

## **North side Residents Can Help Make 2003 Rhythm and Booms Safer**

Assistant Chief Carl Saxe, Madison Fire Department  
Captain Mike Masterson, Madison Police Department

City staff from Parks, Traffic Engineering, Metro, Police, Fire and Dane County Emergency Management have been actively planning to make this year's Rhythm and Booms a safe event for all. We thank you for your continued support, cooperation and hospitality in helping to make this a fun event for nearly 250,000 people who come into your neighborhoods to enjoy the music, carnival and fireworks. This may be the largest one-day crowd event in the State of Wisconsin. It is indisputably, one of the safest events in the Nation. Typically, the Madison Police Department makes a couple of arrests each year; the Fire Department treats a handful of people for minor injuries; and traffic flows smoothly to and from Warner Park. People traveling by car generally report minor delays in getting home after the event.

The excellent history of this event comes from the advance information we provide to the public and the excellent cooperation we receive in exchange. We wanted to mention a few reminders to our neighbors to make this an even safer, more enjoyable event for all. These same reminders will be released to the general community at a press conference just prior to the event.

- No carry-in alcohol is allowed in the Park on Saturday, June 28 or, in the event of rain, on Sunday, June 29, 2003..
- Personal tents and sun/screen porches must be removed by 6:00 pm so that stakes and guide wires will not pose a danger to passers-by who may not see them in the dark. Also, it eliminates a potential fire hazard in the event of a hot shell coming into contact with a tent material.
- Leave the fireworks to the professionals. This includes sparklers. Metal spikes left protruding from the ground can easily injure unsuspecting people walking on them. Illegal fireworks will be immediately confiscated and users may face being arrested.
- If you plan to sit near the safety line close to the fireworks island, please wear safety glasses to protect your eyes from falling debris.
- Blankets will not be allowed to be placed on the grass at Warner Park or the Dane County Human Services property at 1202 Northport Drive until 6am on the day of the event. Blankets placed before then will be removed by the property owners.
- Blankets should not be secured with metal stakes or rocks. They become hazards to passer's-by and to those who will be mowing the grass.

- Blue tents will be stationed around the perimeter of the park where you'll be able to find a Madison police officer.
- A First-Aid and Lost Child Station will again be located in the Warner Park Shelter and staffed with medical professionals and volunteers from 10am-11:30pm.
- Please do not bring portable grills to the Park. The hot surfaces and charcoals can cause burns. They are prohibited the day of the event by City ordinance.
- Please do not bring any pets to the Park. Large crowds and pets make for an uncomfortable situation for both humans and the pets. Your pets and those attending the event will greatly appreciate it!!
- We encourage you to walk to the Park if at all possible. If you do drive, please park your car in the direction you'll be leaving. Detailed traffic maps showing Directional flow patterns will be published just prior to the event in all local media. If you do travel by car, please obey all posted no parking signs. Remember, you cannot park within 4' of a driveway, within 15' of a crosswalk and always leave at least 2' of space between parked cars. If your vehicle is ticketed and towed, it will cost you between \$75 and \$100. Towed vehicles will be taken to Hartmeyer Ice Arena, 1834 Commercial Avenue.

County Highway CV will once again be temporarily closed to cars traveling inbound immediately after the event. Both lanes of the road will be used to expedite the flow of vehicles out of the City.

The carnival site has been moved to a paved parking lot near the softball fields.

No overnight parking is allowed in any City Park.

Except for sport utility vehicles and pick-up trucks, no motor homes, campers, large trucks, and other RV's will be allowed in the Warner Park lot. Sherman Plaza, across the street from the Park will provide parking for a fee.

We look forward to working with our north side neighbors again this year in helping to make this a safe, fun event for all.