

Editorial

Publisher: Leccia and Associates, Inc.
Consultants: Allied Dunns Marsh Neighborhood Association
Editor: Lucy Gibson
Managing Editor: GBD
Editorial Board: Freddie Clark, Lynette Wright, Susan Corrado, Jerome Dillard, Felicia Greer, Vivian Allen, Lina Trivedi, Carla Dawkins, Diana Shinall, Jeanne Erickson

We Remain On High Alert !

The Allied Revitalization Project is in full swing. It should be noted that this project along with the Avalon project is historical and unprecedented. The recent ground breaking ceremony held at the construction site did not lend enough credit to the importance, the Allied community involvement and Club TNT played in documenting this historical project. The Allied community can be proud of its efforts that have resulted in reduced crime and increased safety of all residents as well as the quality of life in this once high crime neighborhood.

This project has produced economic opportunities for residents by hiring five minorities at the offset and an agreement to bring on an additional sixteen apprentices when phase one starts in October. The skilled trades program (START) along with the Madison Apprenticeship Program (MAP) has prepared individuals to transition out of poverty to being productive community members.

The Allied community through the Allied Neighborhood Association and provider agencies must now move aggressively to confront the challenges that our kids are facing in the educational system. The dropout rate of minority students are increasing yearly to over 40 percent. Poor academic scores and truancy have contributed to a dismal record for children of color and kids living in poverty in general. It appears that this process will only worsen for lack of parental involvement and community leadership. The Allied Dunn's Marsh community must insist that the Madison school district give a serious look at building a new school in this community. This issue is longstanding and should be addressed now. The Allied community is on high alert in defending our children by all means necessary.

Letters to the Editor

To VOICES Editor:

Thank-you to everyone for your overwhelming thoughts, prayers and financial support during these past few months. I really appreciate it.

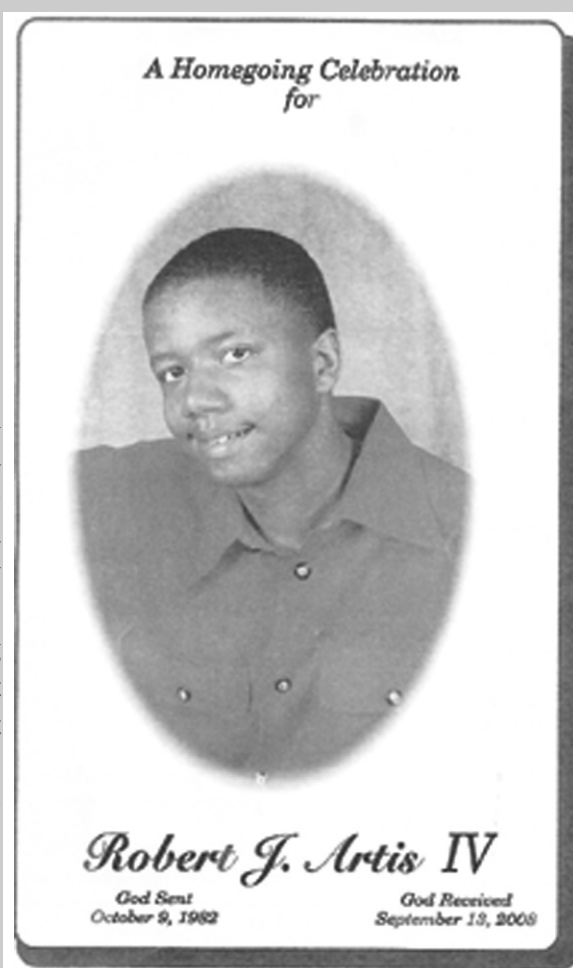
The outpouring love from you to my family and myself will never be forgotten. For those of you who are not aware, my father, Robert Artis, Jr. went to his homecoming May 16, 2008. Sad as it may be, my son, Robert Artis IV, born October 9, 1982, went to his homecoming on September 13, 2008.

Of course, I was devastated by both of these passings who I love dearly leaving so close together. The continued community prayers and support have strengthened me and my family considerably through these tragic times.

My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family for showing such kindness. May God be with you always.

P.S. Special thanks to Ms. Diana Shinall who helps me in so many ways.

Robert (Rob) Artis, III



Focus on Families, Basics During Tough Times

by Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk



These are challenging times. Our friends, families, and neighbors are hurting.

Many are working two or three jobs and burning the midnight oil just to try and keep up with the stack of bills.

Despite our hard work, more of us are having trouble keeping up. Too many are fighting to keep a roof over their heads. We have seen a 15% increase in the number of Dane County families needing food. Our human services department is helping 3,000 more families now than it did in 2007 with basic daily necessities. Home foreclosures are up more than 50% here this year. I paged through one local newspaper recently and found four straight pages of foreclosure notices.

From tanks of gas to bags of groceries, we're paying more for the things our families need.

With continued economic uncertainty and prospects for record-setting winter heating prices ahead, it doesn't seem that real relief is in our near future.

Just like you and your family, we in county government are taking a really close look at everything we're doing and making sure the basics come first.

That's why my next county budget will stick to our shared priorities and values: keeping our neighborhoods safe and continuing human service programs vital for our most vulnerable citizens all while protecting property taxpayers.

These have been my priorities as your County Executive for the 12 budgets I've had the privilege to prepare for you.

My budgets have added 128 new positions in the sheriff's department and initiated cutting edge technological advances in our 911 Center to enhance public safety.

We're fixing up flood damaged roads and protecting more wetlands to help keep water out of our basements during future rains.

Continuing to put these fundamentals first and sticking together will help us all as we try to navigate these rough economic waters.

Letters to the Editor

A big thanks to Fabu for responding to what she notes as a "whitewashing" of Wisconsin's history. Recently, Fabu took a group of students on a tour of Wisconsin's State Capitol building. Noticeably absent were the history makers of color. What are children to think when they do not see anyone who looks like them? This is a question that she asks and notes that even worse is when the question is not

even asked. Her piece appeared on the Opinion Page of the Cap Times. Fabu is right to bring this to the attention of all of us. There are many people of color who contributed to the history of this state and to this city. I agree with her when she says, "We want and deserve a "herstory" and a "history" taught, celebrated and spoken on Capitol tours that illuminate the contributions of every nationality in Wisconsin".
Betty Banks

Be sure to Register to Vote