

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

From
**PAUL
RUSK**



DISTRICT 12 SUPERVISOR

Electronic Monitoring

Recently there has been attention given to electronic monitoring of inmates at the jail who have been granted daytime work release privileges. As chair of Public Protection and Judiciary, I have been very involved in the expansion of this program designed to save money while enhancing public safety. The judge, when sentencing an individual, determines if he or she is eligible for work release privileges. It is in everyone's best interests for those with jobs to continue working.

Since 1991, the Sheriff has had about 50 inmates on electronic monitoring. The judges also have an electronic monitoring program.

The Sheriff proposed expansion of electronic monitoring to reduce the shipping of inmates to other county jails, which cost taxpayers \$3 million last year. Shipping does not help inmate rehabilitation as family mem-

bers are not close. This initiative was approved by the County Board without any opposition with a goal of 200 participants by July.

Today we have new GPS technology to monitor inmates around the clock. Previously many were on daytime release without any monitoring. For those with alcohol related crimes, a special alcohol sensor machine is installed. Numerous times throughout the day you must breathe into the machine that is equipped with a camera to ensure identity.

Some have suggested that electronic monitoring is a public safety threat. Although there are no iron clad guarantees, to me this is without merit. Today we have 86 inmates being monitored with their exact location always known. Many have committed alcohol-related crimes. Having a bracelet on your ankle and a visible alcohol monitor on the kitchen counter is an ideal educational tool for younger family members.

We have a serious alcohol abuse problem in Wisconsin, and I hope increased use of electronic monitoring is another step towards addressing this problem.

Supv. Rusk can be reached at 249-9667 or rusk@co.dane.wi.us

From
**DOROTHY
WHEELER**



DISTRICT 18 SUPERVISOR

Thanks for Your Vote!

I want to thank all the citizens of District 18 for giving me the honor of representing them on the county board. I especially want to thank many of them who supported my run for the third term. At the writing of this column, the election results are unknown but now you do know if I prevailed or not! Of course, I hope very much that I do win a third term because my experience of four years on the Board will be so valuable in helping to make policy that is beneficial to this district.

District 18 is the best district in the county for many reasons. First and foremost, we have great people in this district. I have enjoyed meeting many of you when I was "doing doors". Having said that, I apologize to my

friends for not showing up at their doors this election. I was busier than usual with major events in my life, and I didn't like the weather which rendered the sidewalks and driveways dangerous. We have wonderful community leaders in this district, too. I interviewed many of them when I was a reporter for the *Northside News*, and I have the greatest respect for the time and energy they devote to community service. The Northside Planning Council is an asset to all of the Northside with many citizens of District 18 participating actively.

Walking the district is a pleasure. We have one nice neighborhood after another very compactly situated but interrupted by one major highway - State Highway 113. That highway adds noise and danger of many speeding cars. Crossing it to get to Warner Park and the Northside TownCenter is difficult. I wish we could tunnel it near our neighborhoods and connect Lake View Hill Park and Warner Park!!

Supv. Wheeler can be reached at 244-4711 or wheeler@co.dane.wi.us

From
**KATHLEEN
M.
FALK**



DANE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Alcohol Abuse Hurts Communities, Families

In Dane County we see so much human misery and face enormous public safety, health and economic costs because of the misuse of alcohol.

Our state has the absolute worst rates of underage, binge, and chronic heavy drinkers in the country. We're also worst for fatal car crashes caused by alcohol.

In Dane County, more than 40 percent of the fatal car crashes last year involved alcohol. Three times as many people are killed in alcohol related traffic crashes than are murdered in Dane County each year. Also, 3,000 people are booked on drunk driving charges in this county each year.

Do we want our deputies and police officers spending their shifts hauling drunks to detox instead of patrolling our neighborhoods?

Overconsumption of alcohol also hurts public health, increasing the

prevalence of cancers, heart disease, and other debilitating illnesses.

It's estimated 25,000 kids in this county go home to parents who are intoxicated and may be verbally or physically abusive.

With all the greatness of our community, why do we put up with this? We can be different.

That's why I'm going to spend the next five months studying, reading, listening and reviewing the options for how we can best move forward to address this problem. I'll produce a set of steps I think we need to take.

But, I need your help. We all need to look inside ourselves and think twice about what we're willing to accept as appropriate. We all can be part of the solution.

We need to do more for our young people who right now grow up in a culture of thinking the only things to do on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday nights involve a bottle-opener, can, or keg.

This effort isn't about stopping drinking to celebrate. It's about stopping the celebration of drinking.

County Executive Falk can be reached at 266-4114 or falk@co.dane.wi.us

Upcoming County Board of Supervisors Meetings

Apr. 10 ~ Apr. 15 ~ Apr. 24 ~ May 8 ~ May 22 ~ Jun. 5

All County Board meetings are on Thursdays at 7 pm in Rm. 201 at City-County Bldg. 210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

From
**JON
ERPENBACH**



STATE SENATOR

End of the Session Recap

The end of the 2007-2008 Legislative session has been reached and the Legislature will meet only to pass a budget repair bill, if state employee contracts need to be voted on, or if there are any veto override votes. It has been a long session with a lot of wrangling with the two houses of the Legislature being split politically for the first time since Tommy Thompson was Governor. The break will bring relief to tension between the houses.

Probably the greatest achievement this session was the final passage of a biennial budget. The budget debate was extremely difficult not just because the Legislature is split, but because there was a significant revenue shortfall as well as many Legislators promising no service cuts or new taxes. No one wants to raise taxes but taking all revenue off of the table does not allow us to keep up with the increased costs for the things we

all enjoy every day. In the end we did what needed to be done and compromised.

Other bills important to me were signed into law of note were:

Compassionate Care for Rape Victims – Act 102

Confidentiality of therapy records for minors – Act 53

Cancer research funding – Act 20

Virtual School protection – Senate Bill 396

Fallen Soldier Resolution Honoring CPL Rachael L Hugo from Madison - SJR 71

The Legislative break will be full of campaigning for some, and work studying legislative issues for others. It is also always a time to serve our constituents and to get out in the district more – hope to see you there!

If you would like to see all bills signed into law or would just like to search the Legislative action of this session visit the Legislature's webpage at www.legis.state.wi.us or call my office (see below).

State Sen. Erpenbach can be reached at 266-6670. 1-888-549-0027 or senator.erpenbach@legis.state.wi.us

From
**DAVE
TRAVIS**



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

BadgerCare Plus Now in Effect

Feb. 1, 2008 was a historic day for Wisconsin's residents. It was the first day that every child in Wisconsin, regardless of their family's income, became eligible for free or affordable healthcare. Enrollment for the highly anticipated expansion of BadgerCare opened on Fri., Feb. 1.

BadgerCare Plus will allow every Wisconsin Family, regardless of income, to buy affordable, comprehensive health care coverage for their kids. Low-income families will be able to enroll their children into BadgerCare Plus at no charge. Just

like the original BadgerCare Program, families with higher incomes will have access to certain services by paying reasonable premiums and co-payments.

Even if you have been denied for BadgerCare benefits in the past, you could still qualify now due to the expansion. To find out if you are eligible for BadgerCare Plus, you can visit www.access.wi.gov and click on "Am I Eligible". You can also apply online at www.badgercareplus.org. If you aren't able to access these tools online you can call 1-800-362-3002 for assistance.

To get more information on BadgerCare Plus you can visit: www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/badgercare-plus, contact my office (see below).

State Rep. Travis (a Northside resident) can be reached at 266-5340 or rep.travis@legis.state.wi.us

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

From
KATIE SCHARF

246-4547



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Closed May 26 for Memorial Day

BOARD GAME CLUB

Every Monday in April from 3-5 pm. Learn and play a variety of fun, exciting, challenging board games. Must be between eight and 18 years old.

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Lakeview Chess Club

Mon., Apr. 14, 28 and May 12, 26 from 6-7:45 pm. Chess meets, Lakeview the second and fourth Mondays of every month. Players any age or skill level welcome.

Remnants of the Rainforest

Sat., Apr. 19, 11 am. Featuring live animals such as creepy crawly insects, birds, mammals, lizards, turtles and snakes found in the rainforest!

Holly Nagel's Interactive Hula Program

Sat., May 17, 10:30 am. Hear folk stories, play exotic rhythm instruments, learn the Hawaiian hula dance and wear colorful costumes!

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Preschool Storytime

Tues., through Apr. 15, 10:15 am. Stories, songs and finger plays for children ages 3-5. Siblings welcome.

Baby & Toddler Time - Signing Storytime with Beebo!

Tues. through Apr. 15, 11:15 am. Special signing story times for infants and toddlers. Learn to communicate with your child through simple signs and gestures. Lots of fun!

Preschool Spanish with Ellie Rogers

Tuesdays starting Apr. 22, 10:15 am. Stories, songs and games to introduce children 3-6 years old to Spanish and have fun while learning. Register by calling 246-4547.

SCHOOL-AGED PROGRAMS

The Lightning Thief

Sat., Apr. 19 from 10-10:45 am. Discuss this funny fantasy novel. Copies are available, the Library. For ages 11-13. Call 246-4547 to register.

FOR TEENS AND MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

Video Madness

Thurs., Apr. 24 from 5-6 pm. Play Wii or DDR and have snacks with friends from the neighborhood! Ages 12 and up

ADULT PROGRAMS

Knitting, the Library

Every Wednesday, 6:30 pm. Knit with fellow knitters; get instruction if needed! Yarn and needles provided.

Scrabble for Adults

Wednesdays, 10 am-12 pm.

Daytime Book Group

Thurs., Apr. 17, 12 pm. Want to read good books and discuss them with fascinating, like-minded folk? Then we want YOU at our next meeting. Pick up a copy of *The Giant's House* by Elizabeth McCracken, the library.

Totally Beginning Computer Class For Adults

We've gotten great feedback from attendees of this class. This hour session is designed for people with little or no computer experience! Call 246-4547 to register.

Introduction to the Internet for Adults

Another in our "Totally Beginning" series, the objective of this hour-long session is to describe the function of the Internet, enable you to use both a search engine and a known address to access a website, and navigate within

From

DENNIS McQUADE

241-4849



COMMUNITY SOCIAL WORKER

Homelessness Prevention Fund Needs Your Help

Over the last few months a group of Northsiders, many from St. Paul Lutheran Church, have mobilized to meet increasing homelessness among their neighbors. Over the past couple of years, many local families have experienced financial hardship due to a variety of factors including higher utility and energy costs, stagnant wages and increases in rental and mortgage payments.

On the Northside, calls to the Joining Forces for Families (JFF) social worker have been averaging 50 requests per month from families facing eviction and utility shut-offs. For many, this is the first time they have asked for help.

Over the past two years, the number of students attending local schools who are homeless has risen by 139 percent (64 to 153) based on school data from 2005-6 to 2006-7.

a website using Internet Explorer. Prerequisites include the ability to use a computer mouse and basic understanding of Windows or the class listed above. Call 246-4547 to register.

Stay tuned for Catch the Reading Bug, our Summer Reading Program for all children through eighth grade. Earn prizes for reading books! Begins the last day of school.

There has been higher renter and local homeowner mobility due to evictions.

The Northside Homelessness Prevention Fund was initiated by the Northside Communities of Faith in 2001 to meet this need.

Rochelle's family is typical of one that the fund assists. She is a single parent, the mother of three small children. She earns \$7.50 per hour as maid at a local hotel. Her hours have been cut back and she has consequently fallen behind on her rent of \$700 for her two-bedroom apartment. Her landlord was willing to work with her, but she needed outside financial assistance. The JFF social worker matched resources that he identified with dollars from Rochelle and the Prevention Fund, to keep the family stable. The social worker ensured that Rochelle had a viable plan to keep up with her bills in the future.

The Northside Homelessness Prevention Fund, partnering with Living In Community, Inc., a non-profit organization, has mobilized to raise \$25,000 to help Northside neighbors threatened by homelessness. Tax-deductible donations of any amount are welcome. We estimate that on average, every \$150 raised will allow us to keep the heat turned on and a roof over the heads of one family.

Please donate today so we can continue to promote hope on the Northside. Working together, we keep our community a safe, wonderful place to live because people are willing to extend a helping hand in a time of need.

Please make out your checks to Living in Community, Inc.-HPF and mail to: Living in Community, Inc. 2126 N. Sherman Ave., Madison, WI, 53704.

If you have questions, call the JFF office at 241-4849.

Lakeview Library Film Fest

When the Madison Film Festival ends, join us for a free Tribute to Walter Mirisch, four-time Oscar-Winner and UW Alumnus (class of '42).

Apr. 12, 1:30 pm *The Apartment* (1960) Directed by Billy Wilder, starring Jack Lemmon, Shirley MacLaine and Fred MacMurray

Apr. 19, 1:30 pm *Same Time Next Year* (1978) Directed by Robert Mulligan from a play by Bernard Slade, starring Alan Alda and Ellen Burstyn.

Apr. 26, 1:30 pm *In the Heat of the Night* (1967) Directed by Norman Jewison; cast includes Sidney Poitier, Rod Steiger and Lee Grand. Music score is by Quincy Jones; Ray Charles provides theme song.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Madison Community Foundation, you can now share in Lakeview Library's excellent collection of materials about film and film history.

Over the Garden Gate



By **Judy Metz**

Master Gardener

MAY

Keep an ear to what the weatherman predicts for nighttime temperatures. Come May, everyone is itching to get dirt under their fingernails. If you plant annuals, veggies or hanging baskets outside, keep an eye on the temperature. If it gets below 40 degrees, cover them up or move them inside or to the garage.

Remove faded flowers from spring flowering bulbs, but only cut the stems. Don't cut the leaves until they die down naturally. To hide the yellowing leaves, plant annuals. When planting tomato seedlings, pinch off lower leaves and plant as deep as possible.

Deer and other critters can make your yard their own personal salad bar. Check with a garden center to find out about repellants that can be used safely. You can also try Irish Spring soap, tied inside panty hose and hung in the yard.

Try some annual vines this year. You can either plant seeds or buy some that have already been started. Either way they make a big impact by the end of the summer, climbing on anything with beautiful leaves and flowers.

Gardeners don't mind having dirt under their fingernails. That's when they are happiest.

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

HEALTH TIPS



From Your Neighborhood Chiropractor

By Dr. Ross Royster, D.C.

Keep It Simple!

I recently clipped three articles from the *Wisconsin State Journal*. They were about health related research results, and they were titled: "The Obesity-Cancer Link," "Obesity Tied to Women's Strokes," and "5 Behaviors for Longevity Identified."

The first two are easily understood by their titles. The five keys to a longer life are abstaining from smoking, weight management, blood pressure control, regular exercise and avoiding diabetes. None of this seems like earth-shattering news to me, but these and all the other health related tidbits that we encounter, like pieces of a puzzle, may not all fit into a clear picture for someone outside of the health care field. Nobody can assimilate and use all the health information available without having a clear understanding of health and disease.

Wellness or health is not just the absence of pain or symptoms. You likely will be ill for a long time before signs and symptoms are detectable. Being well means that all body parts and processes are functioning 100 percent. Your body automatically regulates itself and strives to be healthy. You just have to keep from interfering in that process.

Your role is to: 1) Provide your body with premium fuel. Eat what you were made to eat. You won't run on junk for long. 2) Move. Lack of movement slows healthy body processes and speeds up degeneration and aging. 3) Rest. Let your body regenerate. Don't run it into the ground and expect to be healthy. 4) Avoid poisons. Smoking is the obvious one, but also limit your exposure to offensive substances and environments. 5) Enjoy life. This is not a dress rehearsal. Make the best of it, and keep your mind and body active.

"Dis-ease," or lack of health, seems a bit more elusive to understand. First, realize that genetics play a very small role in disease. Lifestyle is the big player. Research is showing that most of the chronic diseases that we dread are coming from a common origin. Improper diet, lack of exercise and rest, and stress cause low-level inflammation in the body. This inflammation may be undetectable for a long time, but it will eventually show itself in many ways, depending on which body parts succumb first. Heart disease, diabetes, arthritis, arteriosclerosis, cancer, Alzheimer's and fibromyalgia, are just some of the diseases now believed to be expressions of the inflammation caused by unhealthy living.

In the context of these definitions of health and disease, it is easy to see the commonality of the research data that seems to keep coming. Hopefully, understanding and using this information to achieve optimum health has just gotten simpler for you.

NUTRITION TIPS



By Deborah Roussos, MS, RD, CD & Ann Martin, RD, CD, CDE



When To Buy Organic?

The next time you are in the produce aisle, you might find yourself comparing apples to oranges, and that's a good thing. It may be a good idea to look for organic labels on certain fruits and vegetables to reduce your and the earth's exposure to pesticides on produce. Small doses of pesticides and other chemicals can adversely affect people, especially during childhood. Studies show that organic produce often has better nutrient quality than conventional produce, plus organic farming practices protect our earth.

Just a few years ago, the term "organic" applied to anything food producers wanted. Then in 2002 the US Department of Agriculture stepped in to regulate the meaning. Produce can be called organic when it is grown without synthetic pesticides or fertilizers and without bioengineering.

One basic rule: if you eat the skin or leaves of a fruit or vegetable, it is usually better to buy organic. For some produce, pesticides will be difficult to totally eliminate even with washing. Peeling produce cannot remove the pesticides and often the important nutrients are in the peel.

The Environmental Working Group (www.ewg.org) has created a list of 43

produce items and ranked them according to pesticide levels using data from the USDA and the FDA.

Here are their top 12 that are worth buying organic: peaches, apples, sweet peppers, celery, nectarines, strawberries, cherries, pears, imported grapes (although buying local produce saves fuel), spinach, lettuce and potatoes. (These are the 12 that are most contaminated.)

Here are their top 12 that you can buy non-organic: asparagus, avocados, bananas, broccoli, cauliflower, sweet corn, kiwi, mangos, onions, papaya, pineapple and sweet peas. (These are the 12 that are least contaminated.)

We are lucky to live in Dane County since we have farmers markets where organic produce is available. We have our own neighborhood farmers market at Northside TownCenter every Sunday from May 4 through October 26, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Another concept for obtaining organic produce is the CSA or Community Supported Agriculture. A membership to a CSA allows you to support local (often organic) farmers by purchasing an annual share for food from a participating farm. In return, you will share in the harvest. To learn more about Community Supported Agriculture, please visit the Madison Area CSA Coalition Web site at www.macsac.org. The Northside has its own CSA farm at Troy Community Farm at Troy Gardens.

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SENIOR

From
CHERYL BATTERMAN MPA
cbatterman@nescoinc.org
NESCO Executive Director



Third Annual Senior Health Fair May 2

Are you ready for a day of fun, information, and entertainment—focusing on your health? The date has been set for the Third Annual Senior Health Fair on Fri., May 2, 9 am–2 pm at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center.

Sponsored by the North/Eastside Senior Coalition, Warner Park Community Recreation Center and the Madison Rotary Foundation, this day-long event will focus on the health and wellbeing of senior adults age 55 and older. Not only is it one of the most requested program areas by the seniors we serve, but we find it is an unmet need in the East- and Northside communities.

Two years ago, NESCO initiated a small health fair, which we expand upon each year by adding new components and free health screenings. In fact, the event was so popular last year that we are forced to move most of the events into the large gym this year!

Several comments offered at last year's fair include, "It was a good overall source of information" and "There were wonderful caring person-

nel at all the booths, they are to be commended" and "I'm excited to come next year!"

The Third Annual Senior Health Fair will address the need for more information through key note speakers and resource booths featuring local health agencies; in addition, it will address the need for knowledge of personal ailments through numerous screening areas (free). It will also offer some musical entertainment, so as to not have the atmosphere of a medical symposium.

A unique component of this health fair is the availability of Spanish translators. Limited transportation is also available for senior adults.

As many local senior adults know, NESCO Fridays are normally reserved for several rousing games of bingo, but never fear, we have incorporated "Healthy Bingo" into the schedule with a special nutritious meal served at the senior dining site.

Although the health fair is free, the cost of the lunch is an anonymous donation for seniors age 60 or older; those under age 60 are asked to pay \$5.75. To make a reservation for the meal or to request transportation, call 243-5252 by noon on April 25. A late bus will be provided for those seniors wishing to stay until the completion of the fair (2 pm).

For more information concerning the 3rd Annual Health Fair, call 243-5252 or visit our website at www.nescoinc.org.

SENIOR Activities

Programs and services are offered at Warner Park Community Recreation Center/WPCRC (1625 Northport Drive) and Bashford United Methodist Church (329 North Street).

Bingo

First Tuesday each month & all Fridays, 10:30 am, WPCRC, 5¢ per game with cash prizes

Cards & Puzzles (FREE)

Monday-Thursday, 10 am, Bashford and WPCRC

Caregiver Support Group

First Tuesday, 10 am, WPCRC

Case Management

Provides support, resources and community services to enable seniors to safely remain living in their own homes.

Cultural Diversity

Hosts monthly programs for African American and Latino seniors.

Foot Care Clinics

NESCO and Home Health United co-sponsor six foot clinics each month for individuals who can not do their own foot care and do NOT have diabetes. The cost is \$15. Call 243-5252 to make an appointment.

Home Chore Program

Volunteers are needed to help with spring cleaning for seniors. This is a flexible volunteer opportunity that can fit into your busy schedule and is very rewarding. Ask Breena for more information.

Low-Vision Support Group

Fourth Thursday, 10:15 am, WPCRC

Nutrition Education (FREE)

Second Thursday, 11 am, Bashford and fourth Wednesday, 10:30 am, WPCRC

Nutritious Lunches

Monday-Friday, 11:30 am, Bashford & WPCRC. Door-to-door bus service is available (50¢ each way & free on Tuesdays and Fridays). Guests 60 years of age and older are invited to enjoy their meal on an anonymous donation basis. Anyone under 60 is asked to pay the full cost of the meal (\$5.75). Reservations required by 11:30 am the day prior.

Senior Exercise (FREE)

Wednesdays, 10:30 am, WPCRC and Thursdays, 10:15 am, Bashford

Mark your calendars for these special upcoming events:

Apr. 9, Noon –3 pm, Folk Art Fair (for seniors and families of all ages), WPCRC

May 2, 9 am- 2 pm, Third Annual Senior Health Fair, WPCRC

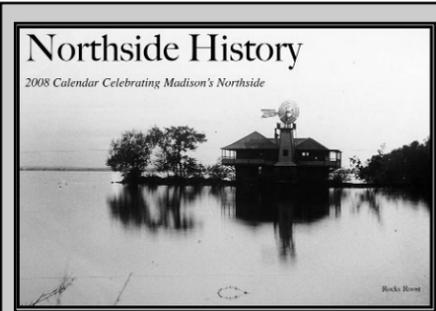
May 14, 8 am- 4:30 pm, Diamond Jo Casino Trip (\$18 per person), Must pre-register

May 23, 6:30-8:30 pm, Second Annual Senior Prom, Black Hawk Middle School

For over 33 years, the North/Eastside Senior Coalition (NESCO) has been enhancing the quality of life for all senior adults. NESCO provides programs, advocacy, and resources to help them remain independent, active, and influential in the community.

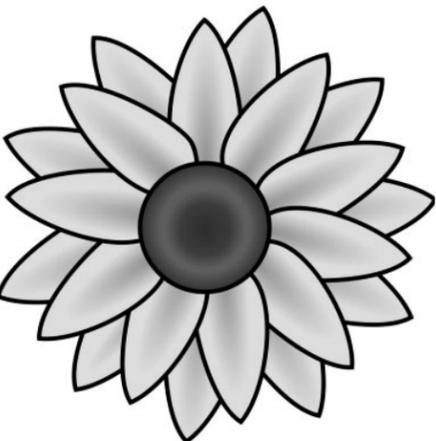
For more information about any of these activities, please call NESCO at 243-5252 or email info@nescoinc.org.

Seniors - make sure to read the article on falling, "Myths about senior falls don't stand up" on page 22



NORTHSIDE HISTORY CALENDARS
2008 calendars are still available at a reduced price. Call 661-0060, ext. 1.

WE NEED YOUR HISTORY IMAGES! Help create the 2009 Northside History Calendar. Share your images and stories! Call Dana at 661-0060, ext. 1 to learn how to share your Northside history with your community.



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WARNER PARK COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER NEWS

From
BRAD WEISINGER
245-3690



WPCRC Facility Manager

Greetings Northsiders!

The WPCRC opened its doors on Sept. 19, 1999. The anticipation and expectations were high from the beginning. It was an immediate hit and the community watched the Center blossom. There were challenges along the way but each one was met with an open mind and was used as a stepping-stone for future success.

This State and National Award Winning Center rapidly became an icon for the City of Madison and a connecting point for the Northside of Madison.

The Center has reach extraordinary use numbers and reached all income levels (see chart below). It is clear that the Center has accomplished wonderful things in a short time.

What issues is the Center facing?

- * Budgets are getting tighter
- * Utilities increases since 1999 include electricity 72 percent and gas 45 percent
- * Public service demands doubled
- * Space is limited
- * Building is getting older

What are possibilities for the Center's future?

- * Expanded open space
- * Additional staff
- * Parking accessibility
- * Fee increases
- * Circle of Friends (COF) financial support, operations and capital

I hope that as your Director of the WPCRC, the staff and I have fulfilled and accomplished many of the dreams and ideas the Northside has visualized

Thank you, Brad

On behalf of the Northside community, the Northside Planning Council would like to thank Brad Weisinger for 10 years of service to Warner Park Center

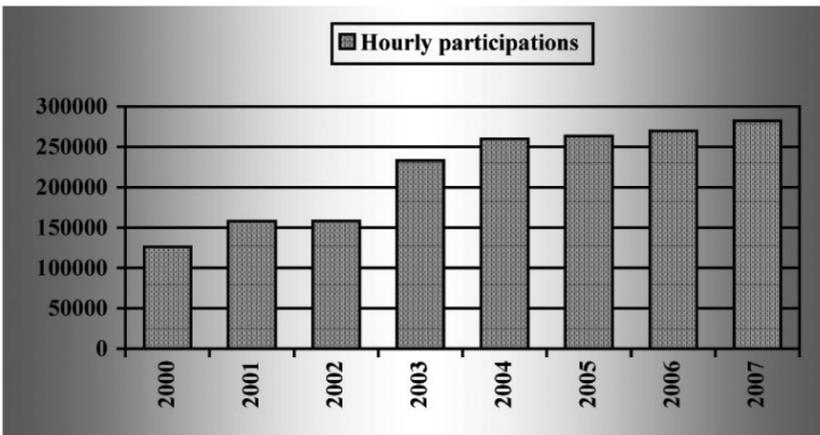
for this facility. I am leaving to begin a new and wonderful opportunity as the City of Madison Parks Community Services Manager and will continue to play a role in the continued success of the Center in my new position.

The Advisory Committee recently asked the Park Commission to include WPCRC in the Warner Park Master Plan. The Park Commission agreed. The current discussions include: stadium, parking, pool and expansion of the WPCRC. Working together these visions may become a reality.

The Mayor and Alders from District 12 and 18, the Madison Park Commission, the WPCRC Advisory Committee and the WPCRC Circle of Friends should all be commended for their support of this award winning facility. I also want to thank all the wonderful Center staff I have had the privilege of working with at the Center.

What an exciting time this is for us all. Planning the Center's tenth anniversary will bring back fond memories and dreams of an even more exciting tomorrow.

I look forward to being part of a community-bridging component that becomes not just a link to the community but also a golden key to the north side and the City of Madison. It has been my pleasure serving you and managing this amazing Northside treasure.



Celebrity Golf Scramble for a Pool at Warner Park

Bridges Golf Course, Wed., June 4

By Dorothy Borchardt

Circle of Friends



Here is your chance to enjoy your favorite game and help your community! The Circle of Friends (COF) of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center invites all golfers, swimmers and community supporters to join community and sport leaders in the Third Annual Celebrity Golf Scramble for a Pool on Wed., June 4 at Bridges Golf Course.

Our goal is to raise awareness and generate money to hasten the promise made by Madison's Mayor and City Council to build the next pool at Warner Park. We would like to do this without using additional taxpayers funds.

The committee has been planning and working with our business community to insure the golf outing will be fun for all with lots of prizes for the participants. All gifts and donations are tax deductible. The Madison Park Foundation, a non-profit organi-

zation separate from the City of Madison, has agreed to be the COF's fiscal agent.

The real winners in this event will be all the children, seniors and families at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center (WPCRC) since all proceeds will go to the WPCRC Pool Fund.

Registration forms are available at WPCRC. For more information please contact, Dorothy Borchardt at dborchardt1@charter.net or visit the COF website www.wpcrcfriends.com

Habitat for Humanity seeks families for future Dane County builds



Meeting Sunday April 13 at Warner Park Center

Habitat for Humanity of Dane County is seeking seven families for homes, duplexes and condominiums to be built or renovated in 2008. Construction of these projects will be in Madison and surrounding communities. To apply for a Habitat home, applicants must attend an informational meeting to receive an application. The next Northside meeting is Sun, Apr. 13, 6:30 pm, at Warner Park Community Recreation Center.

The meeting will last about 90 minutes. Program applicants are required to have good credit and three years positive rental history. Applicants must have a minimum household income of \$25,000. For more information on income requirements or to be placed on the mailing list for future informational meetings, contact Habitat for Humanity of Dane County at 255-1549, ext. 212.

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VOLUNTEER

Warner Park Youth Football continues its 35 year Northside tradition

By Jon Schwichtenberg

Warner Park Youth Football (WPYF) has served Northside neighborhoods for over 35 years. Over those years, the group has grown into a vibrant organization that is well respected in our community. It is comprised mostly of volunteers who give their time and energy to fulfill our mission.

We have helped teach youth leadership, teamwork and discipline, and have been a contributor to the well-being and development of thousands of children.

Last year, the program served over 280 children in our football and cheer-leading teams, comprised of fourth through eighth graders (fall grade).

The game of football is more than just a game. Youth football is not about how many wins or losses are accumulated.

Proper football development means children playing age appropriate activities so they are able to experience, comprehend and execute the game as it relates to where they are in their cognitive development. It's about players learning the skills necessary to develop in the game. It's about receiving equal playing time, so that each player is given an equal opportunity to learn. As a result, players should come out of their experience with WPYF as

better people and better citizens, not just better football players.

The WPYF goal is to deliver a full-contact youth football program to the youth and families of the Northside communities, so that they may:

- Build character, self-esteem and personal confidence through performing as a team and through their individual accomplishments.
- Develop their athletic skills and techniques of football.
- Understand the proper definition of a team – a collection of players united in the pursuit of a common objective and of which each player is an integral part.
- Have an equal opportunity to develop and achieve with teammates.
- Provide recreational experiences that balance fun, safety, individual athletic abilities and satisfaction from team achievements.

We are a fully volunteer based organization and are always looking for volunteers for coaching, field prep, equipment assistance and more. These positions can be filled by anyone, including player's parents.

Youth signups are Warner Park Center on May 6, 13 and 20, from 6-8 pm. For more information about signing up or volunteering, please contact Program Director Jon Schwichtenberg at 332-2486.

Photo by Bryce Keel

cont. from page 35 Troy Gardens

they have been assigned a plot. Gardeners who cannot attend Opening Day may call Christie Ralston at the Troy Gardens office (240-0409) to find out their plot assignment. Every effort will be made to tell gardeners in the no-till sections their plot assignment prior to Opening Day, in case weather allows access earlier than Apr. 19. Those gardeners in the tilled sections of Troy can expect their plots to be plowed by Opening Day, weather permitting.

To be added to the plot waiting list, send your name, address, telephone number(s), and email address to Christie Ralston, info@troygardens.org or call 240-0409.

If you'd rather buy your veggies than bend over a garden, Troy Community

Farm works for you. A delicious variety of organic sprouts from Troy Farm is available every day at Pierce's Northside Market— and soon fresh herbs will also be sold there. Troy Farm Stand will be open on Troy Drive at Ler Dahl Street on Thursdays from 4-6:30 pm starting May 28 through October.

If you're a Sunday Northside Farmers' Market aficionado (and you should be!), you can buy the best organic produce in the city from Troy Farm at the Northside Farmers' Market. Please visit! For more information about Troy Community Farm, email farmer@troygardens.org.

Last but not least, this season's schedule of informative workshops and volunteer activities for Troy Gardens' Natural Areas Stewards is available on the web at www.troygardens.org, or contact Christie Ralston for more details.



Left: All you need is a finger, a tongue and an elderberry straw to experience the miracle of maple sap running. **Below:** A tiny elderberry straw, gleaned from the landscape at Troy, provides access to delicious sweet sap from an enormous maple tree.



Photo by John Beck

Above: The chickens remained at Troy Kids Garden all winter for the first time this year, thanks to daily care by volunteer Marge Pitts and her dog, Wink, who learned one of Troy Gardens' most valuable lessons: those who share food together can become friends despite apparent differences.

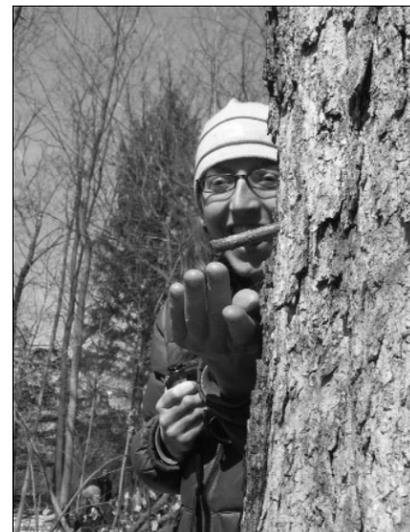


Photo by Marge Pitts

WARNER PARK YOUTH FOOTBALL WANTS YOU!

All kids entering 4th through 8th grade in the Fall of 2008 are eligible.

Warner Park Youth Football is about teaching your child the fundamentals of football while learning valuable skills, including team work, discipline and leadership.

If you and your child would like to be a part of our organization, please join us at our Annual Spring Football/Cheerleading Registration on one of these dates:

May 6, 6-8 p.m. OR **May 13**, 6-8 p.m. OR **May 20**, 6-8 p.m.

Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Dr.

Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar or send your registration in today!

Team sizes are limited and are formed on a first-come basis.

Player's fees (this includes all equipment needed except for shoes) are \$160 for your first child and every child after the first is half price or \$80 each.

Payment plans are available. A limited number of scholarships are available for those in real need. If you need financial aid (scholarship), you must provide proof of your household income (copy of tax return). New participants will need to provide a copy of your birth certificate. Returning players not registered prior to or on one of the above dates will be charged an additional fee of \$10 for late sign up.

Anyone paying the fee in full the day of sign up will receive tickets for a raffle for an autographed football from the Green Bay Packers.

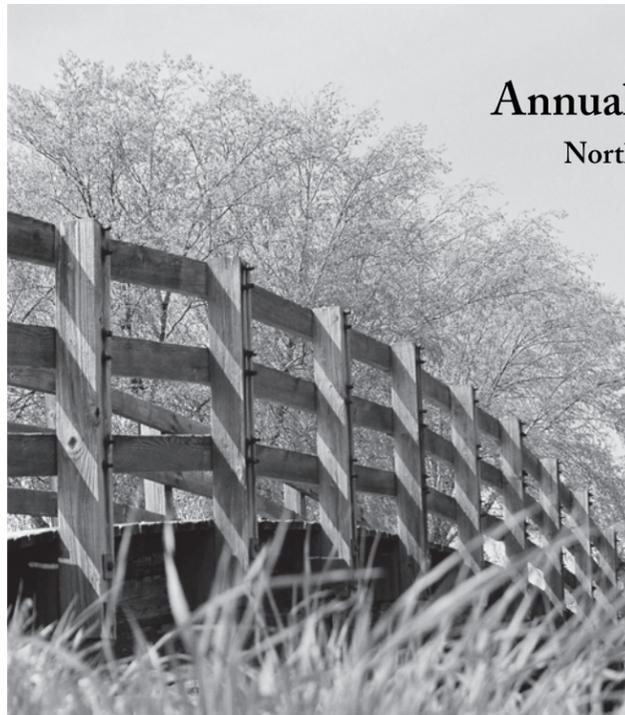
Girls/Boys who are interested in becoming cheerleaders, please come to one of the above sign-up dates to register or get more information. Fee for cheerleading is \$60 per child or \$40 for those families who have a child in each program.

If you have any questions please call Jon Schwichtenberg at 332-2486 or email us at wpyouthfootball@yahoo.com. For more information please visit our Web site at www.geocities.com/wpyouthfootball.

*** This is not a school-sponsored activity. The MMSD does not approve, support or endorse this program activity. ***

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Northside Artists Group

TROY GARDENS

Troy Gardens running on schedule

Sap, kids, chickens, gardening and stewardship plans abound

By Marge Pitts

Friends of Troy Gardens

On a recent Saturday morning in March, 60 grown-ups and children along with seven instructors met in the maple forest at Troy Gardens. They gathered in the Forest Classroom, a large circle of tree stump seats with a portable fire pit alight in the center. Troy's Education Director Nathan Larson and his guitar started things off with a sing-along. After that, and a bit of teaching, people broke into small groups led by interns and volunteers and wandered about the small forest, looking to stick handmade elderberry straws into the trunks of mature maples to watch the sap run out.

Everybody got a taste of sweet, watery sap as it dripped out of enormous old maples. After a fair taste, sap was collected into containers and brought back to the fire, where it was

strained into a mason jar and poured into a shallow container, to be cooked down into a small sample of maple syrup. Story-telling, questions and answers, much friendly conversation and a final sing-along completed the experience.

This event was part of Troy Gardens' A Year in the Forest Learning Community project, mentioned on these pages last fall. With funding from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board and American Girl's Fund for Children, Troy Gardens is offering four seasonal educational programs for families in addition to a seasonal, place-based curriculum and seven field trips for area school children and teachers this year.

The event was free, although donations were welcomed—and generously offered by many participants—to help support the Learning Community at Troy Gardens. Organizers had

planned to cap enrollment at 30, but they accepted twice that number due to great interest in the event among Northsiders.

Troy's Learning Community will be hosting a "Spring in the Forest" Family Program, which is scheduled for Sat., May 3, 10-11 am, and will likely feature making and tasting garlic mustard pesto—details to be announced.

This land feeds our community in much bigger ways, of course; namely, at Troy Community Gardens and Troy Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Farm.

At the gardens, 183 families are waiting for the spring thaw and Opening Day, Sat., Apr. 19. Gardeners will soon receive an e-mail or postcard inviting them to Opening Day and confirming that



Photo by Marge Pitts

Above: Arborist Mark Sundlin volunteered his expertise to create the first jar of maple syrup ever at Troy Gardens. **Below:** Troy's Education Director Nathan Larson (center, with guitar) leads a sing-along in the Forest Classroom to kick off the sap-tasting adventure.



Photo by Bryce Keel

See Troy Gardens, page 34

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