



# NORTHSIDE NEWS

Vol. 15, No. 3, Issue 87

December 2009 / January 2010



Photo by Anita Weier

Volunteers get ready to serve a bounteous Thanksgiving feast at The River.

## Holiday food drives and donations — How to get involved in giving

By Anita Weier

The parking lot is full at The River Food Pantry on Darwin Drive, and spaces are filling up on both sides of the street. Inside, a long line stretches as people sign up for either a free food and clothing take-out or a sit-down Thanksgiving feast.

It's Friday evening on Nov. 20, the pre-Thanksgiving celebration for the River, which was to be closed on the holiday and the day after.

Jeff Meyer, 41, who lives on Mifflin Street, has used this pantry and others. He is an unemployed construction worker and was here with his wife and three children.

"This is one of the better ones," he said. "The hospitality is wonderful, they have a good selection of food, and they get you through pretty quickly."

His friend Trevor Waller, who lives on the Northside, was holding his baby Lilith, 9 months, as his wife and two other children took advantage of a play area featuring games and a television set.

"I come here frequently. It's a nice place," he said.

Volunteer Julie Puntney of Cottage Grove said she has helped out at The River four or five times. "People get to know each other here," she said. "The kids look forward to coming, and for some it's the highlight of the week."

As people awaited the 6 pm meal, nurses checked blood pressure and another person handled sign-ups for BadgerCare applications. A volunteer band played country music, and Jenny Czerkas, co-manager of the operation, seemed to be everywhere, coaching new volunteers and checking serving preparations.

On Nov. 20, The River provided 100 turkey baskets as well as serving 500 turkey dinners that night and providing free clothing and food from the pantry for others. Some even borrowed books from the lending library.

"This is the busiest night of the year," said Andy Czerkas, Jenny's husband.

Many volunteers, and a large part of the donations, came from churches in Madison and nearby cities. Individuals also contribute heartily. And people who need food came from all parts of Madison and nearby communities.

But a large part of the donations, volunteers and recipients are from the Northside, where the holiday giving spirit has kicked in and is very much needed.

National and local media reports have documented the growing extent of hunger in the face of the recession, and The River Food Pantry has seen a growing demand for food since it opened in 2006.

The pantry recorded almost 2,200 family visits in September. Every week, 500 families were supplied with 20,000 pounds of food.

But providing enough food is always a challenge. "I don't have enough food for Friday," Czerkas said on a recent Wednesday.

Recipients self-declare their need, but the pantry does ask for proof of address and proof of household size.

Special efforts are made to provide the holiday traditions and trimmings that people are accustomed to in not-so-hard times.

Pierce's Northside Market is once again helping fill the need, donating an additional 10 percent when customers buy bags of groceries for the food pantry in November and December. Staff

continued on page 3

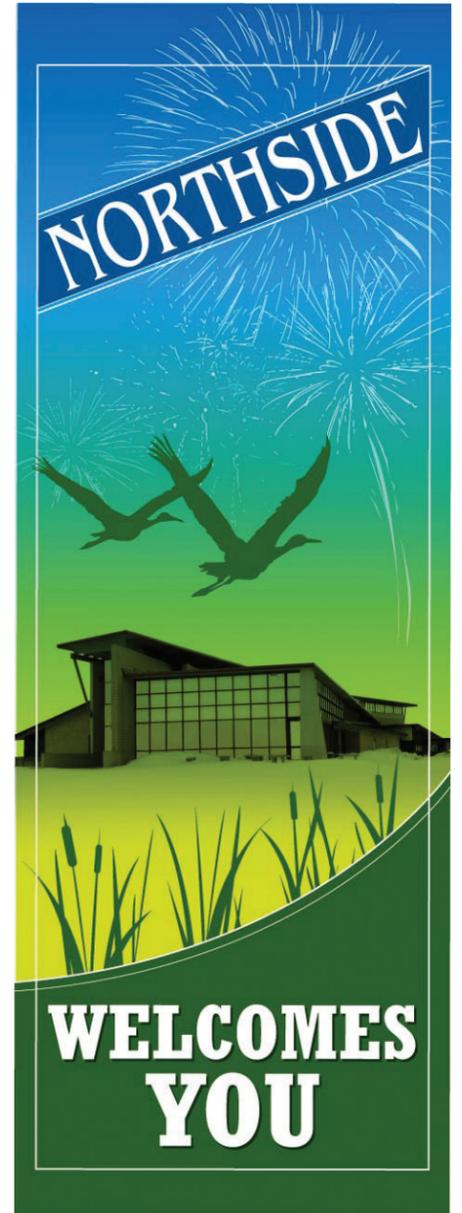
## Pole banners displaying Northside Pride to be installed in December

By Dale Matthews

The long awaited Northside Pole Banners project will be going up in the next few weeks. Ideas have been discussed, looked at, reviewed and put onto 12 beautiful banners. These banners will be going onto selected metal Street Light poles in our Northside neighborhood during the month of December. Each banner is 30-inches wide and seven feet tall. Look for them soon to be on all direct entrances to the Northside neighborhoods. Northport Drive, Packers Avenue and Sherman Avenue will have these banners displayed, for everyone to see when entering the Northside of Madison.

The pole banners have a green background showing just a few Northside characteristics. Bursts of fireworks (Rhythm and Booms), Warner Park Community Recreation Center (its many events, activities, and services), reeds of Cherokee Marsh (natural beauty), and even cranes (area wildlife), give a sense of long and stable traditions. Christi Hall and C.J. Hall have brought all of this Northside Pride focused into these banners. Their hard work and dedication to the completion of the design on the banners has resulted in a beautiful welcome to the Northside.

The Northside Business Association and the Northside Farmers Market partnered back in May of 2007 to apply for a grant for these banners. A Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), was awarded for the completion of the project. Several local business and Neighborhood Associations came forward to help in completion of this project. Many thanks to: the Mallards, Brentwood Homeowners Association, Northside Planning Council and several others for the time and dollars to help complete this project. The bids for the printing were sourced locally and won by "A" Quality printing of Madison. They not only did a wonderful job but gave us 12 double-faced banners for the original 12 banners proposed in the original grant. City staff members Linda Horvath, Jerry Lund and Archie Nicolette were most helpful in assisting Dale Matthews and Julie Savidusky to bring this project to completion. And thanks to our Alderpersons Satya Rhodes-Conway and Michael Schumacher for their support.



Poster Design by Christi Hall and C.J. Hall



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FEATURES

Photo by Kevin Kiser



Gompers Elementary School teacher Karen Palstein (left) is shown helping a student at one of the computer presentation stations that will be donated to the school.

## Northsiders donate computers and technology upgrades to Gompers Elementary School

By Lauri Lee  
Northside News

Leveling the technology playing field on this side of town through donations of computers and technology to Northside schools has the interest of a number of Northsiders. There was the Northside 4 Knowledge event held on Sept. 11, 2009 with Little Vito and the Torpedoes sponsored by Dave Bruns and Pure Axis, and Dennis Tiziani of Cherokee Country Club. A Cherokee golf outing was held that same month. The funds raised were targeted for computer technology at the four Northside schools — Lakeview, Gompers, Mendota and Lindbergh.

Raising money and donating computers and technology actually is a process that started last year and is part of a multi-year plan for Dennis Tiziani and his son-in-law, professional golfer Steve Stricker. The two are dedicated to giving back to the community around them. Stricker plays in golf tournaments that have the mission to give back and improve their community, in the areas of housing, schools or education. Two charitable tournaments that Stricker plays in are the Ryder Cup and the President's Cup, which alternate every other year.

Golfers do not get paid to participate in these tournaments, but they are allocated money to give to a charity. So, this mission explains why Northside schools are the fortunate recipients of this generosity. Other groups have heard about this work and joined in the cause. Pure Axis and Core BTS are just two examples of groups and businesses with the same education and computer technology mission.

It was the donations of computers and technology that garnered Steve Stricker and Dennis Tiziani a North Star Award at the November event. Dennis indicated that he and Steve are grateful to be honored by this community award.

Carlettra Stanford, Principal of Gompers School, is excited on behalf of the students for the donations of updated technology. These donations, that will come in early 2010, are very helpful. But there is an even greater need if other groups want to join in this effort. Stanford explained that there is wireless internet access throughout Gompers School building. The computer lab needs some assistance from the technology that is there because some computers are older. After the new technology and computers are in place, then the phase two process will

begin of looking for grants to subsidize what this effort has started.

Gompers received their first presentation station from the school district. The district wanted each school to be able to have at least one presentation station. These stations help the students to be more interactive in the classroom and enables students to display their work. Teachers will be able to project educational material on a screen or connect with the internet and project that image so that students can see what is on the screen — all at the same time.

Stanford explains how his technology allows for more interactive learning. It's different and more in-depth than Powerpoint. Instead of kids gathering around one small microscope, this is like a giant microscope. You can put something small under the microscope, and it will project on the screen so all the students can see. You can put an actual plant up on the station and the students can see it all at the same time and as a group they can dissect it and take apart.

Another example is how they can put their own math problems or their work on the station. They can explain how they got their answer to the other students in class. It replaces the old method of using transparencies. You can actually put their notebook on the screen and it will project it. You can project a book, student samples of their work or teachers modeling something. The station can also be hooked up to the internet through a laptop computer for research. Teachers are enabled to have more choices in how they are going to present information to the students.

The additional funding needed for computer technology is still great. The wireless part of a presentation station

is \$35,000 alone. Each presentation station is \$2,000. So, Gompers is looking at raising \$30,000-\$50,000 through donations or grants. Eventually, they would like one presentation station per grade level, for all four grade levels at the school.

Stricker and Tiziani donated the wireless part needed for the computers and one presentation station. The wireless station is going to have 30 laptops to allow teachers and students to be wireless in the classroom. The carts can be rolled in so the students can have a laptop in front of them to do research. They can get on the Internet, right from their desk in the classroom. They are also going to do the technology for the wireless.

The kids are very excited and can hardly wait for the new computers to come. The children will have more ways to interact with what they're learning. Teachers will be impacted by being able to interact with the technology at any given time and be able to integrate that into the curriculum. With one computer lab, learning opportunities are limited. Carlettra is very animated and excited just thinking about a time when Gompers will have this technology in place.



Dennis Tiziani (left) is shown with Gompers Principal, Carlettra Stanford (right) in front of one of the classroom presentation stations. Presentation stations like this and the technology needed to run them has been donated by Northsiders Tiziani and Steve Stricker.

Photo by Kevin Kiser



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COMMUNITY

Photo by Jeff Affeldt



## Northside Neighborhood Plan Implementation to Begin

By Linda Horvath  
City Planning

The City of Madison Common Council adopted the Northport-Warner Park-Sherman Neighborhood Plan (NWS) on November 3. Steering Committee members and City staff presented the NWS Plan for review and approval at 11 city committee, commission and board meetings. Members of the public also provided comments. The adopting resolution, amendments, meeting minutes, public comments, and related information can be accessed on the City's webpage: [www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/northsideplan/](http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/northsideplan/)

[index.cfm](#).

"Adoption of the NWS plan is a welcome conclusion to two years of diligent effort that began with data collection and analyses, followed by Steering Committee work sessions to identify issues, develop a vision, goals and objectives, and final recommendations," said Paul Van Rooy of the NWS Steering Committee. "The critical involvement throughout the process by residents, businesses, community groups, Alder Satya Rhodes-Conway (District 12), and Alder Michael Schumacher (District 18), also contributed greatly to the strength and relevance of the Steer-

ing Committee's recommendations. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with these dedicated groups and individuals, along with City agencies, as we implement the plan over the next 5-10 years."

The NWS Plan includes recommendations in the areas of:

- Land Use, Urban Design and Redevelopment
- Gateway Corridors
- Transportation
- Vibrant Neighborhood Businesses
- Natural Resources, Parks and Open Space
- Community Facilities and Neighborhood Schools
- Neighborhood and Personal Safety

The Steering Committee's top six recommendations encompass strategies to improve the identity and marketing of the Northside, fulfill unmet community facility and service needs, devise options for creating a "main street" along North Sherman Avenue in areas of concentrated commercial activity, and create neighborhood stabilization options for areas of the Northside experiencing concentrated quality of life challenges.

### Plan Implementation

The City's regular budget process is the primary implementation tool for the NWS Plan. Any project coming out

of the plan recommendations will need to go through the regular City review and approval process, including final approval by the Common Council.

The City's Community Development Block Grant Committee allocated \$106,900 in CDBG funds to implement neighborhood projects from the plan. Capital, or bricks and mortar projects, are the only types of projects that qualify for funding. And, the projects cannot be on a list that could otherwise be funded through a relevant City agency's capital or operating budget. The NWS Neighborhood Plan identifies priority projects for funding. The Steering Committee will be reconvening in the next few months to review and approve final funding allocations.

### NWS Neighborhood Plan Publication

You may see the NWS Plan at: [www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/northsideplan/index.cfm](http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/northsideplan/index.cfm). Amendments proposed by various city committees, boards and commissions during the review and approval process and adopted by the Common Council on November 3, are being incorporated into the final plan. The published plan will be added to the web page in early 2010. For more information, you may contact Linda Horvath / [lhovath@cityofmadison.com](mailto:lhovath@cityofmadison.com) / Department of Planning and Community and Economic Development / 215 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. / PO BOX 2985 / Madison WI 53701-2985, 267-1131.

### Giving from page 1

and volunteers bagged up those groceries.

"Last year we got two truckloads from Pierce's," Czerkas said. "It was huge."

Madison Chiropractic has conducted a food drive in which new customers could give food in exchange for services. AnchorBank and Associated Bank are collecting food, and the UPS Store takes \$1 off shipping costs for customers who bring in food items.

The Northside Business Association sponsored its annual Pancake Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 5, at the Esquire Club. The breakfast benefits the food pantries at Lakeview Lutheran Church and St. Paul Lutheran Church as well as The River.

At this writing, The River was still hoping for turkey donations for a Christmas dinner and baskets, and donations were needed. Last year, a sponsor bought 100 turkeys for distribution, and Czerkas was hopeful that some generous person or business would do so again.

Food and clothing donations can be taken to The River on Mondays from noon-4 pm, Tuesdays from noon-7:30 pm, Thursdays from noon-6 pm and Fridays from 1-8 pm.

Free food and clothing can be obtained at The River from noon-1:30 pm and 5-6:30 pm on Tuesdays, and from noon-1:30 pm on Thursdays. On Fridays, clothing and registration takes place from 5-7 pm, and the food pantry opens and dinner starts at 6 pm.



Photo by Anita Weier

A volunteer band plays country music.

Those who wish to donate directly to the pantry may send a tax-deductible donation to The River Food Pantry at 2201 Darwin Rd., Madison 53704 or

call (608) 442-8815. Contributions can also be made online at [www.theriver-madison.org](http://www.theriver-madison.org).



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NORTHSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL

# NPC still making the Northside a better place to live

By Terrie Anderson

NPC Board Member representing Northside Timebank

In these economically challenging times, many nonprofit organizations are struggling to meet their budgets and maintain their services. Governments are facing serious deficits. Job losses and furloughs have resulted in fewer individual and corporate donations to nonprofits. Needs in our community continue to grow.

The Northside Planning Council is fortunate to be assured City funding at current levels through 2010. However, with continued pressure on the City budget, that funding for NPC may be at risk in future years.

Positive response to challenges has been the successful work of NPC for 16 years. Over the past six months, NPC's leadership has developed a plan to refine its capacity to meet its mission — to improve the quality of life for all residents of the Northside community.

Much of the discussion has centered on defining the Council's most important activities and on balancing Northside needs and NPC's resources effectively. NPC's membership has resolved to concentrate their efforts on two major project areas for the coming year: communication and community-based economic development.

The Northside News is a critical element in promoting communication in our community, and NPC is

strongly committed to continue its publication. NPC is also developing new structures that broaden membership in the Council and encourage a more active Board of Directors. This frees the Council, as a whole, to participate in dialogue about issues and solutions, freeing them from responsibility for the day-to-day management of the organization.

NPC will increase its efforts to support community-based economic development projects that add employment opportunities and increase stability from within our community. This development model promotes a vision for our future with an inclusive, sustainable quality of life.

Some staffing changes will also occur as NPC lead organizer Tim Carlisle leaves the organization (See page 5.) NPC is hiring a new director to help lead the Council in its increased focus on economic development. Lauri Lee will continue as Northside News editor.

NPC will be exploring alternate funding sources to supplement City funding, including continuing to ask Northsiders to support NPC's work through charitable contributions. (See donation form in the next column on this page.)

We encourage you to read future Northside News issues for more updates about how NPC will be working to continue to make the Northside the best side of town.

## NPC DONATION FORM

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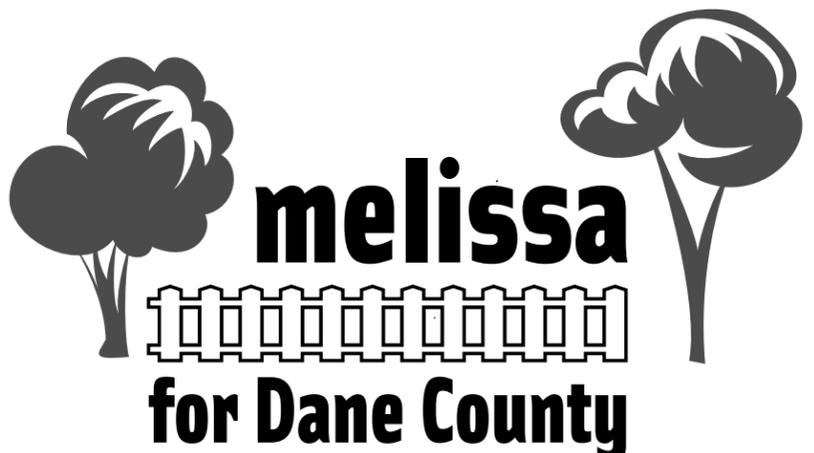
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[www.melissafordanecounty.org](http://www.melissafordanecounty.org)

FEATURES

# NORTHSIDE NEWS

www.northsidenews.org

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## Letters to the Northside News

The Northside News welcomes readers to submit letters pertaining to Northside issues. The Northside News reserves the right to shorten letters as needed and does not guarantee all letters received will appear in print.

Viewpoints expressed in letters do not represent the views of the Northside Planning Council and Northside News. As a nonpartisan organization, NPC does not endorse candidates for elected office. Send letters to editor@northsidenews.org.

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From  
**TIM  
CARLISLE**



**NPC LEAD ORGANIZER**

*I'm so glad we had this time together, Cause it makes me feel like I'm along. Seems we just get started and before you know it, comes the time we have to say, "So Long".*

With a wistful nod to Carol Burnett, it's time once again for me to say "So Long" to NPC and the Northside News.

This is my second "tour of duty" with NPC — two years this time, plus seven years from 1994–2001 — and I think it's safe to say this will be my last. But what a journey it has been...

This unique and ever-challenging job has given me the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people in our community, and to be a part of so many great things, that it's hard to know how to say how important it has been to me.

I guess I'll start by saying I'm very pleased, and proud, that so many Northsiders feel that the Northside is a great place to live and work, and a wonderful place to raise a family. It has certainly been that for me and for my family, as over the years what started as my job became our community for us.

That sense of community and "Northside pride" makes all the meetings, the phone calls, the strategy sessions, the fundraising, the newspaper production weeks, and the rest of what goes into community organizing worth it.

Great communities don't happen by magic, or by accident. We have a great community on the Northside because so many of us have cared enough to invest ourselves in our community — in our neighborhoods, churches, schools, neighborhood centers, library, businesses, parks, and many other places and other ways people contribute.

We have a better community because we worked to *make it* a better community. When we needed stronger neighborhoods, we organized them. When we needed a community newspaper, we started one. When we needed a community center, we built one. When

we needed to save land for community gardens, we came up with a way to do it that has become so much more than garden plots. And the list goes on to include dozens of projects we've taken on, and several dozen organizations we've created, over the past 16 years of NPC's work.

While we've often had the strong support of our local government and other important allies in our work, it is the Northside neighbors who came together and worked side by side who have always been, and will always be, the essential ingredient that makes the Northside what it is.

I have many, many people to thank for the privilege of working with them over the years — I could easily fill a page. But I have to at least mention those with whom I have worked the closest, which include:

Northside neighborhood leaders Char Tortorice, Darlene Horner, Vernon Blackwell, Karen Thompson, Paul Van Rooy, Paul Rusk, David Vandy, Gerianne Holzman, Helen Marks Dicks, Lisa Wiese, Dave Meyer, Ellen Barnard, and the late Araxy Arganian.

My Troy Gardens co-conspirator, the late Sol Levin.

My NPC coworkers Jim Powell, Dana Slowiak, Lauri Lee, Adel Schultz, Kris Meyer, and Ron Chance. City neighborhood staff Jule Stroick, Mary Charnitz, Bruce Newton, and Lorri Wendorf.

But most importantly, I thank my family for their constant support and encouragement — my wife Rose and daughter Emma, my nephew Dave and wife Agi, and those who have become part of my Northside family — Big Mama, Rodney, Marcia, Maury, and Dennis. Thank you all.

It has been my honor and privilege to be a part of writing the "Northside Story" over the past 15 years, and I thank NPC for the opportunity to do it — twice. I very much look forward to watching the Northside continue to grow and prosper as a community.

Take it from an old organizer: *you don't have to move to live in a better neighborhood — just get involved in the one you already live in.*

See you around the 'hood.

From  
**LAURI LEE**



**NORTHSIDE NEWS EDITOR**

As we close out 2009, it's a great time for reflection — on what has happened over the past year and the 15 years since the beginning of the *Northside News*.

I've appreciated and enjoyed getting to know the people in this community. Since it's that time of year to offer thanksgiving, I want to thank the *Northside News* contributors, writers and columnists for making the newspaper worthy of reading from cover to cover. I hope to meet and get to know all of you in the upcoming year.

I appreciate the advertisers, because without them, we wouldn't be able to enjoy the distribution of a free community newspaper to 13,000 Northside residents. I encourage Northsiders to let the advertisers know how much you appreciate them by shopping at their businesses.

I could comment at length about the impact that Tim Carlisle has had on the Northside News over the last 15 years. It was his vision to start this free community newspaper. As Tim laments the "good old days" before electronic publishing and email transmittals, I know

he'll secretly miss the long days and late nights during the bimonthly publishing marathons. Sorry Tim, the days of cut and paste with real scissors and actual paper have gone away. But what has remained is very good. This newspaper — Tim's vision from 15 years ago — helped to grow the identity and pride in this Northside community. When you leave behind a legacy like this, it's like you are not really leaving us at all.

I'm going to miss Tim's knowledge base. He knows more about the Northside than most people and from more angles than one could ever imagine. To my amusement, probably more than to his, I enjoyed throwing out "stump Tim" questions about the Northside. Not only did he always know the answer, but he often had an explanation and perspective to share with it. Tim, good luck with your future endeavors. I'll miss you.

As I continue the work of the *Northside News*, I invite the Northside community's participation. Please consider being a writer or contributor. It'll help keep our paper fresh with new perspectives. Advertisers, this is the best deal in town and a great "bang for the buck." And you get a loyal community in return for your ad dollars.

May everyone have a joyous holiday season. See you next year!



NORTHSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL

# Farewell . . . but not good bye

## Northsiders share how knowing and working with Community Organizer Tim Carlisle over the past 16 years has changed them and the Northside community.

**Tribute from Jim Powell – Former NPC lead organizer and former Northside News publisher/editor**

In 2001, I worked for Tim at NPC for six months, and then with him for four years as he built a new county-wide coalition.

I came to realize how little I knew about organizing. Yes, I knew about tactics and strategy, but Tim showed me how building relationships, and thinking about those relationships at both personal and organizational levels, were critical to accomplishing your goals. Tim also taught me how to be comfortable with living in the world as it is, while trying to create the world that you want. This was no easy task for an idealist.

Tim has a serious, focused public demeanor, and a quite funny, easygoing, and engaging private one. I've gotten to see both as he became, and continues to be, a good friend.

More than anyone, Tim created the identity of the Northside through this Northside News newspaper, and by leading the Warner Park Center and Troy Gardens campaigns. He had the vision to both see how to get a job done, and create something bigger in doing so. This is a rare talent in Madison or anywhere.

Tim is a builder: a community builder for decades, and he swings a mean hammer too. Anything he builds will be solid and stand the test of time. Not a bad legacy. I am grateful for, and

humbled by, his leadership and contributions to our community.

**Tribute from Paul Rusk County Supervisor, District 12 Charter Member, Northside Planning Council (1993-2002)**

Tim Carlisle, with his ever-present calm and competent demeanor, is one of the most effective grass-roots organizers I have ever had the pleasure of working with. His way of dealing with the most complex issues, with gracious dignity, has served us well since he first arrived in Madison. Tim's great intellect, combined with his ability to work well with everybody, has pulled us together as we have dealt collectively with the serious challenges facing our Northside Neighborhoods. His accomplishments range from organizing troubled neighborhoods to building community recreation centers to creating a climate where we can all learn and prosper from one another. Tim will be greatly missed as he moves to the next chapter in his life, but we can all look back fondly on how our section of Madison has matured under his leadership.

**Tribute from Lorri Wendorf Neighborhood Services Coordinator City of Madison**

I first met Tim during his first tour of duty with the Northside Planning Council. At that time, I was on the periphery of planning council issues.

From the sidelines, I watched Tim conduct a highly successful community organizing effort which resulted in the creation of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center. However, the result of Tim's work went well beyond the bricks and mortar of a community center building. He also helped create a north side community of neighbors caring for one another.

Tim helped create a network of relationships not only within the boundaries of the planning council, but also with the City of Madison. He helped develop Northside leaders who, years later, are making a difference for the Northside and for the greater Madison community.

As Tim returned for his second tour of duty with the Northside Planning Council, I've had the pleasure of working with him more directly. Our relationship goes well beyond that of funder and agency recipient. I've sought Tim's counsel on numerous issues and watched how he handles issues similar to those I deal with in other parts of the city.

As Tim gets ready to depart the Northside Planning Council, he is still teaching us ... this time, grace in exiting.

**Tribute from David Meyer Brentwood Neighborhood Association Member**

*(About me: I've always been a "neighborhood" kind of person, setting down roots and staying in one place for a long time. I grew up in Milwaukee, next to a large and beautiful*

*park, living in the same neighborhood my entire childhood until I left home to attend the UW. And now, I live here in Madison, next to a large and beautiful park, and have lived in the same neighborhood for 20 years.)*

My parents spent a good deal of time participating in community service activities, and whether I noticed it happening or not, I must have picked up on this. Over the years, when a cause or issue has caught my interest, it seems that I got involved.

For me, the NPC has been a ready-made springboard whenever I sought to dive into Northside issues. And, without a doubt, Tim Carlisle has taught me a great deal, not only about diving in, but being effective, too.

I have watched and tried to emulate Tim's abilities to identify a problem, possible solutions, and the people most likely to help me get the job done. I've also watched as Tim is always planning the next step so as not to lose momentum or lose sight of the goal.

Tim is a kind and patient person, but also firm in his convictions and always on track. In dealing with community and government matters, these traits are required to successfully navigate the variety of personalities and institutions an organizer may come in contact with. Tim has taught me a great deal about sticking to my goals and making things happen! I greatly value his leadership and his friendship.

Continued on Page 7 ...

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## NORTHSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL

*Tim taught us we could move from a collection of neighborhoods and in some cases, just a collection of streets, to a real community, working together to address common needs ... Wherever life takes him ... Madison's Northside will always be with him. — Char Tortorice*

### Tribute from Helen Marks Dicks former NPC Co-Chair

Working with Tim was, for me, an inspiration in living what you spoke. His belief in the rights of people to make their decisions and guide their own futures was most impressively clear in his discipline in not influencing the outcome of group decisions. Often people express this ideal but do not actually live it. Tim's style of leading by example (and giving you the opportunity to follow his example, if you chose) was a refreshing change from the leadership-by-bullying style so often seen today. His faith in people, and in the collective decision-making process, is the core of how he interacts with the world. Tim reinforced my own instincts of knowing when to lead and knowing when to leave. Negotiating with Tim was both a challenge and a learning experience, since he always backed up his position with clear explanations and could gently point out where your facts were wrong. Tim's influence on us as individuals and as a community will not end when he leaves this job.

Titles and positions change, but friendship and respect continue on. He may not be our organizer but he will still be my friend and inspiration.

### Tribute from Paul Van Rooy How knowing Tim Carlisle has affected my life

I was a member of the Northside Planning Council (NPC) during the time that Tim was our facilitator before leaving to join Dane County United. I have been involved in neighborhood activities for many years, but it was the years on the NPC, and my relationship with Tim, that had the greatest impact on me, both the things I got involved in during my NPC days, and after that time. I am very proud of the accomplishments of the NPC. We were able to give the Northside of Madison an identity through the Northside News, and NPC's other achievements during Tim's tenure are many, from Troy Gardens to an expanded library.

While many of us on the NPC played

a role in these accomplishments, it was Tim who was our inspiration, and he who led us to successes that few, if any, of us thought we could achieve. It was my work with Tim and the NPC that led me to run for the City Council, where I served for six years.

### Tribute from Darlene Horner Neighborhood Activist known as "Big Mama"

It is a privilege to say that, with Tim's leadership, our Northside is now a place I am proud to be a part of.

Tim's compatibility is beyond measure and his composure, without a doubt, is always accepted. Tim's constructive action made a big change in our lives here in Madison, especially the Vera Court Neighborhood, the Warner Park Center, the Northside news, and NPC, to name a few.

Tim is a true leader in every respect, and we must give respect to his lovely wife, Rose, who is the backbone and driving force for our Blessing.

If I had a thousand tongues and could speak with every one ...

It would be Tim Carlisle, Tim Carlisle with every one.

Tim is my adopted son, and whenever he has a taste for a sweet potato or egg pie, he knows who to call.

### Tribute from Char Tortorice Former NPC Co-Chair and current Board Member

After driving from Kansas City with no air conditioning, Tim Carlisle strode into our lives on a 95 degree day to interview for facilitator of the Northside Planning Council. As we sat in pools of sweat, this lanky hillbilly coolly began to challenge us about NPC, where we had been and where we wanted to go. The son of a preacher who just happens to have a Harvard degree, he did it with gentle words and clear concepts; how we could move from a collection of neighborhoods and in some cases, just a collection of streets, to a real community, working together to address common needs. The Northside needn't be a dream anymore – it could actually be a vibrant entity. And it didn't need

to suffer from poor media coverage that always published crime stories and never highlighted successes. He made us feel that we held the keys to open other doors.

As Tim exited the room, I think we all knew he would be back. We had found that special person to lead us where we were just beginning to realize we wanted to go. What we didn't know was that he would turn all of us into change agents. Tim doesn't lead in the traditional sense. He leads by encouraging you to be the best you can be, establish relationships one person at a time, and network, network, network.

Tim took the job, moved with his wife to the Northside, rolled up his sleeves, and set about his work.

The Northside is very different now. Yes, we have the Warner Park Community Recreation Center that, under Tim's close supervision, we helped build, and it has become the icon of the Northside. Yes, we have active neighborhood centers that have benefited from Tim's wise counsel. Yes, we have the attention of the city that turns to Tim for advice and no longer considers us part of the eastside. Yes, we have an expanded number of neighborhood associations, a hallmark of Tim's vision. Yes, we have a community paper that Tim instinctively knew would bind us together. Yes, we have an award winning urban agricultural space and co-housing due to Tim's facilitation. And yes, the groundwork that Tim laid allowed NPC to continue to do amazing things with other skilled facilitators. But most importantly, we now have a community. We can address our concerns as a unit. We know our neighbors and have developed relationships that cross geographic, social, and economic boundaries.

Tim and his lovely family embody what it means to be good neighbors and friends. Whether it is restoring natural spaces, re-roofing a neighbor's house, or reinventing a community, Tim serves as a model for us.

What we didn't know on that sticky, humid interview day was that Tim wasn't just walking into our lives; he was walking into our hearts. We wish

him well, wherever life takes him, knowing that Madison's Northside will always be with him.

### Tribute from Ellen Barnard Current NPC Co-Chair

When I first met Tim, I didn't really like him. He seemed arrogant and brilliant, a frightening combination to me. I soon learned that the arrogance was a cloak he wore when it seemed necessary, and I have found the intelligence to be one that is deeply considerate and caring.

When we began to work together, I wasn't sure if I belonged on the Northside. I was seeking ways to make a difference in my community, and wondered if my old neighborhood would be a better fit. Tim immediately commented that "you can make much more of a difference here." And he was right, as he so often is.

Tim taught me so many things that I was able to use right away: the importance of relationships, the value of talking with people one-to-one, the value of finding shared self-interest as a way to engage others, the importance of being willing to lead but not be a long wolf (tough one, that!), and the need to understand all kinds of power and how they manifest in, and influence public life and public decisions. Though he has not been my teacher in any formal sense, his quiet mentoring and carefully-worded observations have amplified what I do best, and have allowed me to develop many additional skills to create positive change here on the Northside.

I am grateful he returned to NPC so that I could have the benefit of working, and learning, with him. His ability to be a true partner in the work has allowed the NPC to make needed changes so that we are able to effectively improve the quality of life in this community, for everyone. I thank him for his teaching and learning, his patience, and his willingness to be fully human while doing this work and inviting me to do the same. I hope to make him proud as I and the other leaders on the NPC strive to continue the work that he and the earlier leaders so aptly began.



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NORTHSTAR AWARDS

2009 North Stars recognized

By Anita Weier  
Northside News

The stars were out at the North Star Awards presentation on Nov. 6 at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center. And no star shone brighter than **Julie Johnson**, who received lengthy applause for her volunteer work at Black Hawk Middle School.

Johnson, who was injured years ago in an auto accident, does not let physical limitations stop her from helping the local school — and its students and staff — all she can.

She does whatever needs doing at the school, and is a big help to visitors trying to find their way around. From Johnson, students have learned that it's possible to live a meaningful life no matter what difficulties are encountered.

"She is a big love to all who know her here," Susan Morrison said in nominating Johnson.

A more familiar award winner was Dane County Board Supervisor **Dorothy Wheeler**, who has contributed much to the Northside over the years.

A former member of the Northside Planning Council, Wheeler is also a member of the North/East Side Senior Coalition Board and an advisor to the board of the Friends of Cherokee Marsh.

She is known as an environmental and social services advocate on the County Board. Wheeler took a resolution to the County Board to make Lakeview Hill Park an official county park, and she worked to protect the park by changing the zoning from residential to conservancy. She has been a mentor to many people and will be sadly missed on the County Board when she retires this spring.

**Suzette Ackerman** has done much for the community, despite her youth. The East High School student volunteers both at the Northside Farmers Market on Sundays, and at her high school. Her enthusiasm spreads to others as she tries to get them involved in various activities, and she is a great model for teens on the Northside.

**Clare Norelle** was described by nominator True Vang as a kind person who has served the Kennedy Heights Community Center in many ways. She has volunteered for the Food Pantry, sung for the Early Childhood program and done many jobs, including serving as acting administrator. She helps in any way she can, and shows great leadership for the Kennedy Heights Community



Photo by Michael Klitzke

2009 North Stars (L to R): Dorothy Wheeler, Tim Carlisle, Roy Callies, Ray Hellmer, Suzette Ackerman, Dave Goldsby, Claire Norelle, Jennifer Peters, Julie Johnson, and Sandra Willis-Smith. Not pictured: Steve Stricker, Dennis Tiziani.

Center and the Northside neighborhood.

**Dave Goldsby** earned a North Star award with his long service to young people. He was described by nominator Luann Tribus as a "kind, gentle and respectful" person who has coached girls North/Eastside Youth Basketball for years. Though his example, Goldsby has taught girls that they deserve respect, are capable and can achieve goals with hard work and persistence.

Managing a housing complex is not always easy, and **Sandra Willis-Smith** has worked very hard to make the Northport/Packers low-income apartments a success. Four different people submitted her name in nomination for a North Star Award. "She is a loving and caring property manager" who has served the community for 14 years, said one. Another added that she is also a wife and mother of three who has given up personal family time to keep the complex safe. "She believes in second chances and with her open door policy demonstrates that she is concerned about how the residents feel living in the community," another said. Still another praised her for demonstrating that subsidized housing doesn't always have to mean high police calls.

Churches are places that inspire people to give of themselves, and **St. Paul Lutheran Church** has built an admirable tradition in this regard. The church operates a weekly Food Pantry, offers a Senior Connections program, presents a Neighborhood Family Fun Day and provides food boxes for low-income families at Easter and Christmas. This church has served Northside residents for decades.

"It takes a community to raise children and St. Paul Lutheran is a big part of that community," one nominator said. Roy Callies and Ray Hellmer accepted the award on behalf of St. Paul.

**Jennifer Peters** was recommended by the North/Eastside Senior Coalition, which has collaborated with her on intergenerational programs. She is an enthusiastic and well-loved French teacher at Black Hawk Middle School who has gone well beyond her teaching duties to help the Northside. She leads the Spirit Club at the school, which has worked with NESCO to present an annual Senior Prom. She formed and led an intergenerational choir. The choir had 21 singers during the last school year — from age 11 to 85! Jennifer Peters is an energetic person who gets the young people at Black Hawk excited about volunteering, according to NESCO.

Bringing the total of award winners to 10 were **Dennis Tiziani**, owner of the Cherokee Country Club, and his son-in-law, the renowned professional golfer **Steve Stricker**. The two have supported local schools by funding high-tech wireless laptop computers that can be utilized wherever they are needed in the school.

Lake View Elementary School has already benefited, and Tiziani says that other Northside elementary schools will follow.

Tiziani, a leader of Northside 4 Knowledge, also has donated the use of the Cherokee Golf Course for fund-raisers.

Their contributions ensure that local youngsters have access to cutting-

edge technology that prepares them for high school, college and beyond. This project will positively affect thousands of students over the years.

"We are forever grateful for the generosity of Steve Stricker and Dennis Tiziani, and we appreciate their continued efforts in positively impacting achievement for all kids on the Northside," said Lake View Elementary School Principal Kristi Kloos in her nomination.

The North Star Award celebration, presented by the Northside Planning Council and the *Northside News*, is a fun time as well as being inspirational. About 150 people gathered at the community center to feast on Manna appetizers amid colorful fall decorations arranged by volunteers. Organizers included Char Tortorice, Lauri Lee, Pat Brinkman, Anita Weier, Linda Bonner, Diane Brown, Carolyn Gantner, Cyndi Wood, Sue Gilbertson and Marge Pitts.

Bob Paolino and Michael Klitzke took photos, and NPC co-chairs Jeff Shokler and Ellen Barnard graciously and warmly presented the awards. Madison Ald. Michael Schumacher and County Board Member Paul Rusk also spoke at the occasion.

Hy-Vee donated strawberries and apricots and chocolate to cover them, and Felly's gave roses for the award winners and as table decorations.

Major sponsors for the event were Mo Cleland, the Madison Mallards, the Northside TownCenter, and Denis and Laura Vogel. Dozens of others also contributed funds.

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