

COMMUNITY

Cheryl Batterman honored with Professional Excellence Award

By Katie Klusener

North/Eastside Senior Coalition Executive Director, Cheryl Batterman, was honored with the 2011 Professional Excellence Award by the Wisconsin Association of Senior Centers (WASC) at their Annual Conference in Green Lake, Wisc. on Sept. 29. The Professional Excellence Award is presented annually to a WASC Senior Center Director for outstanding service performance, professional accomplishments, job performance, service to the aging profession, involvement in WASC and leadership in the local community.

Batterman has over 18 years experience in the non-profit field and served 11 years active duty in the Air Force. She was the Director of Programs at the Colonial Club Senior Activity Center (Sun Prairie) for four years (1998-2002) prior to being hired at North/Eastside Senior Coalition in 2002. She also served on the Sun Prairie School Board for nine years (1998-2004) and was recently reelected for a second term as WASC Treasurer.

In addition, she redesigned the WASC newsletter in 2008 to become a professional publication that is emulated by many senior centers throughout the state.

Under her direction, the North/Eastside Senior Coalition earned National Accreditation from the National Institute of Senior Centers in 2009 — the fifth senior center in Wisconsin and first non-profit senior center in Dane County to earn this prestigious designation. NESCO also holds State Accreditation from the Wisconsin Association of Senior Centers since 2002.

NESCO Board member Diane Walder stated in her nomination submission, "Cheryl is committed to preserving and growing services for senior adults and their families. An active member of WASC, she is a leader among her peers in the state and county elderly services network. Cheryl is a savvy strategist and effective communicator who routinely organizes advocacy initiatives to prevent budget cuts that would negatively affect senior adults and their families. She

has developed strong relationships with elected officials and other policy makers so they understand the needs of senior adults and how critical senior center services are to their well being."

For over 36 years, Madison's North/Eastside Senior Coalition (NESCO) has provided quality social and educational programs, vital case management services — offered in English and Spanish — and weekday lunch meals for senior adults in Madison's north/eastside. They are also the only senior center in Dane County that offers programs and services for senior adults in Spanish.

"Cheryl has guided NESCO's growth, finding its own niche by serving minority populations effectively in Dane County, while serving as a role model for all agencies," stated United Way of Dane County President Leslie Ann Howard. "She has been an inspiring leader and strong advocate for the work of our community's Agenda for Change through her leadership on United Way's Vision Council and Campaign Cabinet while effectively con-

veying the Agenda for Change's compelling message regarding independence for seniors and support for their caregivers."

"This is a tremendous honor," said Batterman. "I work closely with a supportive board of directors, energetic volunteers of all ages, and the best staff I've ever had the honor to work with — they are nothing less than outstanding!" "I'm also grateful to our generous funders and donors for their continual support for ensuring our vulnerable senior adult clients and participants are helped by our programs and services," Batterman continued.

The North/Eastside Senior Coalition is a nonprofit organization located in the Warner Park Community Recreation Center at 1625 Northport Dr., Madison. Its mission is to enhance the quality of life for all senior adults by providing programs, advocacy, and resources to assist them to remain independent, active, and influential in Madison's North and Eastside community, and throughout Dane County. For more information, visit its website: www.nescocinc.org.

Northsiders received "Madison Magazine" People of the Year Awards

Northsiders Baltazar de Anda-Santana and Jenny and Andy Czerkas were honored by Madison Magazine in November as being among those chosen as "35 Madisonians Who Made 2011 Better — People of the Year Awards." Baltazar de Anda-Santana received an award for being a Skills Builder in his work at the Vera Court Neighborhood Center where he co-founded the Latino Academy of Workforce Development (LAWD). Jenny and Andy Czerkas were honored as Hunger Heroes for starting The River Food Pantry.

De Anda-Santana's skill building at LAWD involved providing cultur-

ally sensitive employment services and industry-specific job skills training in Spanish. More than 1,000 Latino students received job skill training, took computer classes and participated in business development and employment programs. Computer classes, which were by far the most popular, included six levels ranging from basic skills to web design. De Anda-Santana said LAWD students are hard-working adults who are dedicated to improving their lives. Part of the success of this program, according to de Anda-Santana, is that students who graduate from the computer classes

return to volunteer their time as teachers.

"I am very proud just to be included as a member of this community. The two things that make me most hopeful in life are community and education, which are also the values that guide everything that is done at Vera Court Neighborhood Center," de Anda-Santana said.

Hunger Heroes Andy and Jenny Czerkas started The River Food Pantry five years ago expecting to fill a need and perhaps to serve 100 families a week. "We had no idea of the true need for services," they said. "Instead, because of the economy, we are presently the busiest food pantry in Dane County, serving more than 500 families per week." The River Food Pantry distributed 1,060,000 pounds of food and over 95,000 pounds, or \$500,000 worth of clothing in 2010.

The Czerkas said they are proud of having built an independent, local, faith-based organization that is unaffiliated with a local church or national organization. Their unique food pantry is open to any county resident and there is no limit on the number of families served. Hot, home-cooked meals are also served at The River so families can feed their children a tasty dinner while they wait their turn in the pantry. We have created a community, not just a food pantry," the Czerkas said.

Prairie lore and plant stories event to be held in January

By Jan Axelson

As the Dane County Parks Naturalist, Wayne Pauly works with hundreds of volunteers to restore prairies in Dane County's parks, including Yahara Heights on Madison's Northside. Wayne is also a master storyteller with a treasure trove of tales about prairies, and the people who have lived and worked on the land.

On Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012, Pauly is coming to the Northside to share his stories in a special presentation of "Prairie Lore and Plant Stories." The Friends of Cherokee Marsh will hold a brief member meeting beforehand. Everyone is welcome at both events.

If you need further enticement to attend, the event will also feature free refreshments, door prizes, and a chance to bid on a framed, original nature-themed cartoon from Northside cartoonist P.S. Mueller. Mark your calendar for this special event!

Prairie Lore and Plant Stories with Dane County Parks Naturalist Wayne Pauly, Saturday, Jan. 21, 10:30-11:30 am (Preceded by The Friends of Cherokee Marsh member meeting at 10 am)

Lakeview Branch Library, 2845 N. Sherman Ave.

North/Eastside SENIOR Coalition

"Thanks!" to the following businesses for their outstanding support of the **11th Annual AppleFest** (17 September 2011). Over \$13,800 was raised, supporting programs & services for senior adults!

Advanced Restoration	Fontana Sports Specialties	Orange Tree Imports
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Boomerang's Resale Store	Jewelers Workshop	Radisson Hotel
Brennan's Market	Jim's Meat Market	Ryan Funeral Home
Bridges Golf Course	Johnson Bros Coffee Roasters	Salon KB
Bunky's Café	Jung Garden	Savidusky's Furs
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Camp K-9 Pet Care Center	Katie Ganshert/lia sophia	Sergenians
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Chris Elke Plumbing	Lakeside Coffee House	Signature Moments
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Dental Health Association	Madison Concourse Hotel	Summit Credit Union
Diversified Financial Cons.	Madison Magazine	Target
Doc Jams Printer Repair	Mallard's Baseball	Thrivent Financial
Dorn True Value Hardware	Massage East	Transit Solutions
Douglas Art & Frame	McKinney Dental	Trek Bikes
Driftless Studio	MG&E	Trendsetters
Dryden Terrace Apts/Meridian	Mimosa Books & Gifts	True Value Hardware
Duwayne's Hair Salon	Nature's Bakery Cooperative	TZ of Madison
Dykman's Time Shop	Northside Animal Hospital	UPS Store/Northgate
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COMMUNITY

Andy Czerkas named AARP Foundation's Hunger Hero

By Betsy Ezell

After a nationwide, six-week-long vote, Andy Czerkas, Founder and Co-Director of The River Food Pantry, has been named AARP Foundation's Hunger Hero!

Czerkas will also receive an AARP The Magazine Inspire Award in December 2011 and be featured in the December/January 2012 issue of AARP The Magazine. Additionally, The River Food Pantry will receive a \$15,000 donation from AARP Foundation.

In August, River Founder and Co-Director, Andy Czerkas, received the exciting news that he was selected as one of five national finalists for the AARP Foundation's Hunger Hero Award. The finalists, coming from New York City, New Orleans, Boise, San Diego and Madison, were nominated because of their extraordinary work to end senior hunger.



Jenny and Andy Czerkas at the River Food Pantry

"I am very honored to receive this award. Winning came as a complete surprise," said Czerkas.

When the Czerkas opened The River in 2006 they expected to serve lots of single moms and the homeless, but were surprised to see so many senior citizens on fixed incomes unable to make ends meet. Today, 20 percent of our clients receive social security benefits or are retired, mak-

ing up 4,986 households that received free food from The River in 2010.

Of The River's volunteer force, an estimated 30 percent are 50 and older, finding meaning and hope in volunteering. According to Jim Carrier, a volunteer and board member of The River, Andy and The River provide "hope and respect, big deals for us old folks who no longer have a 'job' for esteem."

Many thanks to those of you who voted for Czerkas during the contest from Aug. 8 to Sept. 24.

The River plans to use the \$15,000 donation to help meet its single most pressing need — purchasing enough food to meet client demand. These additional funds for food procurement will ensure we are able to keep the pantry stocked with healthy options for our seniors, under-employed families and everyone in between.

Dance Camp being offered at East High School

By Vicki Ryan

Madison East High School Dance Team is hosting a Dance Camp for girls ages 5-12 on Jan. 4-5 from 10 am-2 pm. The Dance Camp will be held at East High School in the cafeteria.

Dancers will perform with the Dance Team on Friday, Jan. 6 at 7:30 pm for the halftime entertainment at the East High Boys Basketball team. The cost is \$40.00 per dancer and includes two days of camp, t-shirt and hairbows for the performance.

Please e-mail vrryan@charter.net to sign-up or if you have any questions.

Ride the Drive Northside informational meeting to be held

Please join your alder and staff from the Parks Division, Traffic Engineering and the North Police District for an informational meeting where the possibility of holding a "Ride the Drive" event on the Northside in the summer of 2012 will be discussed.

Ride the Drive is a free, family event where some city streets are temporarily closed to allow people to walk, bicycle and enjoy a festive block party atmosphere right in their own neighborhoods.

Mayor Soglin wants to move one of the "Ride the Drive" events around the city to introduce thousands of people

to different parts of the city, instead of holding both events downtown.

Alder Rhodes-Conway asked for the Northside to be considered first. "The Northside has things to share with people," said Rhodes-Conway. "We want people to know about our business community, our park, our beautiful neighborhoods. This would be a great way to show the city our Northside image. Instead of people zipping through our community on the thoroughfares, traveling at a slower pace by biking, walking and roller blading through the community would give them a chance to see what we're really all about.

The public is invited to a public meeting to discuss the idea. The meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec. 15, 6:30 p.m., Warner Park Community Recreation Center, Community Room #1, 1625 Northport Dr.

If you are unable to attend and have questions or comments, please contact your alder person:

Satya Rhodes-Conway, 12th District Alderperson, district12@cityofmadison.com, 242-4426

Anita Weier, 8th District Alderperson, district18@cityofmadison.com, 320-5820.



Hey, all you Northside Moms & Dads—
Mark your calendars now!

NBA's Annual Breakfast with Santa

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Cheryl Batterman
on receiving the WASC
Professional Excellence Award

Way to go Cheryl!

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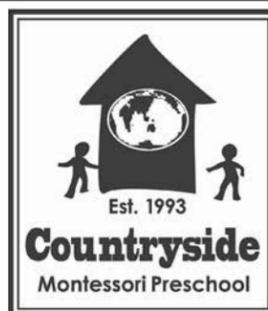
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NORTH DISTRICT POLICE

Greetings from the North Police District!

We will look back on 2011 and remember it to be a year of contrasts. With respect to crime and disorder, it was a comparatively quiet spring and summer. After numerous arrests, the beat-down robbery trend came to an end. Burglaries and thefts from autos that had been plaguing us decreased significantly, and crime was generally down in most categories, at least until Sept. 11. On that date, we had a shooting incident and have had two more since. This has us, as a community, beginning to worry about safety. Let's put these incidents into perspective:

First, there was the shooting on Kipling. This incident was a dispute between two groups of young men, and resulted in very minor injuries. The suspects have been identified, arrested and charged. Individuals in this case are gang involved, and some of these individuals are affiliated with the same gang associated with the Troy homicide. There is no reason to believe however, that the two crimes are otherwise connected.

Secondly, despite the proximity, the shooting on Karstens on Monday, Oct. 17 was in no way related to the homicide three days later. The Karstens shooting was a planned drug robbery. The suspects and victim were both engaged in the drug business. The suspects in this case have been arrested and charged and there is no ongoing public safety threat.

Lastly, on Thursday, Oct. 20 at approximately 10 pm, officers responded to the 800 block of Troy Drive regarding a shooting. On arrival, they found a highly chaotic scene, including one man dead. At that time there were no cooperative witnesses available, nor suspects detained. Within a day, three suspects were in custody. At this point, we have a total of seven in custody facing charges in relationship to this brutal crime. I am very proud of the outstanding efforts of the officers, detectives and support staff of the Madison Police Department to quickly identify and arrest these suspects. The suspects are all gang involved. There were a series of disputes between the individuals involved prior to the shooting, and this was not a random act.

The quick and effective police response was not the part that inspires me the most however. The thing that I find most moving was the integrity shown by some of the families of those involved. The homicide victim's mother is a community leader on Vera Court, and is well loved and respected. Despite her pain, she attended the community meeting that

followed. She is not alone in her suffering. There are many other parents suffering as a result of this tragedy. Upon being informed of her son's possible involvement in this homicide, one mother brought two of her sons to our station, and turned them over to us. It was readily apparent to me that she told them to do the right thing as well. As a parent, I try to imagine the depth of the pain a mother must feel in this context. I am deeply moved by the moral courage it must have taken to bring police her babies, knowing what was at stake.

On Nov. 3, Alder Anita Weier sponsored a community meeting to discuss the recent violence. The meeting was to be an opportunity for community conversation and healing. It was co-hosted by the Director of the Vera Court Neighborhood Center Tom Solyst, MMSD Assistant Superintendent Joe Gothard, Pastor Everett Mitchell, District Attorney Ismael Ozann and me. With the help of our facilitator Tom Mosgaller and MMSD School Safety Director Luis Yudice, the area community came together, and talked about ways to use these tragic events as stimulus for positive change. Many recalled how the Vera Court residents transformed their neighborhood in similar circumstances in the early 1990s. There was strong commitment from those in attendance to use this tragedy as the impetus for the community stakeholders to band together with police to address issues related to crime, fear and disorder that undermine the quality of life in this area.

In addition to the integrity of the families affected, I was likewise moved by the number of community stakeholders and residents who came together and the passion with which they spoke of our interdependence and of their commitment to work toward positive change. With people like this in our community, we cannot help but succeed in our community building efforts.

There is a follow-up meeting scheduled for Nov. 30, at 6:30 pm at the Mendota School gym. The objective for that meeting is for those with an interest in helping to get to know one another, and to strategize about next steps. This meeting is open to the public, and anyone with a willingness to help is welcome.

It is the role of police to work together with the community to address issues of Crime, Fear and Disorder. Police cannot achieve these objectives alone. Fear is the most insidious. If we allow it, fear will assure that we stay trapped by the very conditions causing us concern. It is the courage of the residents of the Vera Court, and other Northside neighborhoods to not be held hostage by fear, but to instead band together and take back their neighborhood that best illustrates what "Northside Pride" is all about.

Take care and be safe. ...

"Watts" up? Phantoms and vampires are real when talking electricity

By Dan Tortorice

Northside News

In the late autumn we have a lot of fun talking about ghosts, goblins and phantoms of all kinds. But there is one kind of a hidden presence that becomes all-too-real when it shows up on our monthly electrical bill.

A lot of our home appliances use standby power when we are not using them. This power is often given the colorful names of "phantom load" or "vampire electricity." This usage adds up to an estimated six percent of electricity consumed in an average U.S. home. The total used in a year is about 43 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity for appliances that are not in use.

It sounds crazy, but there is a use for such standby power. Any appliance with a remote control has to be "on" all the time. Our TV's, stereos, cable boxes and garage door-openers are constant consumers even when we're not using them. A turned-off television is still drawing four watts of power. It will cost you about four dollars a year and put about 65 pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere during this time.

The biggest standby users are cable boxes and satellite receivers. The cable box costs over \$11 per year and the satellite receiver over \$14, with carbon emissions of 194 pounds and 243 pounds per year. A simple component stereo costs over six dollars and puts out 113 pounds. And those chargers for batteries and portable computers are constantly drawing power if we leave them plugged in.

So what can we do about this?

On the larger scale, the federal government offers its Energy Star program to promote consumer energy savings. When we purchase an appliance with the Energy Star label we at least know it meets some standards for standby power usage. Their website is www.energystar.gov.

The easiest way to conserve this energy at home is to unplug those appliances when they are not in use. Of course this really isn't so easy if you have to crawl behind your entertainment unit each time you want to turn on the television. But you can plug them into a power strip and just turn off the strip after watching TV or listening to music. There is now a "smart power strip" that will sense when you turn off the device and "unplug" it for you. This could also work well for computer peripherals, such as printers, which consume a lot of electricity when not being used.

Homeowners can learn a lot about their appliances' energy consumption by using a portable energy meter. MG&E has provided many of these to local public libraries in their service area. You can check out the "watts up" meter for free using your library card.

You simply plug the meter into your wall and then plug the appliance into the meter. In a while the meter will tell you the average monthly cost for that appliance. You can use that data to determine ways to save energy and money. This could include the payback achieved by replacing the appliance with a newer model.

Problems with winter roof ice dams?



Project Home's Housing Center offers a variety of classes that are free and open to the public. The basic home maintenance classes provide instruction on do-it yourself projects and can advise you on when you may need to call professionals. Participants get specific questions answered, with no sales pitch. Classes are taught by industry professionals and Project Home staff, who volunteer their time.

A free class on dealing with that winter woe of homeowners — ice dams on the roof — is being offered on Wednesday, Dec. 7 from 6-8 pm. Don Robbins of Home Spec leads this class.

Classes are held at Project Home's Education Center, 1922 S. Stoughton Rd., Madison. Pre-registration for all classes is required and slots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. To

register, call Project Home at (608) 246-3737, or email michellek@ProjectHomeWI.org.

First-time Homebuyers classes are held and second and third Tuesdays, resuming in February. Call Project Home or check out their website for details www.projecthomewi.org/.

For the last 40 years, Project Home's mission has been to improve the quality and affordability of housing for low-to-moderate income residents in Dane and Green counties. Project Home provides services that will improve comfort, safety, and reduce energy bills.

If you are seeking no cost or low-cost home repair services, volunteer opportunities, free classes on home maintenance or First-Time Home Buyers Education, affordable housing, or contracting work, Project Home has something for you.

Project Home's Housing Center is a joint collaboration between Project Home and GreenPath Debt Solutions, both nonprofits, with the mission to expand and sustain affordable homeownership.

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COMMUNITY



Notes from the hill

Char Tortorice

Late October usually finds Lake View Hill and the surrounding woods somber with gray skies and the trees bereft of leaves. This year, however, the Lake View Hill Neighborhood Association Fall Festival was festooned in autumnal glory. The sun sparkled with burgundy and golden hues framing the views, reminding attendees why the site was chosen for a healing facility. Over 50 people were treated to tours of the woods to see how woodland management is restoring the site to its natural state, think about what might become of the nurse's dorm and watch the deer seek places to bed down for the night. After the tours and a pumpkin hunt, a bowl of hot chili hit the spot. S'mores toasted around the fire pit added a sweet note to Halloween jokes and scary stories while the sliver of a crescent moon and a million stars lit the walk home..

Now that the holiday season is in full swing, we all need to take time to be grateful for our Northside slice of paradise, our families, friends and community. Here's hoping that 2012 brings you peace and happiness.

East Bluff Homeowners Association – A Northside neighbor

By Lentz Upshaw

We all know how important it is to get to know your neighbors. Whether you need to borrow some sugar, or have someone watch out for your dog, it is important to know those who live in your neighborhood. One of the Northside's oldest neighborhoods is East Bluff.

East Bluff is located at the corner of Northport Drive and North Sherman Avenue. You may have driven by East Bluff and thought it was an apartment complex. If so, this is your chance to get to know your "neighbor." East Bluff is actually the oldest condo association in Wisconsin made up of 176 individually owned two or three bedroom townhouse style condominiums. The majority of these units are owner occupied. Each unit has a private courtyard area which

may be used and decorated according to the owner's desires.

The East Bluff Condominium project was started in 1969. It is self managed by a Board of Directors which is elected by the homeowners. Each member of the Board owns and lives in one of the condos in East Bluff. The Association has two full time employees. Rick Blanchard, the superintendent for the complex for over 39 years and Bob Marten has worked at East Bluff for 10 years.

East Bluff Condos are located within walking distance of many Northside businesses and attractions.

East Bluff has been an active member of the Northside for many years, including sponsoring T-ball teams, participating in the Northside Planning Council and planning for the community

center. In fact, the first donation made to build the Warner Park Community Recreation Center was from East Bluff, for \$5,000. East Bluff is currently in the middle of a roofing project and we are planning to complete it without any special assessments to the homeowners.

East Bluff is proud to be a part of Madison's Northside and looks forward to working with everyone in making our community even better. If you have any questions about East Bluff contact Rick at 608-249-7006. You can also contact the members of East Bluff's Board of Directors.

- Fernando Cano: 240-9114
- Lentz Upshaw: 441-6944
- Peggy Lucey: 241-3104
- Sean Kelley: 301-5370
- Nikki Moriarity: 772-3505

Sherman Neighborhood Association connects neighbors

By Lynette Jandl

I have tried to tell everybody about the new Sherman Neighborhood website (www.shermanneighborhood.org) and Facebook Page (Sherman Neighborhood – Madison WI). But if I haven't run into you in the last couple of months, you might not know about all the ways to get connected to news and information that's helpful to you. The Sherman Neighborhood Association (SNA) boundaries are Northport Drive, Sherman Avenue, Packers Avenue, Commercial Avenue and the "Great Lakes" streets toward Webcrafters on Fordem Avenue.

You can always get into the inner

circle. The Sherman Neighborhood Association (SNA) welcomes new members. Call or email one of the SNA co-chair persons: Megan Maguire at 695-1592, maguiremegan@yahoo.com or Lynette Jandl at 244-2858, bignoni@gmail.com. We would be glad to get you set up. Association members have a chance to voice their ideas and concerns and to get their wishes to the Common Council so our alders can speak on our behalf. This is the way to directly effect what goes on (or not) right where we live.

Our Association meetings happen during the odd numbered months so the next ones will be January and March. To get an email with meeting reminders, join the list serve at <https://groups.google.com/sherman-neighborhood-association>.

Issues we have been discussing lately at the meetings include the new owner of

the old Speedway site at 1101 N. Sherman Ave. and Ale Asylum's new facility which will be at the Southeast corner of the intersection of International Lane and Packers Avenue. We have also discussed the proposed dedicated bike route using Ruskin Street as well as safety issues in our area. Our next SNA meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 9.

Soon you'll be receiving postcards in the mail thanks to a grant from the City of Madison. The postcards will include the information about these ways to get connected. It would be great to have all 1200 of the households in the Sherman Neighborhood linked electronically since we have no other way to get breaking neighborhood news and ongoing issue information out to everybody. And then I won't have to keep talking about it with everyone I see!

Mallards, from page 1

row in each section now runs through the entire grandstand so fans don't miss any of the action.

The Mallards shattered attendance records this past year at the new stadium, drawing more fans to their games at Warner Park than any other summer collegiate baseball team ever has, and outdrew 85 percent of affiliated minor league baseball teams and 100 percent of independent minor league teams!

Vern Stenman, President of the Mallards, accepted the award along with his daughter Chloe. Stenman and General Manager Conor Caloia are great

partners on the Northside. They invest in our community year after year, giving to local organizations, supporting community-based efforts, strengthening the Northside economy and helping to add to our Northside identity. The Madison Mallards, while a destination for all of Madison and Dane County, are without question the very reflection and definition of what we call, Northside Pride. The Northside is honored and proud to be the home of the Madison Mallards.

Look for the 2012 schedule to be ready soon and plan to catch a few games.



244-0044

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COMMUNITY

Madison Community Foundation invests in the Northside

By Sue Gleason

Northside News

The Kennedy Heights Community Center and Vera Court Neighborhood Center were awarded grants from the Madison Community Foundation (MCF) Fall Grant Round. Kennedy Heights Community Center received \$30,000 for a new Youth Playground and Natural-scape. The community will work together to plan, fundraise, and build this community play space for youth and young children.

The Vera Court Neighborhood Center received \$54,000 for a Latino Academy for Workforce Development (LAWD) that will provide job skills,

industry accreditation and confidence needed for adult Latinos to obtain better employment. The LAWD is dedicated to ensuring a well-trained and knowledgeable workforce.

The Madison Community Foundation awarded a total of \$1,233,155 in this grant round to a wide range of Madison area organizations. With more than \$135 million in assets, the Madison Community Foundation administers over 925 individual charitable funds. In 2011 they held grant rounds due in January and July. Look on their website at www.madisoncommunityfoundation.org for the 2012 grant plans.

Vera Court Neighborhood Center: Stimulus for positive change

By Lauri Lee

Northside News

The good things that are happening at Vera Court Neighborhood Center (VCNC) have recently been overshadowed by the media spotlight and community attention focused on this neighborhood following the Oct. 20 tragic shooting of a young man on Troy Drive.

According to Tom Solyst, VCNC director, "this is a time for everyone to come together. With everyone working together, the neighborhood will have some positive things in place before the kids have more outdoor free time next spring and summer."

With the increased interest and attention on this community, this seems to be the perfect time to let folks know the good things that are going on, the plans for the future and how the broader community can help make an impact.

Solyst described the Center's programs and their needs. VCNC has a very large and very strong elementary school program that includes a Girl Neighborhood Program for girls age 9-14, the Life as a Boy program for boys in third, fourth and fifth grades, programs for middle schoolers including the "Rise" program held four afternoons a week, a discussion program called Youth Leadership and the Spark program that provides academic tutoring and support for high school kids.

"All of these programs are at capacity and have waiting lists," said Solyst. "Our elementary school program has 52 kids enrolled and a waiting list of 17 kids. We are always looking for

volunteers, role models and mentors for our programs," said Solyst.

"We lost funding from the school district this year," Solyst shared. "They had funded one youth worker for the after school program for the whole year. That funding, approximately \$10,000 a year, really helped. By not having that money, we had to reduce the number of kids enrolled in the elementary school program. With \$10,000 we could serve 8-10 more elementary school aged kids, the cost of a youth worker for the 36 weeks of the school year."

While all neighborhood centers and nonprofits could benefit from financial support at the end of the year, at Vera Court, additional funding would be put to use to expand some of their services.

A Vera Court community meeting was held on Nov. 3 for the neighborhood to come together and talk about ways to use the recent tragic events as stimulus for positive change.

The next Vera Court community meeting will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 6:30 pm in the Mendota School gym. The goal is for the community to put things in place over the winter so that by next spring/summer when kids are really outside, the neighborhood will be ready.

For anyone who wants to get involved, get connected and make a difference in the neighborhood, plan to attend the Nov. 30 meeting and watch for updates in the newspaper.

To volunteer or make a contribution, contact Tom Solyst at Vera Court Neighborhood Center by calling 246-8372.

Northside's Statue of Liberty is missing — but not forgotten

By Barbara J. Arnold

Warner Park has a replica of the Statue of Liberty? Yes. Boy Scouts and Madison Rotary brought her to Madison in 1951. Since 1971, she has stood west of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center. She isn't there now. Since Fall 2009, a volunteer Statue of Liberty Restoration Committee have been working with the City of Madison Arts Commission, Parks Commission and conservator Tony Rajer to restore Liberty. The funding needed for the project is \$29,000, and to date, \$23,000 has been contributed. Work is continuing to raise the balance. Completion is projected by Flag Day in June 2012.

Many people and organizations have helped. Historic Madison is the project's fiscal agent, and the Madison Community Foundation is collecting funds for perpetual care of Liberty in the future. The Glacier's Edge Boy Scout Council and John Frey are selling a collector patch available from the Scout office for \$5 each to raise more funds.

There isn't enough space to thank

everyone who has helped. The committee will do that in June. Top contributors that the committee wants to especially thank now include:

Liberty Mutual Insurance Group – \$5000
 Madison Arts Commission, \$5000
 Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission – \$3000
 American Family Insurance – \$2000
 Ray and Carol Krizmanic and Schenk School kids – About \$2000
 Historic Madison, Inc. – \$1000
 Virginia Davis – \$1000

You still can help Liberty. Contact Sue Peck at suepeck19@gmail.com to join the committee. Or make a tax-deductible contribution by sending a check with Statue of Liberty Restoration Fund on the memo line to: Madison Community Foundation, P.O. Box 5010, Madison, WI 53705-0010. Or donate online at www.madisoncommunityfoundation.org. Click on "GIVE" then "GIVE NOW." Enter "statue" in the box to find the fund.



Support Pounding the Pavement for the Pool at year end

By Dorothy Borchardt

It's been another successful year for the Circle of Friends (COF) of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center. Thanks to all of the cookie bakers, golf outing and walk sponsors, participants and volunteers that made it possible.

In 2004 the Mayor and City Council went on record supporting Warner Park for Madison's second swimming pool. One of the COF major projects is to raise community awareness and money for the Warner Park Pool. The above activities help achieve our goal. We couldn't do it without your help and support.

At the Northside Business Association's meeting in September Mayor Soglin mentioned that a pool is an important "want" for the Northside community and he supports our

fundraising efforts.

Please consider renewing your membership in the Circle of Friends or joining if you aren't currently a member. For information, go to www.friendsofwarner.com. Memberships and contributions can be mailed to: COF – WPCRC, 1625 Northport Dr., Madison, WI 53704. The Madison Parks Foundation is a 501(c) (3) organization. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. And remember, we always need volunteers and participants in the golf outing, walk and help baking cookies.

For more information, please contact the following individuals:

Steve Nelson: onelly@charter.net
 Janet Epps: janet.epps@microp.com
 Dorothy Borchardt: dborchardt1@charter.net

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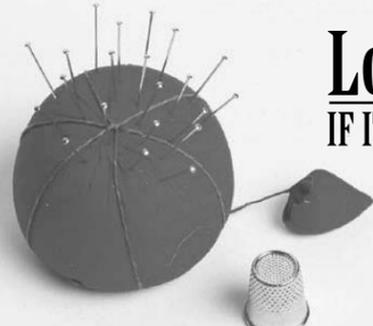
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COMMUNITY

Lake View Hill Park accomplishments in 2011

By Sue Gleason

It was a year of accomplishments for Lake View Hill Park as we checked off items in the 2009 Master Plan. A new fence was installed at the foot of the "great lawn" that blends in more, but will still keep sledders off Northport Drive! To let people know about this wonderful Northside park, new signs are on Northport Drive, the driveway, and at the Havey Road entrance. Dane County Parks will be installing a kiosk near the water tower trailhead and the newly designated parking for the park.

A major 2010-2011 project was a Historic Cultural Study on the human use of the hill during the 1900's. The report offered recommendations to preserve or restore significant historic features while accommodating current use. One immediate concern is the deterioration of the "Dormitory for Help" commonly referred to as the Nurse's Dorm. A small group is exploring restoration options. Efforts are underway to get input on compatible use. Time is of the essence as Dane County is budgeting funds for demolition in 2012.

Dane County Supervisor Melissa Sargent hosted two listening

sessions this year to hear about general issues concerning the park and on herbicide use for native restoration. Dane County Parks received valuable feedback to help improve planning and notification of neighbors.

Volunteer group efforts are an important part of the activities at the park. Cub Scout Pack # 127 volunteered in the spring to pick garlic mustard and move brush, and in October to harvest native seeds. Thanks to all the parents, scouts and Cubmaster Steve Kimball for choosing Lake View Hill Park for their

2011 conservation projects. The park also welcomed groups from Blackhawk Church in May to tackle invasive species and Edgewood High School in October to clear downed wood.

Our partnership with Malcolm Shabazz High School continued for the fourth year. In October Peter Fee and his ecology class walked (!) to Lake View Hill to get a lesson in oak woodland restoration. They harvested seed sown last year by other Shabazz students and then dispersed the seed in areas that other volunteers had recently

cleared of brush. The Friends hope the students will return often!

For the second year, the park hosted a fun Halloween event with the neighborhood which included walking tours, a mini-pumpkin hunt, chili, cider, and a bonfire complete with s'mores.

Lake View Hill Park has a new website at www.lakeviewhill.org and you can also check us out on Facebook to get the latest news. Look for details on the Friends annual meeting in the next issue of the Northside News and we hope you can join us for fun and work activities in 2012.



Photo by Sue Gleason

The crest of the hill is a great place for a view and a fall fire complete with marshmallows.

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COMMUNITY

Community Shares of Wisconsin — supporting grassroots nonprofits

By Moira Urich

Community Shares of Wisconsin

“What does 40 Years of change look like?” It’s a question in part that was answered at Community Shares of Wisconsin’s (CSW’s) 40th anniversary celebration this fall, which featured accomplishments of CSW nonprofits. The community’s Backyard Heroes were also a part of the celebration, as they are each year. And this year Northsider and NPC board member Terrie Anderson was among those receiving an award from CSW.

CSW has been raising funds for local, grassroots nonprofits for 40 years now. But the giving has grown from about \$300 in 1971 to over \$600,000 this year. The funds are raised from individuals — giving through the workplace, mailing a check, or giving online — to CSW’s 63 member groups.

Backyard Heroes — Essential to nonprofits

A key part of the success of the 63 member nonprofits is their volunteer base. Volunteers are simply essential to grassroots nonprofits. And the Backyard Hero program is a key way for member nonprofits to recognize their exemplary volunteers. The individual nonprofits supply the names of their outstanding volunteers to CSW, and CSW recognizes them throughout the year — but especially at the organization’s awards event in the fall.

Community GroundWorks, which

gave kudos to Terrie Anderson, said this about her:

“Thanks to Terrie’s enthusiasm, and her wonderful communication and organizational skills, she is Community GroundWorks’ dream volunteer. A board member since 2007, Terrie routinely goes above and beyond — organizing online auctions and other fundraisers, as well as chairing committees. In her spare time, Terrie is an enthusiastic gardener at GroundWorks’ Troy Community Gardens.”

It’s not uncommon for volunteers to tackle huge tasks like creating a new website for a nonprofit, organizing a fundraiser, or doing legal work to help low-income people with civil law cases. Many of those volunteers donate hundreds of hours to a nonprofit over just a couple years. And the nonprofits couldn’t do their work without them.

Consider a gift to CSW’s Nonprofits

This year, nonprofits’ resources are stretched even further by funding cuts at the state, local, and national level. So the importance of volunteers like Terrie — and the importance of donors giving whatever they can afford — has never been greater.

Community Shares’ member groups are on the front lines each day, working on issues that are critical to us:

- Protecting our environmental and working toward sustainability.
- Ensuring women’s and children’s



Photograph by Jon Gramling

Among the Backyard Heroes receiving recognition were those working for Community Shares’ environmental groups. Top row: Don Ferber (Sierra Club Foundation), Lance Delaney (Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger), Mary Linton (Wisconsin Wetlands Association); bottom row: Joann Kelley (Madison Area Community Land Trust), Terrie Anderson (Community GroundWorks), Kathy Dutilly (Wisconsin Wetlands Association).

- Providing affordable housing.
- Empowering people with disabilities.
- Working for justice.
- Encouraging civic engagement.
- Jumpstarting the next 40 years.

One of the Community Shares/Community CHIP founders, Candace Weber, said this about the organization: “In the early ‘70s, young people had been successfully organizing to force the hand of the federal government to end the Vietnam War. We couldn’t just stop there. We felt we had the right as well

as the obligation to continue building a movement for progressive change. This phenomenal organization exists today because of the work of amazing people with true commitment to social justice and social change — and it’s a movement I’m proud to be a part of.”

For a list of CSW’s member groups, go to www.communityshares.com. If you give a general gift to CSW, all of its member groups benefit. If you direct a gift to one or more member groups, they receive the entire gift.

Whether you can afford a gift of \$10 or \$250, those contributions add up. And they allow CSW’s 63 member groups to continue their important work.

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