

Celebrating 10 years NORTHSIDE NEWS

Vol. 11, No. 5, Issue #65

April / May 2006

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April 20
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Pierce's opens its doors!



Photo by Milt Leidner

On March 27th, Pierce's Northside Market opened to an expectant community, which had gone without a grocer for almost three years.

Was it worth the wait?

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ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD GUIDE

Learn, Get Involved!

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Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin at the Troy Gardens housing ground-breaking
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Photo by Bob Paolino

Election results

County Board, District 18:
Wheeler defeats Vorhees

School Board: Mathiak beats Lopez;
Silveira squeaks by Cole

Referendum:
Northside says bring 'em home

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*Nostalgia
By Joan Judd,
Madison Magazine,
April 1979*

Madison's northeast side

Mail was delivered by boat, Sherman Avenue was a dirt road, and Maple Bluff was "out in the sticks."



In celebration of Madison's Sesquicentennial, the Northside News reprints this historical article from the April 1979 issue of Madison Magazine, which was sent to us by Northsider Barbara Zanoni. Article reprinted by kind permission of Madison Magazine.



COURTESY OF WILLIAM SACTHJEN

An egg and spoon race at Bernard's Pavillion, probably about 1915. Participants are friends of Mabel Homewood, Judge William Sachtjen's late mother.

In the late 1920s, residents of what is now Maple Bluff petitioned the city of Madison to annex the area. The city said no — it was too far away, too rural, and not worthwhile to develop.

Youngsters who lived on Madison's northeast side in the early 1900s — a farming community with pastures and cornfields — attended small country schools or walked all the way to central Madison to school, often catching rides on milk wagons from farms in the vicinity or on passing cutters in the winter.

The Maple Bluff golf clubhouse, a sprawling cottage-type structure, was built on the golf course in 1901. A tornado destroyed it in 1921 and, during that decade, some people remember picking up stray balls in the cornfields that surrounded the golf course.

Sherman Avenue, which used to be

known as Lodi Road, was developed by Leonard J. Farwell whose land holdings included a small peninsula that came to be known as Governor's Island. In the 1870s the island was used as a vegetable garden for the Hospital for the Insane, built in 1860 on the site of the present Mendota Mental Health Institute.

Beginning in 1907, mail was delivered by boat to Rocky Roost, a summer cottage possibly designed in 1893 by Frank Lloyd Wright, which was located on an islet north of Governor's Island (now attached to mainland). Robert Lamp and his family occupied it during the summers until the late 1930s when it burned down.

In the 1840s, James McBride bought up much of the land in what is now the village of Maple Bluff and built the first house there at 733 Lakewood

Boulevard which was purchased by Robert LaFollette, Sr. in 1905 and is currently occupied by Bronson LaFollette.

In the late 1940s, the Town of Westport gave the City of Madison the land which is now Warner Park, a marsh where people hunted salamanders and fished for pickerel. The reason? Westport couldn't police the area.

This information is from Maria Bode who has recently researched the area "whose history has been pretty much

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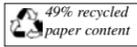
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From
THE EDITOR



JIM POWELL

New beginnings

During the first week of this new spring, two major births occurred, after quite long gestations.

On March 21, ground was broken at Troy Gardens, marking the beginning of the long-awaited housing construction by the Madison Area Community Land Trust.

A major factor in the preservation of Troy Gardens was the commitment of the land trust to develop a small parcel of housing at one corner of the property.

Kudos to executive director Greg Rosenberg who has guided the land trust through their most ambitious project yet (and more than half the homes are already taken!). I'm envious of these first-time homebuyers who will be landing in a small paradise that includes community gardens, a CSA farm, a restored prairie and woodlands.

A week later, Pierce's Northside

Market opened, ending the "food desert" drought that we've endured for three years.

People stormed the doors that Monday morning and kept manager Ron James and his staff jumping all week.

People have been telling me how much they like the store and the positive response to suggestions to get the right mix of food that our community wants. Many thanks for shopping center owners Dave and Don Bruns, for persuading Pierce's general manager Jeff Maurer to open this new Northside treasure.

Spring cleaning

Something as simple as opening all the windows in the house on a mild, windy day can make you forget the long winter we just went through.

It also invariably leads to the more mundane type of activity called "spring cleaning."

While reorganizing the office, I've finally put to use some much-needed donated items from Connie & Chuck Smalley, and Steve Roffler. I offer belated thanks to you for your generosity. As a small nonprofit on a limited budget, your gifts are very welcome.



NORTHSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL

The mission of the Northside Planning Council is to improve the quality of life for all residents of the Northside community, by

- * increasing citizen participation and voice in issues and decisions affecting the community through neighborhood organizing and advocacy; and
- * building community by linking community organizations & residents.

Chairpersons	Troy Brown, North Lake Mendota (Alternate)	Jim Mohrbacher, Cherokee Park
Lisa Wiese, Northside Community Co-op		
Dayna Dalton, Lakeview Lutheran	Mo Cleland, Brentwood Village (Alt.)	Nikki Moriarity, Lakeview Lutheran (Alt.)
Vice Chairpersons	Carolyn Gantner, Cherokee Garden	Bob Paolino, Mendota Hills (Alt.)
Helen Marks Dicks, North/Eastside Senior Coalition	Sue Gilberston, Cherokee Park (Alt.)	Marge Pitts, Friends of Troy Gardens
Jeff Shokler, Sheridan Triangle	Ray Hellmer, Northside Communities of Faith	DeAnna Sebranek, Whitetail Ridge (Alt.)
Treasurer	Susan Hill, Mendota Hills	Michael Shinnars, Brentwood Village
Mike Basford, Sherman	Don Hovey, North Lake Mendota	Karen Thompson, Northside Business Assn.
Vernon Blackwell, At Large	Shelley Legried, Whitetail Ridge	Laura Vogel, Maple Bluff
Patricia Brinkman, Cherokee Townhouses	Jill Jokela, Northside PTO/A Coalition	

Neighborhoods in need of a NPC representative:

Berkley Oaks, East Bluff, Kennedy Heights, Lake View Hill, Lerdahl Park, Lindbergh, Nobel Park, Northport Apts, Northridge Apts, Packer Townhouses, Sherman Village, Vera Court, Woodland Park Apts, Woodlands Apts.

Call 661.0060 to enquire about revitalizing your own neighborhood association, or getting involved with NPC.

The views expressed in the *Northside News* do not necessarily reflect those of its staff, contributors, the Northside Planning Council or its funders.

Congratulations to
2006 Visionary Award Winner
Abha Thakkar

The Awards will be presented at the
Social Justice Center's 6th Birthday Party
Olbrich Gardens
Thursday, May 4th
5:00 - 7:00 PM



There are two awards presented at the celebration. The Legacy Award winner is Ed Garvey, recognizing a lifetime of achievement in activism, social justice, politics and public life.

The Visionary Award honors a younger activist, politician or community member for work already accomplished.

For the last four and a half years, Abha Thakkar has been the Associate Facilitator of the Northside Planning Council, learning all at once about grassroots organizing, publishing a community newspaper (the Northside News), training citizen leaders, and building sustainable social change organizations. She believes very strongly that the best way to enjoy the community you live in - big or small, "hip" or not - is to get invested in it.

~~~~~

*Founded in 2000, the Social Justice Center is a partnership of four progressive organizations (Wisconsin Citizen Action Fund, Wisconsin Community Fund, Tenant Resource Center, and Madison Community Cooperatives) to create a non-profit office center with a social justice focus.*  
www.socialjusticecenter.org

*Tickets - \$30 suggested minimum tax-deductible donation*  
*Everyone is welcome. RSVP 227-0206*

**WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED**  
**We are your community newspaper and we want you!**

The *Northside News* is planned and written by volunteers. Join us at our planning meeting on Apr. 17 at 6:30 pm. Contact Abha Thakkar at 661.0060, or Abha@NorthsideNews.org for location.

Aspiring writers and photographers welcome. Article submission deadline is May 26. Contact Abha Thakkar at 661.0060, or Abha@NorthsideNews.org for more information or to give us your story suggestions.

## ADVERTISING RATES

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*Reserve your ad by May 15 for our June/July issue, distributed about June 13. Ad copy, articles and all other information due May 26.*

**Letters to the Northside News**

Send your thoughts about the Northside and the Northside News to:  
Editor, Northside News, 2702 International Ln, Ste 203, Madison, WI 53704  
or <editor@northsidenews.org>

**Farm workers' right and community come together at Packer Community Center**

On March 29, I had the pleasure of attending a vegetarian dinner at the Packer Community Learning Center followed by a presentation on farm workers' rights given by migrant workers from Immokalee, Fla. The entire event was amazing.

First was the lovely dinner prepared by children who are taking a vegetarian cooking class at the center and learning about nutrition and its relationship to the health of people and of the earth. The diversity (in age, race

and culture) and camaraderie of all in attendance was heartwarming.

The effort and sincerity of the farm worker, who traveled so far to explain their cause, was met with incredibly intelligent support and connection by the Packer neighborhood.

The children shone individually and collectively by virtue of their wisdom and compassion and their ability to articulate both.

Jacki Thomas and her daughter Sara deserve great appreciation and recognition for their ongoing work of love at the community center.

With heartfelt thanks,

- Ronnie Inda, Madison

**NORTHSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL NEWS**

**Northside Timebank celebrates six-month anniversary**  
*Members to elect "kitchen cabinet" at April 20 celebration*

With over 200 members and hundreds of exchanges under its belt, the Northside Neighbor-to-Neighbor Timebank will celebrate its first 6 months with a party and election at the Northport Community Learning Center on April 20 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm. All Timebank members and those interested in joining are encouraged to join us for this showcase event!

If you have not yet become a member of the Timebank, check out the website at [www.danecountytimebank.org](http://www.danecountytimebank.org) to learn more about how to join, or call the Timebank coordinator Stephanie Rearick at 443-8229.

All members will also have the opportunity to cast a ballot for the kitchen cabinet members of their choice.

The kitchen cabinet (K.C.) is a group

of Northside residents who advise the coordinator and the steering committee in shaping the future of the Timebank. K.C. members also help plan welcome events and celebrations, assist with website updates and membership outreach, assist with fundraising, and help set policies. And, of course, they earn Time Dollars while doing all of this!

Up to 15 Timebank members can serve on the kitchen cabinet, including three neighborhood association representatives, three member organization representatives, and three at-large members with experience in schools, inclusiveness, and community justice.

The following slate of nominees all submitted their statements by the March 29 deadline. If you are interested in serving, but did not submit a stat-

ment, please contact Abha Thakkar at 661-0060.

In preparation for the April 20 election, please read the following statements to help you make your decision:

**Terrie Anderson**

I have been a Northside resident for 23 years. I've been involved in schools as a parent volunteer and PTO member and write for the Northside News. I'm proud to be a member of the Kitchen Cabinet and hope to continue to help the Timebank grow.

**Diane A. Brown  
Sherman Association**

I run a national non-profit membership association and have served in school leadership at Mendota, Sherman and East High, as well as

**Northside Timebank six-month Anniversary Party & Kitchen Cabinet Elections**  
 Thursday, April 20 at 6:00pm  
 Northport Community Learning Center  
 Dinner and childcare included!

Cub Scouts, soccer coach, drama clubs, various fundraisers, and the SNA Board. I already assist with Timebank organizational tasks (phone reminders, development of the meeting planning binder).

**Veronica Lazo**

I'm from Puerto Rico and speak English and Spanish fluently. I have a strong desire to work with the Latino Community. Currently, I volunteer at the Workers Right Center and work at Vera Court Neighborhood Center as the Latino Resource Specialist.

**Clare Norelle**

I love the Northside's diversity, and how the Timebank can help us know each other better while also filling so many other needs. I speak Spanish, work well with people from a variety of backgrounds, and want to support this.

**Kate Reich  
Grade 2/3 Teacher  
Lindbergh School**

I have a strong relationship with the families of the school at which I teach. I understand the issues of time and money that arise from being a parent, grandparent, teacher and community activist. I see the kitchen cabinet as a perfect opportunity to affect change.

**Lisa Wiese**

I want to do everything I can to make sure that the Timebank succeeds in our neighborhood. I want stronger ties between neighbors, and I want every member of our community to be valued for what they have to offer.

**Dear Neighbor,**

As we celebrate the new Northside grocery store, it's a good time to reflect on those in our community who make it a great place to live.

Northside business owners and residents strove to find a new grocery store since 2003. For some, the loss of a grocery store was an inconvenience; for others, it was traumatic – no access to fresh food, no ability to walk to the store and no reliable way to get to a grocery store outside of the Northside.

The Northside Planning Council led the team effort of community members who met with grocery chain owners, lenders, elected officials, potential new grocers and Sherman Plaza owners to land a new grocer. Northsiders again proved we can work together to solve problems. We held rallies, did a market basket study, applied pressure and collaborated with potential grocers to create a supportive environment for a potential new grocer.

Pierce's Northside Market opened in March, and we can all rest easier knowing that our community is a better place to live.

The Northside Planning Council has a thirteen-year history of making great things happen on the Northside. The Council is proud to be the catalyst for these milestones. You know about Warner Park Center, Troy Gardens, the Lakeview Library expansion, and helping create eleven neighborhood associations. Every achievement is the result of the community stepping forward, and individuals and organizations working together. And last December, we continued to honor these individuals and groups at the 3rd Annual North Star Awards.

The Council does more than celebrate. Every day, NPC works with neighborhood associations, parent-teacher groups, community organizations and many individuals to tackle challenges they face in their neighborhoods, schools and larger community.



**2005 North Stars**

**Northside News**

We are celebrating the 10th anniversary year of your community newspaper. The *Northside News* is essential in engaging our community and in creating a "Northside" identity. Every issue, dozens of volunteer writers bring the news of the Northside to your home.

**Northside Schools**

For four years, NPC worked with school groups to create a PTO Coalition, which now includes all schools within the East High attendance area. The Coalition protects neighborhood schools and drives the district's commitment to equity, getting resources for every child to succeed.

NPC joined parents, teachers, principals and neighbors to actively engage low-income parents in their children's education. Studies show that student achievement is closely tied to parental involvement. Our local students have an academic achievement gap that must be closed. While Northside schools are blessed with dedicated teachers, the current fiscal environment creates more challenges. It's more important than ever to engage parents and the community in the education of our children.

**Northside Timebank**

Last fall, in collaboration with the Dane County Timebank, NPC piloted an exciting neighborhood initiative to build community and provide invaluable services through a mutual credit system called "timebanking."

Neighborhood leaders are developing this pilot to bolster neighborhood activities that bring people together and make neighborhoods stronger. With 200 members in the Timebank, we surpassed our first year goal two and a half times over.

**Northside Bike Path**

Council members took the lead in addressing safety concerns for bicyclists and pedestrians. Our advocacy efforts led to the commitment of the City of Madison to map a possible Northside bike path.

Add to all this our continuing work of leadership development through our Leadership Circle and Grassroots Leadership College, our advocacy for a Warner Park swimming pool and a new Cherokee Marsh boardwalk (slated to be built in 2007), along with the kind of support and technical help we offer residents every day, you can see that NPC is actively at work to make our community a better place.

We invite you to help us in this work. Please give generously so we can keep building community to make the Northside even better.

Your neighbors at the Northside Planning Council,

**Dayna Dalton**  
Co-Chair

**Lisa Wiese**  
Co-Chair

**Jim Powell**  
Facilitator  
Northside News Editor

**Abha Thakkar**  
Assoc. Facilitator  
Northside News Managing Editor

Your financial support of \$25, \$50 or whatever you can afford allows us to continue our efforts to improve the quality of life for all Northside residents.

**YES! I want to support the Northside Planning Council & Northside News.**

**Here is my contribution:**

- \$500       \$75
- \$250       \$50
- \$100       \$25
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Call 661-0060 for more information.  
 As a 501(c)(3) organization, all donations to the Northside Planning Council are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

First Annual

# Tour du Nord

*Every time I see an adult on a bicycle I not longer despair for the future of the human race*  
~ H. G. Wells



**Who**

Join the Northside bicycle advocacy group for the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Tour du Nord.

**What**

A leisurely ride around north Madison to explore the sights and sounds of springtime. A helmet is required. You should be able to ride at 10 -12 mph for 1 ½ hours. Bring your own raingear, food, and water. No tee shirts, goodie bags or other stuff. Plan on obeying all traffic laws. Before we leave we'll discuss the route and group ride etiquette.

**Where**

We'll ride through Maple Bluff, Warner Park, Mendota Mental Health/Central Wisconsin Center. We'll meet in the parking lot closest to the Warner Park shelter (south of the Center). All are encouraged to ride.

**When**

Saturday, April 29 at 2 pm. (Rain date: Sunday April 30, 2 pm)  
I'd like to end the ride with a brief meeting to talk about our direction for bike advocacy for 2006. I'd like to organize some bike to work rides from Warner Park to the Capitol during Bike to Work Week in May

**How**

By bike, of course!

**Why**

Because it's spring and the Northside is a beautiful place to live and work.

**Questions?**

Contact Micheal Shinnars at 241-1848.

# Golfing for a Pool!

*The Circle of Friends  
of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center*

invites all golfers, swimmers, and community supporters, to participate in the

**1st Annual Celebrity Golf Scramble  
Friday, May 12  
Bridges Golf Course**

*All proceeds will go to build a Northside Pool*

The Circle of Friends is a group of residents created to support the mission of the WPCRC and to keep the Recreation Center a successful community asset.

The goal is to raise awareness so that funds can be raised to hasten the promise made by Madison's Mayor and City Common Council to build the next pool at Warner Park.

The COF's objective is to build both an indoor and outdoor pool without using tax dollars. Your support is crucial.

The real winners of this event will be all the families, children, seniors and swimmers at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center because all proceeds will go to the WPCRC Pool Fund.

All gifts and donations are tax deductible. The Madison Park Foundation, a non-profit organization separate from the City of Madison, has agreed to be the COF's fiscal agent.

The golf subcommittee members are

Brad Weisinger, JoAnn Walker, Karen Thompson, Robert Reuter, Steve Nelson, Jim Mohrbacher, Dave Meyer, Janet Epps, Peg & Tim Dean, Dorothy Borchardt, and Honorary Celebrity Golf Co-Chairs Pat O'Donahue and Ron Carlson.

Pat and Ron offered their services to help make sure this event is very successful. They have invited community and sport leaders to join us on May 12.

The committee has been planning and working with our business community to insure that this event will be fun for all with lots of prizes for the participants.

Here is your chance to enjoy your favorite game and while helping your community!

Registration forms are available at the Center and online.

**For more information  
visit the COF website at  
[www.wpcrcfriends.com](http://www.wpcrcfriends.com)**

## Metro Transit Presents Service Change Proposals

6:30 PM on Thursday,  
April 13  
Northport Community  
Learning Center  
1740 Northport Dr.



Metro Transit is in the process of developing service change proposals that would affect service in North Madison. Please come to this meeting to learn what these proposals are and provide input to help guide Metro staff through its planning process.

*This meeting is hosted by the Northside Planning Council.*

**For more information call Metro Transit:  
266-4466 (TTY 267-1143)  
or visit [www.mymetrobus.com](http://www.mymetrobus.com)**



## Faith Baptist Church

of Madison's Northside



Sunday Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Children's Church and Nursery  
Thursday Bible Study 7:00 P.M.  
Children's program, too!

Meeting at the  
**Warner Park Community  
Recreation Center**

For more information, call the church office at 850-7333.

COMMUNITY ISSUES

# Cherokee Park proposal draws crowds, questions and concerns

By Marcus Watson  
*The Northside News*

“That’s a statement, not a question,” was the most common response to comments made by attendees at the Cherokee Park development public meeting.

On February 28 more than 150 people crammed into a hot, stuffy Warner Park Center meeting room to learn about, and offer opinion on, the proposed development.

After a review of the plan by project consultants Tim Anderson, Bill White and others, the developers took questions and comments for about two and half hours.

Attendees’ concerns were myriad ranging from the environmental impact of more silt and runoff in the already carp-clogged marsh water, to the social consequences of “blending” high and middle-income neighborhoods.

Many had questions regarding expanding Whitetail Ridge Park. One person asked if the percentage of the population that are members of the Cherokee Country Club stays the same with the new development, will that new influx ensure the success of the club, one of the primary goals of the project.

Most of the land in the proposed development is in the Town of Burke,



Photo by Marcus Watson

### Cherokee Park, Inc. development proposal:

- ♦ Longterm plans for building about 1000 housing units, which include a mix of single family and duplex houses, townhomes and condominiums, built in several phases over two decades or more.
- ♦ Focus on Cherokee County Club: improvements and expansion, including possible timeshare residential units, a coffee shop and other facilities; and plan for residents in new housing to join Club to ensure its long term economic viability.
- ♦ Need to annex much of the property into the City of Madison.
- ♦ Expansion of Whitetail Ridge Park.
- ♦ Total area of about 1300 acres with significant amounts of greenspace.
- ♦ Relocation to the southeast of Wheeler Road between N. Sherman Avenue and County Highway CV.
- ♦ Possible roundabout at Wheeler Road and N. Sherman Avenue.
- ♦ Development concept maps at [www.cherokeerealestate.net/future.html](http://www.cherokeerealestate.net/future.html)

### City of Madison draft special area plan:

- ♦ Draft plan to be presented to the public on April 25 (see sidebar).
- ♦ Recommended housing densities and building types.
- ♦ Some details of an expanded Whitetail Ridge Park.
- ♦ Integration of bicycle/pedestrian trails throughout the proposed development area and adjacent areas.

and the developer, Cherokee Park, Inc., will submit its first annexation petition and rezoning/general development plan request should be submitted in mid to late April.

“Development will occur incremen-

tally as it has in the past,” White said, “but will be with a variety of housing stocks to support the country club and other outdoor recreational uses.”

“We anticipate having at least two more public meetings this spring,” he

*The City of Madison invites you to attend a presentation of its*

## Draft Special Area Plan for the Cherokee Park Area

**Tuesday, April 25  
7:00 pm  
Warner Park Community Recreation Center**

Join city planners as they present a draft of their plan for this area, based on public input, the Cherokee Park Inc. development proposal, and the City Comprehensive Plan

# Now open!

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**New Patio**

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Saturdays & Sundays

**Meat Raffle Saturdays 9:00 AM**

# Volleyball Fun League

**Sign Up Now**

## 246-2010

# Northside voters show their independence at the polls

By J.D. Stier  
The Northside News

*"It's still sinking in, I took a big risk, and am absolutely stunned with this level of support. I'm really looking forward to being an honorary member of every community in Madison."*



Lucy Mathiak

Lucy Mathiak, East High School parent and newly elected School Board member, defeated 4-term incumbent Juan Jose Lopez with 57% of the citywide vote in just one of the contested races on the April Northside ballot. Mathiak won 61% of the vote in Northside wards (22-31).

Mathiak campaigned on the need for change, recalling an East High School student's question of her opponent, "What has gotten better in our schools in the past 12 years?"

She stated that her vision for Madison schools includes a "highly functional, engaged decision-making board... and the need to change the way [the school board] looks at the budget." She argued that "instead of [saying that the board] has no choices, [the board] should be saying we do have choices" and looking at options.

In other school board election results, candidate Maya Cole lost the seat vacated by Bill Keyes to Arlene Silveira by only 86 votes. Although Cole lost the citywide election by a .25% margin, she received 55% of the votes in Northside wards (22-31), almost 300 more votes than Silveira out of 2900 cast.



Arlene Silveira

Silveira, campaigning on her volunteer leadership in the schools and her management and budget experience at Pro Mega Corporation, says she brings "a positive approach, building from points of strength." She said, from her victory party inside the Great Dane, that she was "so excited, it was a great race" and that she's "really looking forward to working with administrators and the public."

Silveira went on to say that in addition to the budget being the most urgent priority, she wants to focus on "communication and perception of the board." She senses that "there is a public mistrust" of the board, and she "wants people to say that [the board] can make good decisions."

Cole, at the party she hosted with Mathiak's campaign, said that she was

"very happy with the turn out, pleased that our campaign elevated the conversation regarding our schools," and that she "wants to stay involved in more progressive issues like this."

**Back on the Northside** Incumbent Dorothy Wheeler defeated challenger Al Vorhees in the District 18 County Supervisor race by nearly a 2-1 margin.



Dorothy Wheeler

Vorhees, who had never previously held public office, got into the race because he felt a sense of duty to offer voters a choice. He says he was "very disappointed to see only 10 [County Supervisory] seats opposed... Someone had to get in there and take the abuse."

Wheeler felt that she and Vorhees "didn't really disagree on much," except that he favors jail expansion and money for Sheriff training, while she favors jail diversion programs.

In a very civil race, both opponents thanked the voters, with Vorhees saying "I will continue my interest in these issues."

Wheeler thanked her supporters and attributed her victory "to a well organized campaign and wonderful supporters." When asked what's next, she pointed to the construction of a new Badger Prairie Nursing Home, as well as "sticking to a good plan for the North Mendota Parkway. It's a slow process, and we want it done right."

Finally, a ballot resolution asked voters whether they thought U.S. troops should be brought home immediately from Iraq. 61% of voters in Northside wards (22-31) voted in favor of this referendum, while a slightly higher 68% of Madisonians voted "yes." This referendum has no legal authority over troop placement or the rate at which U.S. troops will return home, but for many it was a way to send a clear message that our soldiers should be here and not in Iraq.

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PEOPLE

# Love of son, lust for life, celebrated anew at ALS fundraiser

**By Dana Slowiak**  
The Northside News

Former Northside resident Steve Weekes' legacy includes his son, his love of life, and a fundraiser he started six years ago.

The annual Rockin For a Cure, slated for April 29 at the Coliseum Bar, continues on without Steve. The event raises money for ALS research, the very disease that claimed Weekes' life in January 2005. He was 43.

Steve's motivation for starting the fundraiser was not only to find a cure but also to stick around for his son, Zach, who is now 11 and a half.

"His pride and one of his greatest joys was his son, Zach," said John Weekes, Steve's younger brother. "His drive and inspiration was to keep living for his son and watch him grow up."

ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) is fatal neurological condition that slowly destroys the body's muscles. Also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, it attacks the central nervous system (the brain and spinal cord), killing the motor neurons the brain and muscles use to communicate to each other. The brain no longer tells muscles how to function. As the result, the unused muscles die one by one.

Over time, the body can no longer perform basic functions like walking, standing, holding objects and vital life needs, like swallowing and breathing. The average life span after diagnosis is only three to five years.

There is no known cause or cure for

ALS. According to the ALS Association, most people are diagnosed between ages 40 and 70. Steve was younger than the average when he was diagnosed at age 36. As many as 30,000 Americans have ALS at any given time.

Upon learning his diagnosis in 1999 and discovering ALS was fatal, Steve took action. He realized that research was the key to finding a cure. While waiting in an ALS clinic for treatment with his siblings John and Monica, he decided a fundraiser was in order.

A natural fit for his fundraiser was the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps and the band Wall of Sound, two of Steve's passions. He performed with the Corps in the early 1980s and helped instruct the Corps for several years. In fact, he moved to Madison in 1981 with the sole purpose of becoming a member of the Corps. He was also the drummer in Wall of Sound.

Rockin For A Cure was born. The first event took place in 2000, less than a year after his diagnosis.

While his fundraiser continued to grow and strengthen each year, Steve's body moved in the opposite direction.

"Steve was a great mentor," said John. "He taught me snare drums as a kid. He had a good drive and a passion and dedication to life." John and Monica did not hesitate to put their own lives on hold and help Steve battle ALS. They decided to purchase a home near Warner Park just to help Steve with daily living as his disease



Photos provided by John Weekes

**Left: Steve and his son Zach celebrate the first day of kindergarten. Above: Steve was a member of the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps in the early 1980s.**

progressed.

One tragic side effect of ALS is that sufferers do not lose cognitive abilities as the disease progresses. They are fully aware of everything happening to their bodies. Weekes chose not to let this affect him and continued to plan and promote Rockin For A Cure and spent time with his family and son.

"Steve had a good drive, and a passion and dedication to life," said John.

The Weekes family spent a lot of time at close-to-home Northside events. Steve, Zach, Monica and John spent several summer nights enjoying the NESCO concert series since Steve could get there easily in his wheelchair. Steve was also a regular at Apple Fest and Rhythm and Booms. He continued to fight the disease until the very end, John said, and he outlived the normal life span for ALS. The disease finally claimed in on January 14, 2005, before the fifth annual Rockin For A Cure.

The fundraiser continues to remember Steve and share the story of ALS with the community. This year's event on April 29 features Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps, Madison Scouts Alumni Reunion Drum & Bugle Corp, Chicago Royal Airs Alumni Drum & Bugle Corps and the Soul Brothers. The event takes at the Coliseum Bar at 232 Olin Avenue and begins at 6 pm. Tickets cost \$20, and all proceeds go to ALS Therapy Development Foundation.

Event website  
[www.rockinforcure.org](http://www.rockinforcure.org)



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# “Wild Child” experiences advance multi-layer imagery

By Dana Slowiak  
The Northside News

Artist Jolene Frechette is a nearly life-long Northside resident and has been a professional artist for almost 20 years. Her work captures moments in time, often pulling from her experiences and interpretations of growing up in Madison during the 1970s. She fondly describes herself as a rock-and-roll loving wild child that took full advantage of all that came her way.

Her completed work often begins as a memory, thought, phrase, reading, or sketch that grows into a completed work. She has a knack for incorporating a visual play on words into her art. She explains that her imagery doesn't necessarily represent her specific experiences and may portray collective experiences. She prefers painting with acrylic paints on wood, and she's developed a unique style by pairing a painted border of multiple images with a central image. The border and central image reference each other, working together to send the viewer a narrative or interpretation about an experience.

She developed the dual-image concept after an early-career learning experience. Her work was hanging at a local sandwich shop, and Frechette and a friend decided to have lunch there. She overheard a random customer at a nearby table inform his friend what the artist meant with the work. Unfortunately,



Artist Jolene Frechette incorporates multiple facets of life into her layered imagery. Pictured above is *Skip*, which depicts a young student skipping classes.

that customer was way off base. Frechette chose not to confront the wayward viewer with her truth but did decide to provide more visual information in future works to prevent such misinterpretations.

Her painting *Skip* (pictured above) exemplifies her work. The young female student in the center stands in front of East High School, skipping classes. Frechette herself may have skipped a class or two during her high school years, and the image may or may not represent her. The border imagery incorporates what happens when cats are at play as birds flutter near top of the image.

Frechette also creates unconvention-

al cross-stitch art that incorporates similar imagery. She often blends words and phrases meaningful to her into the pieces, using newspaper clippings and headlines for inspiration. This art form is still new to her, but she enjoys using similar concepts in an alternative creative outlet.

Frechette began exhibiting and selling her work in the 1980s. While she enjoyed her teen years, she regrets it took awhile to become disciplined enough to develop a body of work. She finally decided if she was spending so much time creating, she might as well bite the bullet and start showing her work. She had to do something with her paintings, other than let them stack up around her house. She took the plunge and began applying to exhibits. “It was out of character,” Frechette says, since she was very shy. Her first attempts were learning experiences garnered safely through the mail. Her work was slowly accepted to more and more venues, including a mix of galleries and coffee shops, which built her confidence about showing her work. She's exhibited extensively in

Madison and has shown in Milwaukee as part of the group exhibit. While Frechette now talks confidently about her work, she admits she still isn't a big fan of gallery talks. She much prefers to let her work speak for itself.

Viewers can look for Frechette's work at the upcoming Northside Artists Group show in May. Her painting *Skip* will be included in an art exhibit slated for September and October at the Madison Municipal Building Gallery as part of Madison's sesquicentennial celebration.

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**Northside Farmers Market gears up for second year**  
*The Market opens for business on Sunday, May 7*

**By Nan Cline**

As spring takes its time getting here, preparations for the 2nd Annual Northside Farmers Market season are spinning ahead like a tiller turns prime garden loam. The market has a longer run this year, opening May 7 and continuing every Sunday from 8 am - 1 pm through the end of October.

Northside Community Grocery Co-op members didn't miss a "beet" (pardon the pun) in deciding to continue running the farmers market. Last year the group was the main force behind the first Northside market. When Pierce's grocery arrived on the scene to supply food to the community, co-op members determined not to open a competing store and instead to continue the farmers market.

As of the end of March, 26 vendor stalls are reserved. "Nearly all 20 vendors from last year will return," reports interim vendor manager Mike Jett, adding, "This summer's market will be so much better for both vendors and shoppers." Shopping center owners Dave and Don Bruns of the Northside TownCenter (formerly Sherman Plaza) will again donate space on the former site of their family farm at the corner of North Sherman Avenue and Northport Drive. The market's close proximity to Pierce's beautiful new grocery store will benefit both. Shoppers having Quest cards, WIC and Senior Farmers Market Vouchers can use these forms of pay-

ment again through an easy token coin system.

Each member of the co-op board is in charge of planning a different aspect. For example, Connie Smalley is organizing theme festivals at least once a month. Sherrie Patrick, head of nutrition outreach, plans a market newsletter spotlighting a vendor and offering recipe ideas. Cooking demonstrations will create mouth-watering combinations to tempt us to try market products. "Our vendors will sell about any type of produce anyone could want," says Sherrie, "and we'll make it easy for you to learn how to use it."

Among vendors this year is Jimmy Hudson, Jr., whose hot peppers were a hit last year. Retired now, he and his wife, Jacqueline, farm full time. "I enjoy it so much I'd farm even if we didn't make a profit. If you thought my peppers were hot last year, wait until you try our new variety!"

Rich Horbaczewski and Jackie Gennett of Grass is Greener Gardens quickly sold out of their naturally raised lamb when they offered it last fall. This year the lamb will be available opening day. They will offer organic produce (pending certification) and new this year, pasture-raised chickens. Special orders will be accepted. Peg Whiteside and Diana Morgan of Earthrise Farm have a few years of experience supplying customers from their farm, but last year's market was a trial run for them. They will grow a larger variety of pro-

duce this year and will offer pork bratwurst. While Peg learned farming skills growing up on her mom's dairy farm, Diana was raised in Chicago. As a child she thought that vegetables grew in cans. Go figure.

That's a taste of things to come at the second annual Northside Farmers Market. The Northside Community Co-op invites "all y'all" to come on down, meet these folks and the rest of the gang. Get inspired, meet your neighbors, and eat some tasty food every Sunday starting May 7.



Photo by Abha Thakkar

**Mayor Dave Cieslewicz, along with many little helpers, opens the very first Northside Farmers Market last June. This year's market runs every Sunday from May 7 to October 29.**

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| <b>Gun Run Elk Ridge</b> elk meat & sausage                         | <b>Granny's Old Fashion Bakery</b> cookies, tea breads & Southwest-inspired bread |
| <b>Troy Community Farm</b> produce                                  | <b>Barnard Farms</b> berries, cherries, apricots & apples                         |
| <b>Flyte Family Farm</b> produce                                    | <b>Jimmy Hudson Jr.</b> produce & peppers                                         |
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| <b>Pleasant Springs Hatchery</b> fish                               | <b>J&amp;R Farms</b> produce, honey, sorghum, maple syrup & seasonal baked items  |
| <b>Hermsdorf Farms</b> produce                                      | <b>Robson's Gardens</b> produce & flowers                                         |
| <b>Earthrise Farm</b> produce                                       | <b>Sprouting Acres</b> produce, flowers & herbs                                   |
| <b>Don's Produce</b> produce                                        | <b>Ka Youa Yang</b> produce & flowers                                             |
| <b>Francois Bakery and Cafe</b> bakery                              | <b>Pederson Produce</b> produce                                                   |
| <b>Grass is Greener Gardens</b> - produce, flowers, honey & lamb    |                                                                                   |
| <b>Kia Yang</b> produce, flowers & strawberries                     |                                                                                   |
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Mayor Dave Cieslewicz speaking on the store intercom at the grand opening



Photos by Abha Thakkar



Kris & Dave Meyer, Northside TownCenter co-owner Dave Bruns, and Jim Buchanan talk with store manager Ron James (right) at the grand opening



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