

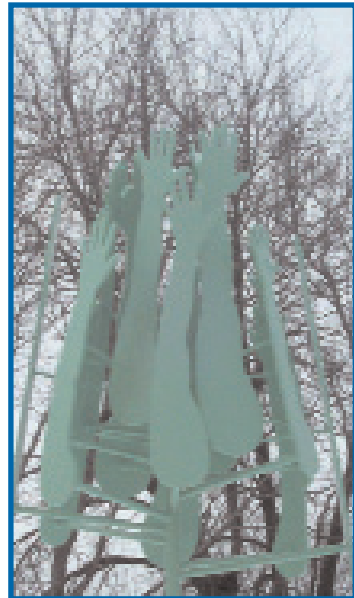
Serving Allied Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood and Beyond  
"We are each other's most valuable resource"

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## Allied Revival Ridge

by Mayor Dave Cieslewicz



Last summer, I visited Allied Drive to mark the opening of 48 brand new and beautiful units of affordable housing. After three years of intense effort, together we were able to mark major progress in the revitalization of the neighborhood.

The new buildings are not just pleasant to live in, but they were intentionally designed to orient to the street so that there are eyes on the street virtually all the time. Our hope was to use good design to achieve greater safety. Now, those units are fully leased, half of them by previous Allied Drive residents.

This year, there is more progress on the way. The second phase of the redevelopment will include single family owner-occupied housing, an important opportunity for residents and an important part of the revitalization of the area. It will also include plans for additional shared open space and a potential community garden. We continue to work closely with the neighborhood and hope to have plans introduced for phase two sometime this spring or summer.

We are trying something here that hasn't been tried with much success anywhere in America: revitalize a neighborhood without driving out the existing residents. It's too early to claim success on that score, but with continued effort we might be able to meet our dual goals of a neighborhood with a dramatically improved quality of life that is also very affordable.

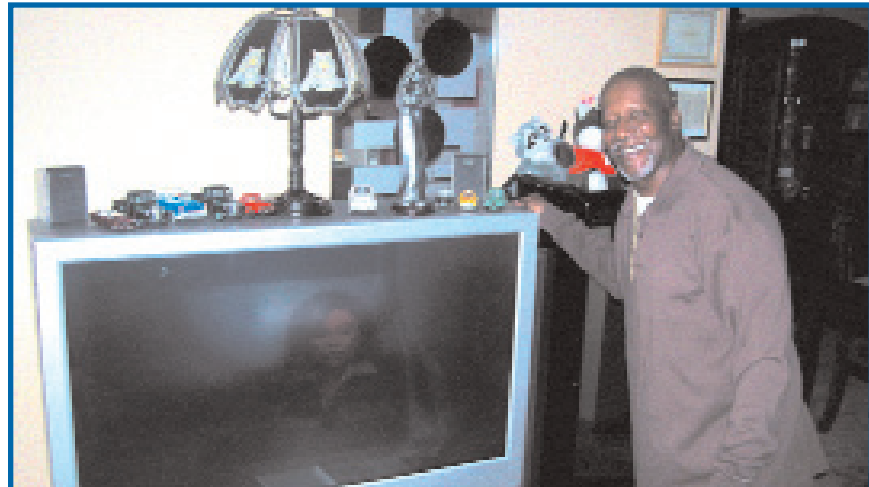
We've been able to work toward this ambitious goal because we've had a close partnership with the neighborhood through the whole process. The Allied Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Association and the Allied Area Task Force has been there at every step of planning. Residents helped with design of the buildings. Allied residents were hired to work on the construction.

It's only because of that truly community based effort that this revitalization continues to move forward.

2009 marked major strides for Allied, but if we continue this partnership, I'm confident we can make more even more progress this year.



Photos: Revival Ridge Metal Sculpture (above); Redevelopment Sign (above); Revival Ridge Manager (to right); Robert Artis in his apartment (below)



Join us for the Anna Mae Mitchell Senior Idol-Saturday, February 27th 2:00 - 4:00 pm Oakwood Village West 6201 Mineral Point Road For more info call 608-770-2049



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TimeBank Store Maxine's Page 8

## An "Open Letter" to Our Community

by Robert Artis

My name is Robert Artis and I'm a long-time resident in the Allied Community. I am involved with the Allied Task Force and Allied Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Association. I am also a retired Dane County Parent Council board member and retired Boys & Girls Club of Dane County board member. I have worked for the Madison Apprenticeship Program for the last 5 years.

As I said before, I have lived in the Allied Community for approximately 12 years. I've witnessed the change in the neighborhood. I would like to bring you up to speed by taking you back into some of Allied's history. It is well known that the Allied community was very troublesome, with crime; such as drugs, prostitution and gangs. During these troubled years the residents in the community lost a lot of hope. As we know, economically challenged people have very little to look forward to on a day-to-day basis.

Witnessing this, drove me to take off my hat and put on another hat to be an advocate for the community. In doing so, I joined the Allied Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Association in 2005. This propelled me in the direction of city business. This is something I had to learn from the ground up. Our first step was to acquire stable and affordable housing for the residents in the community. In doing so, the Avalon Project came into play.

This project lasted for approximately two years. Very few residents were able to move into the units due to their own personal circumstances. This was not a failure, but something that could be built on. It

changed the first look of the community. The next thing that came into changing the face of Allied was being on the board for The Boys & Girls Club of Dane County--defining what it would take and what it would mean to the community. This was a task that I perceived to be effective for the parents and kids. This project took approximately two and a half years.

The next project was The Revival Ridge Development. During these three different phases, the residents could see, feel and dream of living in a more stable community. At this point in time, the Revival Ridge project is still ongoing. It has two phases--first phase is completed. If you come through the community now, you will see the new face of Allied. We are in the beginning stages of the 2nd phase. Hopefully by year 2013, 2nd phase will be in full stride. My main goal is making this neighborhood affordable for economically challenged people. With the city, especially the honorable Mayor Dave Cieslewicz, and his dreams about having a better community. Job well done.

Now that these three projects have taken place, we have one more to go. The Department of Transportation (DOT) will be starting up a project that will link the Allied Community to greater Madison. It will be more accessible for the residents that live there.

There are too many to mention with thanks, so I will thank them all at once. I appreciate all of your hard work and efforts and your time. I am speaking on behalf of the residents and myself.