

City Expanding Rejuvenation Efforts

Targeting sidewalk replacement and dilapidated building removal

By Michael Curtis
Greene Publishing, Inc.

The City of Madison is currently taking inventory of sidewalks and dilapidated buildings around the city. Their goal over the next few months is to begin sidewalk repair and/or replacement, and remove dilapidated structures as part of a systematic citywide rejuvenation effort.

Although the budget is tight, the commission has been sympathetic to the pleas of residents and business owners. So in addition to their customary maintenance schedule, the city has set aside \$75,000 for sidewalks and \$100,000 for the dilapidated buildings removal.

The sidewalk issue was addressed in part earlier this year, leading to the city's effort to perform the repairs with internal personnel. While the cost savings were justification for the effort, the repairs didn't go as planned, and contractors are being called in to complete the task.

Once the sidewalk inventory is complete, the findings will be presented to the commission to determine priority. Similarly, once owners of the dilapidated buildings are in agreement, demolition and removal will commence and run until funding is exhausted.+6

"We are very pleased to address these issues, as with any issues important to the people of Madison. We will go about the process systematically and appreciate the patience and involvement of all concerned citizens," City Manager Harold Emrich noted.

The city manager further noted that he shares the concerned citizen's desire to beautify the historic district, and especially the desire for all sidewalks to be safe.

Most of the sidewalks in Madison, especially those in the historic district, are all over 50 years old,



Greene Publishing, Inc. Photo By Michael Curtis, December 7, 2009

Structures like this dilapidated residence at the corner of Orange and Marion will be reviewed for demolition and removal by the City of Madison.

making the need for repairs extensive throughout the community. The presence of rundown and discarded structures is also extensive.

"I hope residents or business owners will call me at 973-5081 or stop by anytime. I truly wish we had the

resources to complete a citywide sidewalk renovation, and remove all eyesores. We will continue to work at it as much as resources allow," Emrich concluded.

Michael Curtis can be reached at michael@greenepublishing.com.



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