legal and safe places for unhoused people to live and connect with service providers to secure permanent housing. At a time when other jurisdictions are turning to law enforcement and criminalization of homelessness, Madison should continue to facilitate the operation of this campground which is now an important part of the homeless services continuum. Since opening mid-November of 2021, the campground has served 97 single adults experiencing unsheltered homelessness and 77.94% have left to positive destinations, far exceeding goals of 60% for outreach programs.

Please keep this important resource for the homeless individuals in our community. Local resources like this should be preserved.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Feil
3634 Alpine Road
Madison, WI 53704

From: [John Fons](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Resilience on a Pig
Date: Monday, September 1, 2025 7:51:55 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I worked for over two years in a mission for homeless men in downtown Dallas.

That would be Dallas, Texas.

I drove over 50,000 miles in and around the Metroplex during that time transporting homeless men to temporary jobs and picking up donations left on the curb. Now in Madison I am being invited to attend a public meet-and-greet with an artist “who will be designing the public art for the new purpose-built men’s shelter on Bartillion Drive.”

Let me tell you something.

But first, let me quote the invitation: “...public art in the design of the Bartillion Shelter has the potential to create a bridge between the neighborhood and the shelter guests. The artist has the opportunity to make something beautiful for the exterior of the building that could raise public awareness and empathy, while providing the temporary residents an empowering symbol of resilience.”

Now let me tell you something.

The reality of a homeless shelter by any other name is what we called it in Dallas.

Fort Apache.

The reality is black plastic bags, destitute individuals willing to eat out of dumpsters, sell anything they can steal, steal anything they can get their hands on and in the words of one man would be willing, “To kill my mother for a fix.”

What a cruel way to talk about guests. What a heartless, mean spirited way to talk about public awareness and empathy.

But wait.

There’s more.

Hookers, pushers, dealers, predators lurking just out of sight ready to pounce the moment the homeless man or woman takes to the street with what little they’ve been able to scrape together. A recidivism rate of over 99% which places the well intentioned and desperate homeless man or woman right back in the hell they came from in a matter of minutes.

While Madison talks about “an empowering symbol of resilience.”

Don’t waste your breath or your money. It is beautifully apparent no one in City Hall knows what they are talking about unless they have been to places like Fort Apache, unless they have stared long and hard into the face of reality and unless they meet-and-greet the truth instead of pleasuring one another over refreshments.

John Fons

4634 Tokay Blvd.
Madison, WI 53711
661-917-0850 cell

From: [Elizabeth Gendvilas](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Keep and maintain the Dairy Drive Homeless Complex
Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 8:09:27 AM

You don't often get email from ejgendvi3@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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If you don't know what it takes to organize funding for low income housing--not middle class/workforce/ Sec 42 mixed use housing-- that's what you have been approving the past 8 years or so. I'm talking sec 8 project housing or shelters.

It's hard. No one wants to bear the risk, so it's a patchwork of HUD money via WHEDA, private investors and non-profits, which may even be fronts for for-profit investors, like Cardinal Properties and Meridian--all together, all sharing the risk.

As a body, you've already invested millions of tax dollars in a shelter community for the homeless. It makes no sense to make them homeless again, and immediately start the complicated process of creating the funding agreement, and the 2 dozen steps before it's even built. For much less you can keep this small community going, while going through all the effort and time it takes starting up the next the project, which will take years and millions of dollars.

None of you want to have the poor and unhoused near the Capitol square or on State Street, right? Their presence makes people with dollars to spend uncomfortable, and the men are intimidating, no? That's how they are treated.

If you add 29 more men to the homeless population without guaranteed beds and rooms, they will hang out by the overflowing shelters downtown, hoping that the lottery for a bed will give shelter that night. And they have to be there or they lose their chance. That's their best bet. Can you blame them?

Dairy Drive: It's cost effective. It's a realistic choice, because people can't live in future plans. They need housing now, and the shelters are desperate for relief. Lotteries do not create security for a better life. It's maddening. Dairy drive isn't perfect but it gives the homeless some dignity and privacy.

Until recently, I volunteered at Dry Hooch and made breakfast for homeless vets before they went to work. I listened and I saw their needs. Being dumped onto the streets while holding down a job will set them back. They will lose their jobs because they can't sleep. They will break their sobriety, because the stress of being homeless is overwhelming. They may not get their meds every day, because there is no routine or safe place to keep them.

Then, at their lowest, they are downtown near the shelters. Just hoping their number comes up.

Do the right thing. Do the sensible thing with our tax dollars. Keep Dairy Drive residents in place until you have better housing ready.

Elizabeth Gendvilas

From: [Lucy Gibson](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: PLEASE don't demolish the Dairy Drive homes!
Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 8:06:17 AM

You don't often get email from lucyfriendslove@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I have been very disappointed that homelessness continues, and continues to grow, here in Dane County.

At the same time we're making big plans for a \$323 million makeover of the Madison lake front, we still have thousands of people homeless in Madison and Dane County. Our city spends money on things that are wonderful for the middle and upper classes, yet we leave the homeless - homeless. It's just wrong.

We need to put as much determination and planning, and money, into ENDING homelessness here as we put into so much other beautification. How lovely would it be to have a city with NO homelessness? With ALL of our children experiencing having a home?

This has been done in Huston, a poor but large American city in a red state. Why can't we do it here? This has been done in Finland, where the program they use has created true security for the whole country.

What the heck does "homeland security" mean if not the health and safety of all citizens?

I'm so tired of so much money going into planning for the wonderful, beautiful things those who already have security want. WE could truly make our city and county beautiful, and secure, by making sure everyone is securely housed.

The destruction of a small community that provides homes and security and safety for a few of our homeless population is a step in the wrong direction, and, as far as I can see, is kind of crazy.

PLEASE don't do it! Do something far more constructive and start making serious plans to build homes for everyone who needs them, and provide the services that will bring security to all the homeless, regardless of what's making them homeless.

Consider a large drive to raise money from all the millionaires in this area. There are many, many of them. You can do it. The belief that homelessness is magically unstoppable is crazy. Others have stopped it. You need to be scientific: look at the statistics; see how much it would cost, using examples of others who have done it, and information about costs here; then act. The fear of acting is a fear that our culture teaches us by telling us that some percentage of people are un-recoverable. That's superstitious, and leads to inaction. You/we can do it! (And PLEASE don't spend several million dollars on a study to see how to do it. There are plenty of examples, and you have people in City and County government who should be able to figure it out, along with people in our community who would help for little or nothing to figure it out.)

Lucy Gibson
1610 Angel Crest Way
Madison WI 53716

From: [Laura Good](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Please keep Dairy Drive campground open
Date: Monday, September 1, 2025 8:34:10 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lwardgood@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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As far as I can tell, the spaces available for unhoused individuals in the Madison area continue to decrease and there are not very many options available. Does it make sense to close the campground at this time? I understand it is more than meeting its goals for residents leaving for positive destinations.

Sincerely,
Laura Good

From: [PranaMaker by Natalia Marie](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Save the Dairy Drive Campground
Date: Saturday, August 30, 2025 12:58:42 PM

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Let's make a difference! Let's be here for humans and humanity! Let's be neighborly! Homelessness is a failure of society to CARE, NOT a failure of individual actions!! "There but for the grace of God go I..."

May we be a beautiful people that allows for many ways of being, not just capitalist conformity! Capitalism is not a requirement in our constitution! Landlord-based terrorism should not be treated as a "sensible response" to folks experiencing housing crisis. We don't have to destroy in order to build a beautiful future. There is room for everyone in the world, but is there room IN YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS?? Save AND EXPAND Dairy Drive, and expand Occupy Inc. THANK YOU!!

Sincerely,
Natalia Marie Hacerola

From: [Andy Heidt](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Dairy Drive
Date: Saturday, August 30, 2025 10:21:22 AM

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Hi Folks,

Please find a way to continue funding this effort to support very difficult to house folks.

Andy Heidt

From: [jere hilton](#)
To: [Mayor](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Dairy Drive Campground
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2025 11:35:12 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jerehilton@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Elected Officials of Madison, Wi

I am asking you to vote to keep the Dairy Drive Campground active and functional. The campground is needed for part of the homeless solution in Madison. Do not demolish this Campground, please.

Sincerely,
Jere S Hilton
1425 Wheeler Ct.
Madison, Wi 53704

From: jhirsch@chorus.net
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: #45 89274 Dairy Drive
Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 11:36:53 AM

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Alders:

#45 - 89274 Dairy Drive Temporary Campground Demo & Restoration

I agree with your decision to discontinue funding the Dairy Drive Campground. As the City continues to provide resources for the homeless population, there are many opportunities that provide good results at a lower cost.

I ask that you review the details of the Demolition and Restoration plan. Does everything need to be removed and all areas restored?

What are future uses of the area? Is it necessary to remove all of the infrastructure - electrical/plumbing/MG&E? Can some of the equipment/materials/shelters be sold to recoup some of the earlier expenses? Should some of the stormwater management areas be retained? How about the perimeter fence? If it all has to come down, will it gain some money from the metal recyclers?

Thank you for what I believe will be a lively discussion at tonight's meeting.

Janet Hirsch
Madison Resident

From: [Barbie Jackson](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Cc: [Barbie Jackson](#)
Subject: 9/2 Common Council, Agenda Item : I oppose Demolition of Dairy Drive Shelter
Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 1:54:39 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from barbie.g.jackson@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mayor Rhodes-Conway and Alders:

This is my personal statement regarding the September 2, 2025 Common Council [Agenda](#), Item 45: , ref: [File # 89274](#). Although an active member of [MOSES](#), my statements are my own and do not represent the organization.

I oppose Demolition of the Dairy Drive Shelter.

It is my understanding from recent news articles and other communications that the City Council will vote Tuesday night on a resolution to demolish the Dairy Drive shelter and that THERE IS NO PLAN currently to house the approximately 22 people currently living there. I write in opposition to the closure and demolition of the Dairy Drive campground, a program serving unsheltered people experiencing homelessness with the highest vulnerabilities, 70% of whom were experiencing chronic homelessness when they entered the program.

At a time when our federal government is ruthlessly demolishing homelessness encampments in our nations Capitol under false pretenses of reducing crime, and when they are threatening to do the same, illegally, in major cities throughout our nation, it is shameful that the City of Madison would consider similar displacement of some of our most vulnerable neighbors.

The Dairy Drive Campground initiative demonstrates that successful solutions to homelessness include providing legal and safe places for unhoused people to live and connect with service providers to secure permanent housing. At a time when other jurisdictions are turning to law enforcement and criminalization of homelessness, Madison should continue to facilitate the operation of this campground which is now an important part of the homeless services continuum at least through April 2026.

I urge the Common Council to reject any resolution to demolish the Dairy Drive shelter.

Sincerely,
Barbie Jackson, MOSES Vice President and 58 Year Resident of Madison
6441 Dylyn Drive
Madison, WI 53719
barbie.g.jackson@gmail.com
608-234-8118

From: [sherry jackson-reeder](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Dairy drive demo
Date: Monday, September 1, 2025 5:43:22 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from sherry.jacksonreeder@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

As a voting constituent in Madison WI 53711 I request that the city NOT spend funds to demolish, until all the current residents have found suitable housing

Sincerely,
Sherry Jackson-Reeder

From: ianjjamison@gmail.com
To: [Mayer, Davy](#)
Cc: [All Alders](#); ["Ian Jamison"](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Please Oppose Item 45
Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 11:43:09 AM
Importance: High

Some people who received this message don't often get email from ianjjamison@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi Davy, Alders, and Mayor,

I am writing to you on behalf of myself and my wife, Cailey Jamison, to urge you to oppose Item 45 tonight to demolish the Dairy Drive homes.

As District 6 residents, we are frustrated with current efforts to drive away homeless people whose safest place to sleep is the Social Justice Center. The attempted demolition of the (successful!) Dairy Drive campground would eliminate yet another option for these folks or others like them.

We understand that funds are tight and the Men's Shelter is a worthy priority. But we urge you not to fund one improvement for homeless folks at the expense of other homeless people. To spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to throw people onto the streets -- especially ahead of the winter -- is something I can't begin to justify.

This is a wealthy city. We are happy to pay higher property taxes or other fees to fund these worthy proposals and deeply believe that the silent majority in this city feels the same. We should look to the thriving and fortunate to close budget gaps -- not those who are already struggling and most desperate for help.

Eliminating homelessness in Madison and everywhere is a major priority for us both, and heavily informs our local voting intentions. We commend the Mayor and City for efforts to increase the housing supply -- a crucial part of this effort. But that effort must include expansive, direct assistance to the homeless. Waiting for market-driven, supply-side filtering to drive down home prices and keep more people in their homes takes time -- a luxury too many cannot afford. Please take a both/and approach and make Madison a home for everyone.

Thank you,

Ian & Cailey Jamison
District 6

From: [noreply](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: [All Alders] Tiny Village on Dairy Drive
Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 9:39:00 AM

Recipient: All Alders:

Tuesday, September 2, 2025 – 9:38am

Mary Kateada

she/her

3529 Lucia Crest

Madison, Wisconsin. 53705 Yes, by email. marykateada@gmail.com All Alders Tiny Village on Dairy Drive PLEASE - don't vote to destroy the Tiny Village on Dairy Drive (item #45 on tonight's agenda). It is one SMALL piece of a complex puzzle to aid unsheltered folk here in Dane County. I'd also be for extending Madison Street Medicine's (MSM) program contract to serve these folk thru at least 4/30/26.

Thank you for listening.

Mary Kateada

From: [Amy Kinney](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Please Support Keeping Dairy Drive Open for Our Community's Mental Health Needs
Date: Friday, August 29, 2025 3:26:13 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from amyk@housinginitiatives.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Subject: Please Support Keeping Dairy Drive Open for Our Community's Mental Health Needs

Dear Dane County Alders

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing as a concerned [resident / community member / mental health professional / advocate] to urge you to support keeping [Facility Name] open. This facility plays a vital role in providing essential mental health services to our community, and its closure would have deeply harmful consequences.

Mental health care is not a luxury — it is a necessity. Dairy Drive has been a lifeline for individuals and families who might otherwise have nowhere to turn. From housing, crisis intervention, support services, the care provided at Dairy Drive helps prevent hospitalization, incarceration, homelessness, and even suicide.

If the facility is closed, there will be an increase in homelessness and mental health crises that cannot be easily replaced. We already face a shortage of housing and mental health care in our area, and removing a key resource like Dairy Drive will only worsen this crisis. It is imperative that we invest in housing and mental health care infrastructure, not dismantle it.

I respectfully ask you to advocate for and vote in favor of keeping Dairy Drive open and funded. Our community's health and well-being depend on it.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and commitment to our city.

Sincerely,

Amy J. Kinney

Middleton, WI 53562

amyk@housinginitiatives.org.

Warmly,

Amy Kinney, RN

SIRT Nurse

Housing Initiatives

1110 Ruskin St.

Madison, WI 53704

Direct (608) 239-7392

Fax (608) 509-7310

On call/After Hours (608) 616-0495



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From: [Amy Kinney](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Please Support Keeping Dairy Drive Open for Our Community's Housing and Mental Health Needs
Date: Friday, August 29, 2025 5:05:37 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from amyk@housinginitiatives.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Dane County Alders

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing as a concerned community member and as an RN with years of experience working with individuals who are experiencing homelessness, mental and physical health concerns ; I urge you to support keeping Dairy Drive open. Dairy Drive plays a vital role in providing essential mental health services to our community, and its closure would have deeply harmful consequences.

Housing and mental health care are not a luxury — it is a necessity. Dairy Drive has been a lifeline for individuals and families who might otherwise have nowhere to turn. From housing to crisis intervention and support services, the care provided at Dairy Drive helps prevent hospitalization, incarceration, homelessness, and even suicide.

If Dairy Drive is closed, there will be an increase in homelessness and mental health crises that cannot be easily replaced. We already face a shortage of housing and mental health care in our area, and removing a key resource like Dairy Drive will only worsen this crisis. It is imperative that we invest in housing and mental health care infrastructure, not dismantle it.

I respectfully ask you to advocate for and vote in favor of keeping Dairy Drive open and funded. Our community's health and well-being depend on it.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and commitment to our city.

Sincerely,

Amy J. Kinney, Registered Nurse

2500 Calypso Dr.

Madison, WI 53704

amyk@housinginitiatives.org.

Warmly,

Amy Kinney, RN
SIRT Nurse

Housing Initiatives

1110 Ruskin St.

Madison, WI 53704

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From: [Brenda Konkel](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: How expensive is it to run Dairy Drive, what are the results?
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2025 10:35:09 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[image.png](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from brenda@madisonstreetmedicine.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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We keep hearing its "too expensive" to keep Dairy Drive running because we need the money for the men's shelter - but lets look at what is being asked to do the work and the work being done.

For the record, I hate that Dairy Drive is being pitted against the men's shelter. We serve different populations. Dairy Drive is mostly chronically homeless people deemed to be most vulnerable who don't have a history of using the shelter. The shelter is for everyone experiencing houselessness, at least for now.

But, since we are doing comparisons, please look at the facts

If the city pays **\$1.5M for the men's shelter** that will help 250 people per night - that is **\$6000 per bed or \$16.43 per night**

If they city pays **\$176,500 for Dairy Drive** that will help 29 people per night - that is **\$6086 per bed or \$16.67 per night**

Meantime, Dairy Drive's success rate is MUCH higher. From the City Applications for the RFP this year

Madison Street Medicine - Dairy Drive -

3) Performance Outcomes

Performance Measure	CDD Target	2022 Outcome	2023 Outcome	2024 Outcome	Proposed Outcome
% of Leavers Exiting to Permanent Destinations	30%	48.6%	46.4%	43.8%	40%
% of Leavers Exiting to Positive Destinations (including shelter and temporary destinations)	60%	48.6%	50%	43.8%	60%

The CAPER says from start to date 76.12% left to positive housing destinations.

TOTAL	72
Total persons exiting to positive housing destinations	51
Total persons exiting to destinations that excluded them from the calculation	5
Percentage of persons exiting to positive housing destinations	76.12%

Porchlight -

3) Performance Outcomes

Performance Measure	CDD Target	2022 Outcome	2023 Outcome	2024 Outcome	Proposed Outcome
Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless in Emergency Shelter (Leavers Length of Stay)	90 days	63 days	85 days	105 days	90 days
% of Leavers Exiting to Permanent Destinations	30% for singles	7%	5%	10%	30%

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Brenda

Brenda K. Konkel
Executive Director, Madison Street Medicine
1202 Williamson St. #101, Madison, WI 53703
brenda@madisonstreetmedicine.org
(608) 676-7826 x 4, 2
she/her/hers



From: [Sara Krizan](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Dairy Drive Campground
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2025 7:24:11 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from smkrizan@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Death Esteemed Leaders and Representatives of the People of Wisconsin,

PLEASE DO NOT spend \$220,000 to demolish the campground on which \$1.2M was spent in setting up. Instead, please fund the campground at \$200,000 per year. Respect and consideration are owed all Wisconsin residents. Ending a program that is addressing the most basic need of shelter for 70% of the most vulnerable and hardest to house as winter approaches would simply be irresponsible and cruel. Wisconsin is better than that. PLEASE FUND the Dairy Drive Campground and program.

Thank you!

Sara Krizan
35 Sherman Terrace Unit 5
Madison, WI 53704

From: [Patricia La Cross](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Dairy Drive is an essential service at this time!
Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 11:16:08 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lacross.patricia@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Alders,

Since the mid 80's I have come to know many, many families seeking housing in Madison, first - and again now, through homes visits with St. Vincent de Paul, then for 20+ years in parent-early childhood education under the auspices of VASD and MMSD school districts. I also met many unhoused singles when doing so within the Salvation Army and the Beacon. It is clear that demand for housing our neighbors with limited resources will always be greater than what is available, especially in our very financially lopsided city.

I have visited the very tiny homes project on Dairy Drive, and I have great respect and trust the instincts of Brenda Konkel, Street Medicine, and others who have kept that unique community alive. I strongly request we not break what is working, and we can afford to keep going if we choose to.

These are people in a remote, discrete setting just trying to make it to another day. My values and my faith vote to care for the least among us. For goodness sake, we spend so much more on other less critical projects!!

Respectfully,
Patricia La Cross

From: [Helyn Luisi-Mills](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: vote NO to demolish Dairy Drive
Date: Friday, August 29, 2025 1:56:08 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from luisimills@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I would like to register my opinion to vote NO and to put through the resolution to let MACH One Health/MSM continue to provide services. I worked with MSM and am now working with another organization as a housing provider and have seen first hand the good quality work that is being done at DD. DD has saved lives and is a great stepping stone for people who are houseless to be able to transition to permanent housing. Madison does not have a long term plan to deal with those who are unhoused and shutting down DD will put 28 more people on the street.

Vote NO.

Helyn Luisi-Mills
1805 Kenneth Street

From: [KRISTIN MATHEWS](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Glenn, Carmella](#)
Subject: Opposition to the demolition of the Dairy Drive campground
Date: Saturday, August 30, 2025 10:32:21 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from imkrzy4mm@att.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good morning,

I am writing in opposition to the closure and demolition of the Dairy Drive campground, a program serving unsheltered people experiencing homelessness with the highest vulnerabilities, 70% of whom were experiencing chronic homelessness when they entered the program. The need for programs to serve people experiencing unsheltered homelessness is significant and likely growing due to the end of other COVID relief housing assistance programs, the loss of dozens of housing units available to the people experiencing homelessness, and reduced shelter capacity in the new men's shelter which will only accommodate 250 people (the current shelter served as many as 400 per night last winter) AND will not be completed until next year! Both HUD, funding the Dairy Drive program annually with \$200,000, and Dane County, funding at \$226,000 in 2024 and \$174,500 in 2025, have recognized the value of this program. Since opening mid-November of 2021, the campground has served 97 single adults experiencing unsheltered homelessness and 77.94% have left to positive destinations, far exceeding goals of 60% for outreach programs. This has been a remarkably successful program!!

The Dairy Drive Campground initiative demonstrates that successful solutions to homelessness include providing legal and safe places for unhoused people to live and connect with service providers to secure permanent housing. At a time when other jurisdictions are turning to law enforcement and criminalization of homelessness, Madison should continue to facilitate the operation of this campground which is now an important part of the homeless services continuum.

Working with the homeless population on a daily basis, I see firsthand the necessity for solutions and programs. NOT the end of them. People are scared, angry and desperate....I would be too. I would be too.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Kristin Mathews
District 18
Social Justice Center Board Member

From: [Athnie McMillan-Comeaux](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Regarding Dairy Drive
Date: Friday, August 29, 2025 3:09:19 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from athniereid@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello City of Madison Alders,

My name is Athnie McMillan-Comeaux, and I am a resident of Madison living in Alder District 6.

I am writing in opposition to the closure and demolition of the Dairy Drive campground, a program serving unsheltered people experiencing homelessness with the highest vulnerabilities, 70% of whom were experiencing chronic homelessness when they entered the program. The need for programs to serve people experiencing unsheltered homelessness is significant and likely growing due to the end of other COVID relief housing assistance programs, the loss of dozens of housing units available to the people experiencing homelessness, and reduced shelter capacity in the new men's shelter which will only accommodate 250 people (the current shelter served as many as 400 per night last winter).

Both HUD, funding the Dairy Drive program annually with \$200,000, and Dane County, funding at \$226,000 in 2024 and \$174,500 in 2025, have recognized the value of this program. Since opening mid-November of 2021, the campground has served 97 single adults experiencing unsheltered houselessness and 77.94% have left to positive destinations, far exceeding goals of 60% for outreach programs.

The Dairy Drive Campground initiative demonstrates that successful solutions to homelessness include providing legal and safe places for unhoused people to live and connect with service providers to secure permanent housing. At a time when other jurisdictions are turning to law enforcement and criminalization of homelessness, Madison should continue to facilitate the operation of this campground which is now an important part of the homeless services continuum.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Athnie McMillan-Comeaux
1129 Elizabeth St, Apt 2
Madison, WI 53703
608-440-4171
athniereid@gmail.com

From: [Amy Miller](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Dairy Drive
Date: Monday, September 1, 2025 2:19:29 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from ajmille2@uwalumni.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Please keep the housing encampment in place through April, 2026. Where will these folks move to if they are forced to move and as we approach colder weather.

Regards,
Amy Miller
1507 Rutledge St

From: [Nike Mourikes](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Opposing the closure and demolition of Dairy Drive
Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 10:10:13 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from nmourikes@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Alderpersons,

I am writing to Voice my objection to the plan to demolish dairy drive:

I opposition to the closure and demolition of the Dairy Drive campground, a program serving unsheltered people experiencing homelessness with the highest vulnerabilities, 70% of whom were experiencing chronic homelessness when they entered the program. The need for programs to serve people experiencing unsheltered homelessness is significant. Both HUD, funding the Dairy Drive program annually with \$200,000, and Dane County, funding at \$226,000 in 2024 and \$174,500 in 2025, have recognized the value of this program. Since opening mid-November of 2021, the campground has served 97 single adults experiencing unsheltered houselessness and 77.94% have left to positive destinations, far exceeding goals of 60% for outreach programs.

The Dairy Drive Campground initiative demonstrates that successful solutions to homelessness include providing legal and safe places for unhoused people to live and connect with service providers to secure permanent housing. At a time when other jurisdictions are turning to law enforcement and criminalization of homelessness, Madison should continue to facilitate the operation of this campground which is now an important part of the homeless services continuum.

Sincerely
Nike Mourikes, MD
4210 Bagley Parkway
Madison, WI 53705
312-8 52-2719

From: [HEIDI NASS](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Dairy Drive/homelessness in Madison
Date: Monday, September 1, 2025 2:47:20 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from hmnass@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Greetings City of Madison alders and Mayor,

I write most immediately in opposition to the closure and demolition of the Dairy Drive campground, and for greater ongoing effort and concrete planning to interrupt homelessness here. The Dairy Drive program serves the most vulnerable residents of our community who are currently (and were chronically) homeless so is a vital resource. In a time in which homelessness is increasingly criminalized and resources are woefully inadequate, maintenance of the Dairy Drive program is the absolute minimum to be done.

Any one of us who has worked in homelessness services will tell you - and the research data backs this up - that housing is the foundational piece of addressing a myriad of the challenges that travel with it and are often caused *by* it, eg violence and sex assault, mental illness and addiction, physical infections and illness, joblessness, etc. We also know firsthand how it is almost impossible to climb out of homelessness without assistance once someone has tumbled into it. Even people who are somehow working full-time while homeless (more challenging than most of us could ever do) cannot find housing they can afford. The shelters are well beyond capacity (somehow tolerated by the city despite fire and safety codes?) and the new one is too small before it is even open.

This crisis of homelessness is only growing, as the evidence shows. There is no outrunning it or relying on developers to solve it, a path no one can regard as a serious attempt to address the growing epidemic.

Look at the outcomes from Dairy Drive. Talk to people who are homeless and people who have lived there. Then, please, keep it open. And let's do way more before we are all paying a much higher cost.

Heidi Nass
District 6

From: [Douglas G Olk](#)
To: [CDBGCommittee](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Dairy Drive Closure
Date: Monday, August 25, 2025 8:07:37 AM

You don't often get email from dolk@wisc.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Madison City Alders and Members of the Community Development Block Grant Committee:

I am writing to ask that you extend the funding for the Dairy Drive Campground at least through the winter of 2025-26 and until the new Men's Shelter on the northside is complete and open for residents.

I am an Urgent Care Physician here at the University. I have been here for 2 ½ years, having moved from Dubuque, IA after practicing there for 34+ years. When I moved here I was quite impressed with the collaborative effort that had made by the City of Madison, Dane County and Catholic Charities to provide services for those experiencing homelessness.

Seeing this, I readily volunteered at The Beacon and with Madison Street Medicine.

It really motivated me.

I am still very involved with both and have continued to advocate for them, helping to recruit many new volunteers to help with services.

I was, however, quite disappointed to learn that the Dairy Drive Campground would be closed at the end of this September (right before winter) due to lack of funding.

I also now understand that it is within your collective power to extend that funding for the near future (upcoming meetings Sept 2 and 4, 2025)

I think you can agree that it would be truly be an act of kindness and compassion on your part to extend this funding.

Are you really going to turn these residents out into the cold?

How is that going to look?

With all that is going on Washington DC these days, many look at our government agencies with disappointment and disbelief.

I think this is your opportunity to outshine them all and show them how it

should be done.

Doug Olk, MD

From: [Erin Trost](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Please support ongoing funding for Dairy Drive Campground, demolition is not the answer
Date: Friday, August 29, 2025 2:13:43 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from ebtrout@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To the Mayor and Alders of Madison:

As a primary care physician, addiction medicine specialist, and volunteer with Madison Street Medicine, I am writing to express my opposition to the demolition of the Dairy Drive campground and to support ongoing funding of this initiative.

The Dairy Drive campground was created as a direct response to a large encampment of unhoused individuals in Madison. Since its inception the Dairy Drive campground has served nearly 100 adults experiencing homelessness. Nearly 80% have left the campground to improved circumstances. The crisis of homelessness has not ended in our city, as evidenced in two recent articles in the Wisconsin State Journal dated [August 25](#) and [August 15](#). Demolishing the Dairy Drive campground will not improve the state of homelessness in Madison and will likely worsen it.

Persons experiencing homelessness have high rates of chronic mental illness, substance use disorders, and chronic medical problems, which makes serving this population and improving their health and living situation challenging. Continuing to fund the Dairy Drive campground will allow the residents to receive case management support, connections to medical care, and a safe place to stay. They too are members of our community and deserve compassionate kindness just as much as any other citizen.

Respectfully,
Erin Trost, MD, FASAM

1886 Bright Angel Court
Verona, WI 53593
902-257-7816

From: [Karin Rasmussen](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Opposition to Dairy Drive Campground Demolition
Date: Saturday, August 30, 2025 2:56:27 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from rasmusskl@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I write in opposition to the closure and demolition of the Dairy Drive campground, a program serving unsheltered people experiencing homelessness with the highest vulnerabilities, 70% of whom were experiencing chronic homelessness when they entered the program. The need for programs to serve people experiencing unsheltered homelessness is significant and likely growing due to the end of other COVID relief housing assistance programs, the loss of dozens of housing units available to the people experiencing homelessness, and reduced shelter capacity in the new men's shelter which will only accommodate 250 people (the current shelter served as many as 400 per night last winter). Both HUD, funding the Dairy Drive program annually with \$200,000, and Dane County, funding at \$226,000 in 2024 and \$174,500 in 2025, have recognized the value of this program. Since opening mid-November of 2021, the campground has served 97 single adults experiencing unsheltered homelessness and 77.94% have left to positive destinations, far exceeding goals of 60% for outreach programs.

The Dairy Drive Campground initiative demonstrates that successful solutions to homelessness include providing legal and safe places for unhoused people to live and connect with service providers to secure permanent housing. At a time when other jurisdictions are turning to law enforcement and criminalization of homelessness, Madison should continue to facilitate the operation of this campground which is now an important part of the homeless services continuum.

We are better than this in Dane County, and I urge you to continue to support this campground as a vital part of supporting those who are less fortunate in our community.

Thank you for your time.

Karin Rasmussen
265 Cross Country Rd, Verona, WI 53593

From: [Stephanie Rearick](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Please - do NOT dismantle Dairy Dr encampment
Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 11:35:38 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I'm writing to implore you to extend the life of the Dairy Drive encampment. As you know, we are already experiencing a crisis in lack of available housing for those who need it most.

Please give us a chance to keep Dairy Drive in the mix of an effective pipeline for the most vulnerable among us to get into safe and stable housing. Meanwhile, if the encampment is kept open, a variety of community members and organizations are committed to creating longer-term, healthier, and more effective ways to integrate this essential housing resource into a more comprehensive into-safe-housing pipeline.

Thanks for your time and attention,

Stephanie Rearick
1340 E Wilson St
Madison WI 53703

—

Stephanie Rearick
steph@stephanierearick.com
+1 (608) 443-8229

From: [Jaime Riefer](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Dairy Drive: KEEP IT OPEN!
Date: Friday, August 29, 2025 9:11:28 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from jaime.riefer@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Hello,

My name is Jaime. I am a member of this community, a queer mom of two awesome kiddos, a Girl Scout volunteer, a social worker, and a foster parent. I also worked at the Dairy Drive encampment for two years.

In my time there I saw our cities most vulnerable learn and apply skills in personal, social, emotional development that many missed out on due to the trauma of childhood that impeded so much of that typical development. At Dairy Drive we afforded people opportunities not only to have shelter, and get into housing, but to really prepare for housing where they would be successful. Our campers include many folks who were never taught to maintain boundaries, housing, self-care. At Dairy Drive we were able to build better foundations for neighbor interactions, for maintaining a room or apartment, for building skills in other areas. We have seen folks get employment, housing, reunited with family.

The program is successful. The program is beautiful. The program is one that is easier to qualify maintaining that it is to explain why you would support demolishing it.

I hope that you take the time to hear the needs of our most vulnerable and to recognize the beauty amidst the mess there and see that it really is a place of life and growth and opportunity. Lives are literally saved there. And I am grateful that a place like this exists, and I hope it continues.

Thank you,
Jaime Riefer
5307 Trafalger Pl
Madison WI 53714

Sent from my iPhone

From: [David Rivera-Kohr](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: DO NOT CLOSE DAIRY DRIVE
Date: Monday, September 1, 2025 11:18:14 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from driverakohr@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Madison Alders,

I write in opposition to the closure and demolition of the Dairy Drive campground, a program serving unsheltered people experiencing homelessness with the highest vulnerabilities, 70% of whom were experiencing chronic homelessness when they entered the program. The need for programs to serve people experiencing unsheltered homelessness is significant and likely growing due to the end of other COVID relief housing assistance programs, the loss of dozens of housing units available to the people experiencing homelessness, and reduced shelter capacity in the new men's shelter which will only accommodate 250 people (the current shelter served as many as 400 per night last winter). Both HUD, funding the Dairy Drive program annually with \$200,000, and Dane County, funding at \$226,000 in 2024 and \$174,500 in 2025, have recognized the value of this program. Since opening mid-November of 2021, the campground has served 97 single adults experiencing unsheltered homelessness and 77.94% have left to positive destinations, far exceeding goals of 60% for outreach programs.

The Dairy Drive Campground initiative demonstrates that successful solutions to homelessness include providing legal and safe places for unhoused people to live and connect with service providers to secure permanent housing. At a time when other jurisdictions are turning to law enforcement and criminalization of homelessness, Madison should continue to facilitate the operation of this campground which is now an important part of the homeless services continuum at least through April 2026.

Sincerely,

David Rivera-Kohr

Dane County Homeless Justice Initiative and Madison Tenant Power

From: [Bonnie Roe](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Tishler, Bill](#); [Kapusta-Pofahl, Karen](#)
Subject: Re: Dairy Drive Legistar #89274
Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 8:04:58 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I'm sending my message below again to make sure it was transmitted as I have received no response and it has not been entered into the record. This is on tonight's agenda.

Please attach my original email as public comment on legistar #89274 , #45 on tonight's meeting.

Thank you,

Bonnie Roe
District 11

On Mon, Sep 1, 2025, 9:20 AM Bonnie Roe <bonnie.roe@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Members of the Common Council,

Tomorrow you are set to vote on whether to spend up to \$220,000 to demolish the city's first homeless encampment, started in 2021. Why? The funds have run out. There could be more to it, but you're out of funds.

There is a push from some folks to write the mayor and alders, demanding that you use that \$220,000 to keep Dairy Drive operating for another year. But there's a problem with that thinking. Operating costs have been running at about \$65,000 per month, or \$780,000 per year. **More than \$26,000 per resident of the encampment per year. \$220,000 will not pay for another year of operating costs.**

Some will say the city can afford to keep this running. But the Dairy Drive Campground was started using federal covid ARPA funds, which have run out. Everyone knew the covid funding was ending, but the City did not budget to keep it running. You considered it temporary. No effort has been made (that I've seen) toward finding donations in the private sector to keep this operating. Most cities rely on private sector donations for shelter operations, just ask your Community Development Division Director. He's said it at your meetings.

As you know, the 2026 budget process is well underway and it will all be decided by mid-November.

As you also know, the process starts with the "cost-to-continue" budget, which means the cost to sustain all current services (which would not include Dairy Drive, as it has been run using ARPA funds and some county funds, not city funds).

Total cost-to-continue expenses in the 2026 operating budget are \$456.3 million, a \$. from the 2025 budget.

Total cost-to-continue revenues are just \$. , even after the passed referendum, a \$17.6 million increase from 2025.

Which leaves a \$. .

In addition, as you know, agencies have recommended \$. in 2026, \$. . These include operations for the new men's homeless shelter and the Imagination Center, set to open in 2026.

Why build these before factoring in the operating expenses? Just like Dairy Drive and the BRT? I don't know...our city's leaders don't think that way. If you want it, you will find a way to fund it (our pockets), if you don't want it, you will demolish it. Or ignore needed things like body cameras on police because “we can't afford it.”

Why start with a "cost-to-continue" budget instead of looking at measurables and efficiencies and trimming unnecessary or unproductive things out of the budget to make room for current priorities? I don't know, I guess that takes too much time and effort. And accountability for money spent. Every year is the same old thing.

I am interested in the vote Tuesday night. I see that we have a problem with homelessness we should not ignore. And I understand we don't have the funds to operate Dairy Drive under the current way of doing things. And that \$220,000 will not cover the costs.

This didn't sneak up on anyone, it has been reported in the news for many months. So helping residents of Dairy Drive find appropriate housing should have been well on its way. I mean, wasn't that the goal all along? But in four years, just 62 of the 97 residents— over four years—have found more permanent housing. It doesn't sound real transitional.

Is there an alternative to spending \$220,000 to demolish these homes? Could they be rented out? Sold as ADUs? Moved to the Stoughton Road location? Sold or donated to a nonprofit? Or have they depreciated to the point of no value?

What does the city want to do with that property?

Thank you,

Bonnie Roe
District 11

From: [Bonnie Roe](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Tishler, Bill](#)
Subject: Dairy Drive
Date: Monday, September 1, 2025 9:20:25 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Members of the Common Council,

Tomorrow you are set to vote on whether to spend up to \$220,000 to demolish the city's first homeless encampment, started in 2021. Why? The funds have run out. There could be more to it, but you're out of funds.

There is a push from some folks to write the mayor and alders, demanding that you use that \$220,000 to keep Dairy Drive operating for another year. But there's a problem with that thinking. Operating costs have been running at about \$65,000 per month, or \$780,000 per year. **More than \$26,000 per resident of the encampment per year. \$220,000 will not pay for another year of operating costs.**

Some will say the city can afford to keep this running. But the Dairy Drive Campground was started using federal covid ARPA funds, which have run out. Everyone knew the covid funding was ending, but the City did not budget to keep it running. You considered it temporary. No effort has been made (that I've seen) toward finding donations in the private sector to keep this operating. Most cities rely on private sector donations for shelter operations, just ask your Community Development Division Director. He's said it at your meetings.

As you know, the 2026 budget process is well underway and it will all be decided by mid-November.

As you also know, the process starts with the "cost-to-continue" budget, which means the cost to sustain all current services (which would not include Dairy Drive, as it has been run using ARPA funds and some county funds, not city funds).

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Why start with a "cost-to-continue" budget instead of looking at measurables and efficiencies and trimming unnecessary or unproductive things out of the budget to make room for current priorities? I don't know, I guess that takes too much time and effort. And accountability for money spent. Every year is the same old thing.

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What does the city want to do with that property?

Thank you,

Bonnie Roe
District 11

From: [Andrea Rustad](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#); [Matthews, Julia](#)
Subject: Opposition of demolition of Dairy Drive
Date: Friday, August 29, 2025 11:36:09 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from arustad13@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Madison Mayor, alders, and District 12 alder Julia Matthews,

As a physician and volunteer for Madison Street Medicine, I write in opposition to the closure and demolition of the Dairy Drive campground, a program serving unsheltered people experiencing homelessness with the highest vulnerabilities, 70% of whom were experiencing chronic homelessness when they entered the program. The need for programs to serve people experiencing unsheltered homelessness is significant and likely growing due to the end of other COVID relief housing assistance programs, the loss of dozens of housing units available to the people experiencing homelessness, and reduced shelter capacity in the new men's shelter which will only accommodate 250 people (the current shelter served as many as 400 per night last winter).

Both HUD, funding the Dairy Drive program annually with \$200,000, and Dane County, funding at \$226,000 in 2024 and \$174,500 in 2025, have recognized the value of this program. Since opening mid-November of 2021, the campground has served 97 single adults experiencing unsheltered houselessness and 77.94% have left to positive destinations, far exceeding goals of 60% for outreach programs.

The Dairy Drive Campground initiative demonstrates that successful solutions to homelessness include providing legal and safe places for unhoused people to live and connect with service providers to secure permanent housing. At a time when other jurisdictions are turning to law enforcement and criminalization of homelessness, Madison should continue to facilitate the operation of this campground which is now an important part of the homeless services continuum.

- Andrea Rustad, MD

--

Andrea Rustad, MD (she/her/hers)

From: [Noah Salata](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Opposition to closing Dairy Drive
Date: Thursday, August 28, 2025 2:25:58 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from noahsalata@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello Alders-

I write in opposition to the closure and demolition of the Dairy Drive campground, a program serving unsheltered people experiencing homelessness with the highest vulnerabilities, 70% of whom were experiencing chronic homelessness when they entered the program. The need for programs to serve people experiencing unsheltered homelessness is significant and likely growing due to the end of other COVID relief housing assistance programs, the loss of dozens of housing units available to the people experiencing homelessness, and reduced shelter capacity in the new men's shelter which will only accommodate 250 people (the current shelter served as many as 400 per night last winter). Both HUD, funding the Dairy Drive program annually with \$200,000, and Dane County, funding at \$226,000 in 2024 and \$174,500 in 2025, have recognized the value of this program. Since opening mid-November of 2021, the campground has served 97 single adults experiencing unsheltered homelessness and 77.94% have left to positive destinations, far exceeding goals of 60% for outreach programs.

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*Thank you,
Noah Salata, D6*

From: [Beth Schmaltz \(Janet E\)](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Date: Friday, August 29, 2025 4:13:23 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from bschmaltz@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I write in opposition to the closure and demolition of the Dairy Drive campground, a program serving unsheltered people experiencing homelessness with the highest vulnerabilities, 70% of whom were experiencing chronic homelessness when they entered the program. The need for programs to serve people experiencing unsheltered homelessness is significant and likely growing due to the end of other COVID relief housing assistance programs, the loss of dozens of housing units available to the people experiencing homelessness, and reduced shelter capacity in the new men's shelter which will only accommodate 250 people (the current shelter served as many as 400 per night last winter). Both HUD, funding the Dairy Drive program annually with \$200,000, and Dane County, funding at \$226,000 in 2024 and \$174,500 in 2025, have recognized the value of this program. Since opening mid-November of 2021, the campground has served 97 single adults experiencing unsheltered houselessness and 77.94% have left to positive destinations, far exceeding goals of 60% for outreach programs.

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Janet E "Beth" Schmaltz 608 530 4328

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Beth Schmaltz, 1006 High St, Madison, WI 53715

From: [Catherine Stephens](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Keeping Dairy Drive open
Date: Sunday, August 31, 2025 7:47:00 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from cstephenshome@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

TO: allalders@cityofmadison.com

RE: Item number 89274 on the Council agenda Sep 2nd

I am writing to share my gratitude and my support for a resolution introduced by Alder Mayer. Davy shares more about the issues here at his September 1st blog post.

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district6/blog/2025-08-30/week-of-september-1-2025-keeping-dairy-drive-open-through-april>

Closing Dairy Drive deeply lacks human compassion for those who find a safe haven, a stepping stone, and a community at this site. Instead, I encourage the City of Madison to take steps to keep Dairy Drive open in order to best serve the population residing there. Over time, Madison Street Medicine might also find support from community partners to help support the needs at Dairy Drive.

Thank you,
Catherine Stephens
Madison

From: [Megan Trost](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Dairy Drive
Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 8:08:33 AM

You don't often get email from megmtrost@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I write in opposition to the closure and demolition of the Dairy Drive campground, a program serving unsheltered people experiencing homelessness with the highest vulnerabilities, 70% of whom were experiencing chronic homelessness when they entered the program. The need for programs to serve people experiencing unsheltered homelessness is significant and likely growing due to the end of other COVID relief housing assistance programs, the loss of dozens of housing units available to the people experiencing homelessness, and reduced shelter capacity in the new men's shelter which will only accommodate 250 people (the current shelter served as many as 400 per night last winter). Both HUD, funding the Dairy Drive program annually with \$200,000, and Dane County, funding at \$226,000 in 2024 and \$174,500 in 2025, have recognized the value of this program. Since opening mid-November of 2021, the campground has served 97 single adults experiencing unsheltered homelessness and 77.94% have left to positive destinations, far exceeding goals of 60% for outreach programs.

The Dairy Drive Campground initiative demonstrates that successful solutions to homelessness include providing legal and safe places for unhoused people to live and connect with service providers to secure permanent housing. At a time when other jurisdictions are turning to law enforcement and criminalization of homelessness, Madison should continue to facilitate the operation of this campground which is now an important part of the homeless services continuum.

Thank you,
Meg Trost

Please excuse any grammatical or spelling errors, as this communication was sent via iPhone.

From: [Carolyn Virginia](#)
To: [CDBGCommittee](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Dairy Drive
Date: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 6:44:13 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from carolynvirginia7@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Madison City Alders and Members of the Community Development Block Grant Committee:

I am writing to ask that you extend the funding for the Dairy Drive Campground at least through the winter of 2025-26 and until the new Men's Shelter on the northside is complete and open for residents.

I am a retired RN who has volunteered with Madison Street Medicine for over 10 years. As a nurse I feel an obligation to serve the most vulnerable population, the unhoused folks in my community.

At this time, I am very concerned that the Dairy Drive Campground could be closed at the end of this September (right before winter) due to lack of funding. But I now understand that it is within your collective power to extend that funding for the near future (upcoming meetings Sept 2 and 4, 2025) It would be truly be an act of kindness and compassion on your part to extend this funding. Are you really willing to turn these residents out into the cold?

With all that is going on Washington DC these days, many look at our government agencies with disappointment and disbelief. I believe this is your opportunity to outshine them all and demonstrate how it should be done!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Virginia, RN

From: [Wegleitner, Heidi](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Cc: [Mayor](#)
Subject: HHN Opposition to Demolition of Dairy Drive
Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 1:29:16 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from wegleitner.heidi@danecounty.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders:

Attached please find a letter sent on behalf of the Dane County Board's Health and Human Needs Committee.

Thank you,

Heidi Wegleitner
HHN Chair
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

--
Heidi M. Wegleitner
1941 E. Dayton St., Madison, WI 53704
608-333-3676

<SupWegleitnerLetter_9.2.25.rev1.pdf>

Sent Securely via TLS from County of Dane by
Proofpoint

From: [Wegleitner, Heidi](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Cc: [Mayor](#)
Subject: Re: HHN Opposition to Demolition of Dairy Drive (with attachment)
Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 1:43:07 PM
Attachments: [SupWegleitnerLetter_9.2.25.rev1.pdf](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from wegleitner.heidi@danecounty.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders:

Please find *attached* letter submitted on behalf of the County Board's Health and Human Needs Committee.

Thanks!

Heidi

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 2, 2025, at 1:38 PM, Wegleitner, Heidi
<Wegleitner.Heidi@danecounty.gov> wrote:

It appears there was a problem with the attachment. My apologies. I'll follow up shortly with the attachment.

Thanks,

Heidi
Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 2, 2025, at 1:29 PM, Wegleitner, Heidi
<Wegleitner.Heidi@danecounty.gov> wrote:

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HHN Chair
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

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Heidi M. Wegleitner
1941 E. Dayton St., Madison, WI 53704
608-333-3676

<SupWegleitnerLetter_9.2.25.rev1.pdf>

Sent Securely via TLS from County of Dane by
Proofpoint



DANE COUNTY
BOARD of
SUPERVISORS

FROM THE DESK OF

Supervisor Heidi M. Wegleitner (Dist. 2)

September 2, 2025

Dear Honorable Alders:

I write on behalf of the Dane County Board of Supervisors' Health and Human Needs Committee. At our August 28, 2025, meeting we unanimously voted to communicate our opposition to the demolition of Dairy Drive and our support for extending your Madison Street Medicine's property management and services contract through at least April 30, 2026.

Throughout the pandemic, the City and County worked together to support people who are unhoused or at risk of becoming unhoused. We funded hotel sheltering, quarantine sheltering, rapid rehousing programs, emergency rental assistance, housing navigation, doubled up services, tiny house villages, new affordable housing development, and more. Unfortunately, while the federal pandemic response funding is mostly gone, the demand for services, shelter, and housing options continues to increase.

The Dairy Drive program is necessary because we simply don't have enough accessible and affordable Housing First units for people experiencing chronic homelessness. In fact, the number of housing units available to those on our Coordinated Entry housing list has been significantly reduced. (e.g. Rethke Terrace, Tree Lane, Tellurian SRO, Porchlight's Brooks Street and scattered sites). People in our community need housing and shelter options. They need legal places to sleep, to live, to stabilize, and search for and apply for permanent housing.

For almost four years, Madison Street Medicine has been serving a very vulnerable population at Dairy Drive. Their clients do not typically participate in other programs and experience many barriers: 82% have mental health challenges, 75% are struggling with substance use, 68% have no income, 44% have chronic health conditions, 28% have a physical disability, 22% are 55+ and aging, and 18% have a developmental disability. Despite these challenges, the program has been very successful—folks are getting into housing—78%

OFFICE OF THE DANE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

City-County Building, Room 362, 210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Madison, WI 53703

(608) 266-5758 | <https://board.danecounty.gov/>

of participants have successfully exited the program.

Back in November 2021, when the City opened Dairy Drive, the County Board adopted 2021 Resolution 223 to Provide a Staff Team Report on Potential Camping and Car Camping Options for People Experiencing Homelessness. The staff team evaluated potential sites, including county owned land, for people living in their cars to camp or park. An interim report provided to our committee failed to identify any suitable locations for a car camping program on County land in the City of Madison. The final report recommended alternative strategies to address the needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, including expanding shelter capacity. The County Board has followed the alternative recommendation by contributing funds to the City's contract with Madison Street Medicine over the last two years and increasing funding for services at the men's shelter. We still have additional emergency rental assistance (ERA) funds to contribute to program services if the Dairy Drive contract is extended but this must be done as soon as possible.

We greatly appreciate the City's initiative in establishing this long overdue program. And we recognize the significant funds you invested to create and maintain the campground infrastructure. This program is a successful and humane alternative to brutal criminalization strategies we have seen deployed in other jurisdictions (including recent federal action in our nation's capital). Please reject the plans to demolish the campground and extend Madison Street Medicine's contract so this important program can continue to operate, at least through April.

Thank you for your consideration.

Heidi Wegleitner
Dane County Supervisor, D2
Chair, Health and Human Needs Committee



DANE COUNTY
BOARD of
SUPERVISORS

FROM THE DESK OF

Supervisor Heidi M. Wegleitner (Dist. 2)

September 2, 2025

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Thank you for your consideration.

Heidi Wegleitner
Dane County Supervisor, D2
Chair, Health and Human Needs Committee

From: [gwelniak](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Dairy Drive Campground
Date: Friday, August 29, 2025 5:27:22 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from gwelniak@charter.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear People,

Please help to keep Dairy Drive Campground open for the homeless. There just isn't enough affordable housing in the Madison area, which is the ain cause of homelessness. Until the situation improves, we must provide alternatives for those needing shelter.

Thank you,

Gloria Welniak, Beacon volunteer

Sent from my Galaxy

From: [Jake Winkler](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Dairy Drive
Date: Saturday, August 30, 2025 12:03:57 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from trappedinink@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

It doesn't make any sense to spend \$200k demolishing a project the city has put \$1.5M into. What service will replace this? Where will the dozens of folks who use Dairy Drive go? How will services find them if they are spread out to unknown locations around the city instead of a single known place?

Dairy Drive is helping folks, and has transitioned at least 37 to other housing:
<https://www.madisonstreetmedicine.org/dairy-drive/>

From: beampowered-tetrode@yahoo.com
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: supporting extension of Dairy Drive contract, agenda item 89779
Date: Saturday, August 30, 2025 8:23:03 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from beampowered-tetrode@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I support keeping the Dairy Drive tiny homes open for a while longer. I have had contact with another tiny home community on Aberg and found that the residents greatly improved their situation while staying there. I thus support Davy Mayers proposal to extend the contract with MACH Onehealth Inc.

thank you

Carl Zimm 207 Sutherland Ct, Madison WI 53704

From: [Sanaa Semia](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Don't Demolish Dairy Drive
Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 4:27:15 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from semia2@wisc.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

My name is Senna and I'm a medical student and lifelong Madisonian. I am taking time today from my patients and education to address a huge concern in this city - the possible demolition of dairy drive. As a Madison resident and future healthcare professional, I urge you to stop this and continue supporting unhoused individuals in our community.

Senna, MS3

From: [Elliot Stokes](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Homeless
Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 4:12:03 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from elliotsaacstokes@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

So there is word that the city will close... the Dairy Drive homeless facility. This is disturbing to say the least! Can no one see the coldhearted nature of even entertaining this idea?