



NORTHSIDE NEWS

Vol. 11, No. 3, Issue #63

December 2005 / January 2006

A priceless view preserved

Four supervisors + perseverance = protected parkland

By Terrie Anderson
The Northside News

Hearty applause is extended to the past four District 18 County Board Supervisors for their dedicated work to shield Lake View Hill and Woods from development. The efforts of current Supv. Dorothy Wheeler, and her predecessors—Mark Gerhardt, Nelson Eisman, and Jim Mohrbacher—came full circle in November when the County Board placed the properties under the jurisdiction of the Park Commission.

“We will no longer be called to stand up against sale of the land to developers,” rejoiced Eisman. Now residing out of the county, Gerhardt remarked, “It’s wonderful the property is now well-protected. It’s about time!”

Ever since the county purchased the property along Northport Drive in



Photo by Annette Eisman

Supv. Dorothy Wheeler is joined by former supervisors Nelson Eisman (left) and Jim Mohrbacher (right) on Lake View Hill, near the Dane County Human Services building.

1929, development has threatened the natural areas.

Lake View Sanatorium opened in 1930 to house and treat tuberculosis patients.

In 1966, the buildings were converted to office space for the Department

of Human Services.

A 1982 land use study by the University of Wisconsin Dept. of Urban & Regional Planning recommended a mix of single and multi-family residential development of the Lake

See Hill, page 16

Excitement "Pierces" the Northside

Residents can't wait for grocer to open in March

By J.D. Stier & Bethany Wild
The Northside News

Even with temperatures quickly dropping outside, the intensity and enthusiasm spiked when a group of people at the Family Dollar store began discussing the new grocery store, slated to open in March.

“Between Family Dollar and Pierce’s, the Northside is coming up,” said Ella Brown, an employee of Family Dollar. She added, “I just can’t wait ‘til they open.” She believed the Northside TownCenter (formerly Sherman plaza) where she now works will be alive with customers once Pierce’s Northside Market opens.

Kay King, trying to remain calm amidst the growing crowd of excited residents, exclaimed that Pierce’s opening “is a good thing.” She then alluded to deeper issues that many residents also felt strong-

See Pierce’s, page 12

Northside taverns

“Support us or we’ll be going out,” say owners

By Marcus Watson
The Northside News

If you’ve spent any time on the Northside, they know you. They’ve hosted christenings, communions, bar mitzvahs, fiestas. Endured graduations, suffered bachelor and bachelorette parties, celebrated weddings, marked anniversaries and mourned wakes; interweaving with the patchwork of our lives.

The local Wisconsin tavern is unique, absent in any other state. Created by diverse ethnicity, founded by a common social need, each one reflects the character of its patrons. Our Northside establishments are no different.

The five I visited, the Esquire Club, Wiggie’s, Villa Tap, Ole-n-Rick’s Northside Inn, and Busse’s Markway

Tavern, have a combined 299 years of service to the Northside populace.

The aforementioned Busse’s was a country store turned tavern by the 1933 repeal of prohibition. “Wouldn’t that be something,” says Busse’s owner Mark Deadman, “the new prohibition makes us a Kwik Trip.”

This June, Madison instituted a smoking ban for all taverns. “Saying that only ten to twenty percent of people smoke,” says Deadman, “means nothing to me. Ninety percent of my regulars smoke.”

This sentiment is echoed by the Villa Tap’s owner Al Tedeschi. Though he’s a ten-year veteran chef of the Avenue bar, good food doesn’t make it. “My drink to food ratio runs about 90/10 percent. I can’t cook my way out of this.”



An old photograph, circa 1948, from behind the bar at Busse’s.

Ole-n-Rick’s, opening year round at 6:00 am to service the third shift of Oscar Meyer and Webcrafters, has instituted policies representative of the other establishments. “I’m working a lot more hours,” says owner Rick Anderson, “cause I don’t have to pay myself. We haven’t had to fire anybody yet, but we had to cut hours.”

Anderson has also cut prices to bring back customers but his margins are the same as everyone else so he can only go so low.

Dave Wiganowsky, owner of Wiggie’s, knows the effects as a busi-

See Taverns, page 5

TIMEBANK KICKS OFF

Over 50 Northsiders already on board
See page 4

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You are invited to the....

3rd Annual North Star Awards

Special Presenter: First Lady Jessica Doyle

Friday, December 9

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Warner Park Community Recreation Center

See page 3 for details and list of winners

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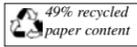
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The mission of the Northside Planning Council is to improve the quality of life for all residents of the Northside community, by

* 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 Susan Hill, Mendota Hills	Helen Marks Dicks, North/Eastside Senior Coalition	Bob Paolino, Mendota Hills (Alt)	Lisa Wiese, Northside Community Co-op
Vernon Blackwell, At Large	Dana Erlandsen, Lake View Hill (Alt.)	Sherrie Patrick, Cherokee Garden (Alt.)	Neighborhoods in need of a NPC representative:
Treasurer Karen Thompson, Northside Business Assn.	Carolyn Gantner, Cherokee Garden	Marge Pitts, Friends of Troy Gardens	Berkley Oaks, East Bluff, Kennedy Heights, Lerdahl Park, Lindbergh, Nobel Park, Northport Apts, Northridge Apts, Packer Townhouses, Sherman Village, Woodland Park Apts, Woodlands Apts.
Mike Basford, Sherman	Ray Hellmer, Northside Communities of Faith	DeAnna Sebranek, Whitetail Ridge (Alt.)	Call 661.0060 to enquire about revitalizing your own neighborhood associ- ation, or getting involved with NPC.
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		John Walrath, North Lake Mendota	

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



From
**THE
EDITOR**

JIM POWELL

Madison 34th most progressive city

Yep, no Number 1, or even Top Ten, for Madison this time, according to a study by the Bay Area Center for Voting Research in Berkeley, Calif., released in August. No wonder the city council has to reconsider any decision they make that might be considered “progressive.” Madison really isn’t progressive after all. Speaking of rethinking decisions, see our cover story on Northside taverns and the smoking ban by Marcus Watson.

City tells neighborhood leaders that gangs are everywhere

Unlike past neighborhood conferences which focused on the “how to” part of making neighborhoods stronger, this year’s Neighborhood Roundtable focused exclusively on the dangers of gangs. After four hours, participants at the Nov. 5 event at Warner Park Center were left wondering, “Is there anything we can do?” The presenters and the event’s organizers, City of Madison planning department staff, had no answers. For some answers, see guest columnist Alyssa Kenney’s cautionary perspective on page 7.

Alders go after planning council funding

How a city spends its tax dollars is important to everyone. Property owners pay the taxes, but the city’s programs and services serve all of us. Safety, streets, trash collection are basic services that make living at least tolerable. It’s the unique things that a city does that makes it livable. Madison, of course, strives to be “most livable” and its unique attention to community services, child care, senior programs and the like are all key elements of making Madison the “city of neighborhoods.”

So it came as a surprise that, during the recent budget deliberations, some alders made an 11th-hour attempt to end the city’s support of the planning councils, which are independent community advocacy organizations and which (in addition to so many other things) publishes newspapers like the *Northside News*.

This ill-timed and ill-reasoned effort was thoroughly rebuffed by residents who barraged the offending alders with calls and email messages. Our own Alder Paul Van Rooy was quoted in the *Capital Times* as “being pound-

ed unmercifully” by constituents. (In the end, he withdrew his support of the plan.)

Other alders said it was all a mistake and that the wording “eliminate” shouldn’t have been used and that city staff was to blame. One alder even crossed out the word “eliminate” and wrote in “move” on the agenda posed at the city council meeting during budget deliberations. I didn’t know you could “amend” city agendas so easily.

In the end, planning council funding for 2006 was not affected, but the city council will take up discussing planning councils in a few months after a staff report is released.

Planning councils have been a great success story, and the City of Madison has played an important role in supporting the creation and continuation of them. It’s a shame that a few short-sighted alders don’t know the history of their city and how its citizens band together to make their neighborhoods better than anything the City itself could come up with.

Lake View Hill & Woods now a park

Not all the news is bad (or weird). One of the most spectacular places in the city, Lake View Hill and Woods, is now protected as parkland, so the unimpeded view of the city, Lake Mendota, Warner Park and Rhythm & Booms will forever be free. This cover story, by Terrie Anderson, chronicles the years of work that went into first saving and then protecting this unique green space from development.

Whenever I show people around the Northside, I always take them up to Lake View Hill to see it all. They’re always impressed.

North Star Awards

At last year’s North Star Awards, Mayor Dave Cieslewicz told us that “Northsiders know about community” and the feeling, pride and emotion displayed at the Awards made that evident. This year, we have the privilege to honor the 2005 North Stars. Please join us on Dec. 9 at Warner Park Center as we get to share in the collective light of our community’s achievements.

It’s been an eventful year, and we’ve tried to cover those events important to the Northside. Let us know what you think – about the Northside and the paper.

~~~~~  
“You Don’t Have To Move To Live In A Better Neighborhood — Just Get Involved In The One You Already Live In”

## 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>

After reading your article concerning the “Walkway Tunnel” I felt that I should make a correction. When Lindbergh school opened we lived [on] Harvey Road. Much to our dismay we were not included in the Lindbergh district. This meant our first grade son would have to walk through the tunnel.

If you think it is bad now, you would have most certainly been shocked about what was found in the tunnel at

that time. Along with other concerns about Mendota School we enrolled our son in a parochial school.

What I don’t know is when district boundaries changed. But it wasn’t immediately after Lindbergh School was opened. At that time several parents were very concerned about the tunnel and attempted to get action by the district, the mayor etc.

- Shirley Storkson, Madison

## 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 December 12 at 6:30 pm in the Warner Park Center lobby.

Aspiring writers and photographers welcome. Article submission deadline is Jan. 20. Contact Abha Thakkar at 661.0060, or Abha@NorthsideNews.org for more information or to give us your story suggestions.

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**Friday, December 9  
6:00pm  
Warner Park Community  
Recreation Center**

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is invited!  
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*Nan Cline*

*Jeanne Fiegel*

*John Frey*

*Jill Jokela*

*Deb Jordan*

*Northside Community Council*

*Marge Rohlfiing*

*Claudia Rosenbaum*

*Julie Savidusky*

*Michael Shinners*

*Rhode Wanta*

*Lisa Wiese*

*Henry Wilcox*

*Jeanne Witte*

*Marcia Yapp*



The RSD, Inc. Dancers will perform during the interlude.

Come join your Northside neighbors and First Lady Jessica Doyle for this unique event.

It's an opportunity to celebrate another year of Northside accomplishments, big and small, and recognize the people who have made it all possible.

Many thanks to our sponsors who support the North Star Awards, the Northside Planning Council, and the Northside News

Supv. Dorothy Wheeler

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Mo Cleland  
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Pierce's Northside Market

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**6:00 pm**  
Hors d'Oeuvres & Conversation  
Featuring the Northside Artists  
Group  
Accompanied by  
Harpist Kristin Peters

**6:30 pm**  
Welcome &  
Remarks from  
\* First Lady Jessica Doyle

**Awards - Part I**

Interlude: RSD, Inc.  
Dancer's affiliated with Virginia  
Davis School of Dance

**Awards - Part II**

**Closing**



2004 North Stars



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# Time Dollar for Time Dollar, members invest in their community

**Nicole Bunge**

*UW Community Based Web Reporting*

On October 20, nearly 75 people attended the kickoff event for the Northside Neighbor-to-Neighbor Timebank at Lakeview Lutheran Church. Not only a meet-and-greet informational dinner event, the evening was also the first official orientation for volunteers to

*Is your organization interested in becoming a Timebank member? Attend one of the informational & registration sessions designed for community groups. Tuesday, Dec. 13, 4 - 5 pm OR 6 - 7 pm Location TBA Contact Stephanie Rearick at 443-8229 or Abha Thakkar, NPC, at 661-0060*

the fledging organization. It was so popular, in fact, that the coordinators had to duck out to get more food.

The Northside Neighbor-to-Neighbor Timebank is the pilot program of the Dane County Timebank. Timebanking is a relatively new form of volunteer social service, founded in 1980 by Dr. Edgar S. Cahn. According to Time Dollar USA ([www.timedollar.org](http://www.timedollar.org)), "He dreamed up Time Dollars as a new currency to provide a solution to massive cuts in government spending on social welfare. If there was not going to be enough of the old money to fix all the problems facing our country and our society, Edgar reasoned, why not make a new kind of money to pay people for what needs to be done?"

Since then, the idea of time banking has expanded around the globe, to Israel, Palestine, the UK and Africa. There are time banks in operation in over 75 cities in the US – including a successful cross-age peer tutoring program in Chicago, a Maine Time Dollar Network, and a Time Dollar Youth Court in Washington, D.C.. Now it has come to Madison.

"It's making the work you do out in the community count," said Rearick. "It's also a way to connect people across boundaries: age, demographics. You reconnect with your neighbors."

"We hope to bring more people into community involvement," said Abha Thakkar, Associate Facilitator of Northside Planning Council. Also, she added, "Hopefully, people who are always giving will learn to receive and people who are always on the receiving end because of their life circumstances will have a chance to give."

The system works thusly: For every hour of service you perform, you earn one Time Dollar. You can then spend

that Time Dollar on any number of services and goods offered within the Timebank Network. You just contact the Timebank Coordinator when you need help with something, and they'll assign another member to the task. Once that task has been accomplished,

you submit a form, and the Coordinator transfers one Time Dollar from your account into the other member's account.

Timebanking includes all manner of services. There were example boards posted at the Kickoff event, and on the application form (and the website) there are places to request specific services – if you need leaves raked, a ride to the airport, pet sitting, computer help or even serving food at a Timebank event! For every hour of time spent, a time dollar is exchanged. "Everyone's hour is worth the same amount," said Rearick.

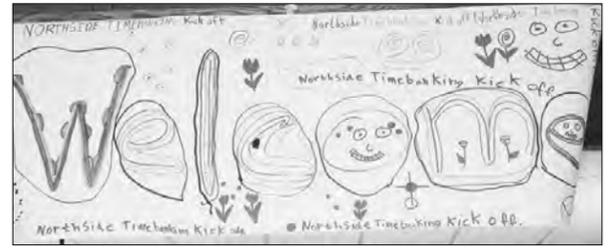
The kickoff itself was organized using Timebanking. Members earned Time Dollars to prepare food and to help with setup and clean up. The Northside Timebank's kitchen cabinet members - an advisory group made up of Timebank members who help to recruit members, organize events and develop policies - introduced themselves and set the stage for the evening.

Since the kickoff, over 100 hours of service have been logged by the Northside Timebank's 56 members. That's well on the way to the pilot program's stated goal for the first year: to sign up 100 members and exchange 1000 hours of service. Rearick said transactions have included peer math tutoring, pet care and someone getting a leak fixed. A group helped mulch the local rain gardens, and on December 12, another group plans to help the Timebank's first charter non-profit member, the Parental Stress Center, clean their building. Rearick also has plans to meet with the Lindbergh Elementary School PTA soon.

The Northside Neighbor to Neighbor Timebank will be hosting another welcome event on Thursday January 19, 6-8 pm, location TBA (dinner and child-care will be provided.)

## Northside Timebank Kickoff

photos by Abha Thakkar



Younger participants helped make everyone feel welcome.



Our youngest member yet!



Darlene Shell and Jim Powell examine the map of Timebank members.

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COMMUNITY ISSUES



The Rafferty's, former owners of the Villa Tap, New Year's Eve, 1939

Taverns

cont. from page 1

nessman, but as a Dane County supervisor, looks at it politically. "Since the ban, there's a substantial loss in city tax revenues which can be directly traced to reduced sales by city taverns."

Like other owners, Wiganowsky has looked into erecting an outside smoking area. "The least expensive would be a canvas tent but fire regulations make that impossible."

Other owners just don't have the space to expand or zoning regulations prohibit how much they can do.

The Esquire Club's owner, John Kavanaugh, is in a little better situation than his fellow owners.

"We've kept our dining rooms smoke free for two years," he says, "so our dining clientele has remained

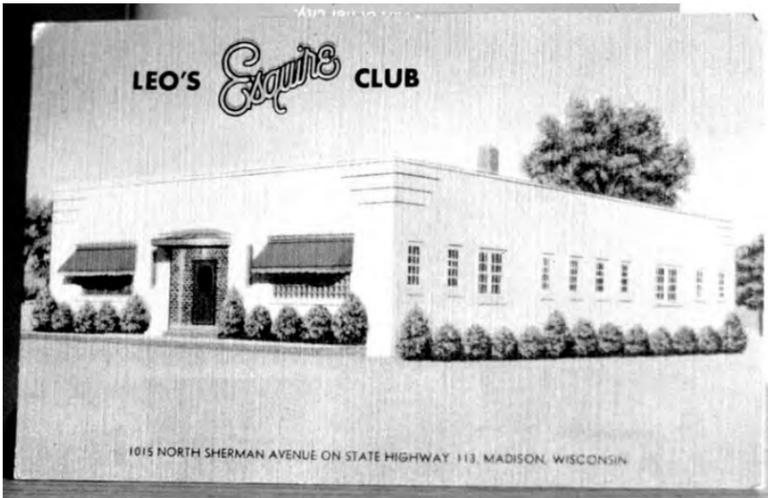


Fred Busse, 1948

not by our distance from the city limits."

"Outlying bars," adds Deadman, "are not up in business as much as we are down. Most of my customers are drinking at home."

Scott Redfern, owner of Sherman



steady. Unfortunately, they used to come to the bar after dinner. Now they mostly go home."

All the owners agree that the coming cold weather will only worsen the situation. With no area free from the elements for patrons to smoke, business will suffer more. And they're in complete agreement that the loss of any of our local taverns would be an economic as well as an historical tragedy.

"Competition makes good business," says Wiganowsky. "When we're all on a level playing field, we attract customers by our service and prices,

Plaza's Spirits Liquors, has reported a 15% increase in sales this year.

"We started out as a stage coach stop in 1865," says Tedeschi referring to the Villa Tap. "If the people who support the ban, or just support us, don't start coming in, we'll be going out."

If you've spent anytime on the Northside, they know you. And unless Northsiders spend some time getting to know them, they'll be no more hosting, enduring, suffering or celebrating. But there will be mourning.

Support these Northside institutions!

Northside taverns/restaurants with Class 5 liquor licenses

**Busse's Markway Tavern**  
2005 N. Sherman Ave.

**Benvenuto's Italian Grill**  
1849 Northport Dr.  
(Sherman Plaza)

**Runway Pub & Grill**  
3302 Packers Ave.

**Locker Room Sports Bar & Grill**  
1810 Roth Ave.

**Esquire Club**  
1205 N. Sherman Ave.

**Ole-N-Rick's Northside Inn**  
1026 N. Sherman Ave.

**Slice-N-Bullits Bar & Grill**  
2417 Pennsylvania Ave.



**Tip Top Tavern**  
601 North St.

**Villa Tap**  
2302 Packers Ave.

**Wiggies**  
1901 Aberg Ave.

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Photo courtesy of The Capital Times & Henry A. Koshollek  
**Vernon Blackwell of Dane County United holds a share of pie to explain that "every kid gets an equal slice of pie" as David Wolf holds tray.**

## Dane County United: Increase childcare for poor

*Low-income access to childcare one-half of average*

**By Matt Moreland-Gross**  
*Dane County United*

On November 17, Dane County United and a coalition of other organizations called for increased city childcare accreditation and tuition assistance.

At the Downtown MATC Child and Family Center, Vernon Blackwell of the Northside Planning Council passed out ¼ pumpkin pies, saying "This quarter of a pie represents the kids in this city who need access to quality care the most. We want to give those children more." While 50% of Madison children enrolled in day care programs are in a city-accredited facility, only 26% of low-income children have that quality advantage.

Joining Blackwell were David Wolfe of the Bright and Early Campaign and representatives of the Downtown Kiwanis Club, African American Clergy Association, Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, Latino Childcare Council, Association of Accredited Childcare Providers and others. They set out a goal to have 50% of low-income

children in accredited daycare, equal to the overall figure right now.

For over 30 years Madison has led the Nation in offering this first of its kind city childcare accreditation program. Mayor Dave Cieslewicz was thanked for restoring childcare funding in the 2006 budget. City programs over 15 programs waiting for accreditation and over 125 children waiting for tuition assistance.

Sarka Cobb, a recent MATC nursing graduate, said, "Receiving city childcare assistance allowed me to attend school. Having quality childcare allowed me to concentrate on my education and graduate. And my child benefited from being in a high quality program."

Low-income families in Madison can improve their lives through education or looking for better employment while their children attend accredited childcare facilities that help them prepare for a successful kindergarten experience and beyond.

If you would like to learn how to get involved contact Matt Moreland-Gross of Dane County United at 843-6470 or [organizer@danecountyunited.org](mailto:organizer@danecountyunited.org).

## Cherokee boardwalk supporters determined to find solid footing

**By Jody Schmitz**

*The Northside News*

As winter approaches, Northside residents of Madison are suffering from the disappearance of a neighborhood icon, the Cherokee Marsh boardwalk.

Built in the 1980s by middle school students as a gift to their community, the boardwalk was a popular destination for family outings. Now there is a sign posted, shooing neighbors away.

According to Bill Lorge, president of the Cherokee Park Neighborhood Association, the City Parks Division cited maintenance costs and safety as reasons for the boardwalk's removal. According to Lorge, Parks department supervisor Russ Hefty gave the directive but did not inform the neighborhood association.

"Things aren't happening in an open government format," Lorge claims. "This is a slap in the face of good, clean citizen government," he adds. Others have questioned the boardwalk's safety, but nobody was ever hurt there, according to Lorge.

Cherokee Marsh neighbors and other Northsiders held a meeting with Jim Morgan, Parks superintendent, who put \$5,000 in the city budget to study replacing the boardwalk in 2007. The potential plan involved building two cul-de-sacs along the shore, rather than rebuilding the boardwalk in its original configuration through the middle of the marsh. By the end of the meeting, that plan had been dropped, according to Lorge.

However, without telling anyone, Hefty proceeded to hire a contractor to cut down trees and start with preparation for the construction of the cul-de-sacs and a new boardwalk. This activity was stopped in early November.

Superintendent Morgan forsee an initial neighborhood planning meeting in mid-January with all concerned people in attendance. At the same time, meetings will be held by engineers to discuss the location and environmental issues. The goal is to complete the plans by June and to get it into the Mayor's budget. If everyone agrees on replacement of the boardwalk, it will

be done in the winter and spring of 2007, Morgan says.

"We want to go in the direction of cooperation on this, rather than bumping heads," he concludes.

The Cherokee Neighborhood Association wants to "do it the right way," Lorge says. Their goal is to have the boardwalk rebuilt by Spring 2006 and to reflect the desires of the people who use the marsh in the plans.

One of those people is Pat Woicek, who has volunteered in the marsh since 1970. She has taken thousands of school children through the marsh.

"It's really exciting for me to see the kids in the middle of the marsh on the boardwalk, loving it and asking questions," she says.

Woicek cautions against spending a lot of money to study it. She wants to see the boardwalk replaced where it belongs, in the middle of the marsh, not on the shoreline.

"People love to go out there in the middle of the marsh," she insists. Under her plan, the Indian mounds would not be destroyed. As for paying for the new boardwalk, she suggests that people contribute to it, like they did for the swimming pool. If all the neighbors that loved the marsh pitched in, it could be restored.

The Northside Planning Council wants the people who use and love the marsh to be included in the planning to ensure that the boardwalk continues to be a family place that can be enjoyed by the people of the neighborhood, says Jim Powell, Northside Planning Council Facilitator.

Like Woicek, many Northsiders are expressing their disappointment about the removal of the boardwalk.

"It just doesn't seem right," says Jack Krebs, whose son David, an East High School graduate and current contractor in Rio, helped build the boardwalk as a student. "David is disappointed that it has been taken down, but it was built a long time ago," he says.

Many Northsiders are looked forward to the boardwalk's replacement, coming — hopefully — in the near future.

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COMMUNITY ISSUES

# The gang's not all here: City roundtable reaction

View from the Heights



ALYSSA KENNEY

On November 5, I attended the city-sponsored Neighborhood Roundtable at Warner Park Center, an important event for community and neighborhood leaders. The morning was well organized, the exhibits were informative and the event was well attended.

However, I have concerns about the content of some of the presentations and the appropriateness of the material for the audience. In particular, I strongly felt that the presentation by the Madison Police Department was inappropriate for an audience of community leaders, though it would have been fine for teachers, youth development workers, and other individuals with strong relationships with our youth.

For many of the neighborhood leaders – most of whose interaction with youth is limited – the gang affiliation indicators discussed were indicators that also describe many youth in our community, particularly youth of color.

Indicators like baggy clothes, hip-hop music, nicknames, and special handshakes describe most of the youth I know. Adults without meaningful relationships with youth should not be trying to determine gang affiliation.

I have spent years working with hundreds of youth in many of Madison's neighborhoods including Allied-Dunn's Marsh, Vera Court, and Kennedy Heights. I have met very, very few youth with any gang affiliations, and I have met a very limited number of youth that posture some "gang-like" behaviors but have no real affiliation.

I have met many youth and particularly youth of color that feel isolated in Madison. They feel like they are looked at differently (and often down upon) when they walk down the street, wait for the bus, enter a store, talk with friends outside in their communities, go to the mall, and participate in many other everyday activities. Youth feel this way because it happens. Fear, racism, and ageism are clearly contributing factors.

I believe that the Roundtable fed the fear and exacerbated the animosity some people have of youth. The last thing youth in Madison need is neighborhood leaders treating them like gang members because of the clothes they

wear, music they listen to, or nicknames they use.

Are gangs an important community issue? Yes. Is gang prevention an issue for community leaders? Sure. Neighborhood leaders should learn about graffiti removal on private and public property, community prevention programs (almost none of which were represented), successful inter-age neighborhood activities, and public safety and what leaders can do to address root causes of gangs.

The overwhelming amount of information about gang signs, initiation rituals and Snoop Doggy Dog videos seemed inappropriate. This information feeds the fear of youth and particularly youth of color, which is prevalent in Madison and detrimental to building a stronger community. We need leaders to support and honor our youth, not guess about their gang affiliation.

*Alyssa is the executive director of the Kennedy Heights Community Center.*



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NORTHSIDE HISTORY

# Life as a child on the Northside

## During the late '50s and early '60s

By Jack Kneubuhler

Last weekend my lifelong friend Steve Sachtjen invited me up to a cottage he owns in Wild Rose. We sat in the backyard, close to the lake, adding wood to the firepit and talking about all the fun we had being kids on the Northside in the '50s and '60s. Back then there was no cable TV, no Internet, no video games, very little crime and no drugs. We created our own entertainment.

I was born in Madison in 1948 and lived in Waunakee until the age of 3, when we moved into a house in Madison at the corner of Melrose and Ruskin streets. My dad built the house with the help of my uncles and his friends after work and on the weekends. There were no houses north of Melrose Street at the time.

When my friend Steve moved from Sherman Avenue to Calypso Lane, one of our first projects was building a sod fort in the big field behind Steve's house. We used tree branches to support the ceiling and then dug up square chunks of sod with shovels to use for walls.

We then moved on to building a tree

house. At that time the apartments in that area were being constructed, so we could get lumber, nails and carpeting from what was discarded. The end result was a 3-room tree fort with wall-to-wall carpeting that was at least 20 to 30 feet high.

We used to make homemade go-carts out of 2x4s and plywood, using threaded steal rods for axles. I would attach the rods to the bottom of the 2x4s, connect them to a piece of plywood and then bolt on some old lawn mower wheels on each end. A bolt ran through the middle of the front axle so we could steer with our feet as we coasted down a hill. Our favorite hill was located at the corner of Spohn and Huxley. One of us would stand at the bottom and watch for cars while the other would go down the hill.

I only received 25 cents a week for an allowance, and I wanted to make some more money, so I moved on to trapping. My Uncle Rusty trapped for most of his life, and he set me up with a few old traps to get started with. I did my trapping in the area that is now called Warner Park. At that time, the largest body of water was only 8 to 14

feet across.

I would set my traps for muskrats after school, and then get up at 4 am before school the next day in order to check them. My friend and I would head down there with flashlights to collect what we caught.

When my dad got home from work, he'd take me to Waunakee to cash in and collect my money from Pete Millers, a fur dealer at that time. I got \$1.25 per muskrat – pretty good money in those days.

None of the things we did as Northside kids cost us or our parents any money. We were outside all the time, entertaining ourselves. With the

exception of four years of military service, I have lived on the Northside for 54 of my 57 years. I know life is more complicated and a little tougher for kids these days, but I still think it's great to be living on the Northside.



A young Jack Kneubuhler holds a day's worth of earnings, in the form of muskrats, in front of a friend's 1963 Chevy Impala. Kneubuhler is a life-long Northside resident.

## MADISON - Sesquicentennial

### "Give us more history!"

By Marlene Hardick

The Northside News

**Northside History!** History items in the *Northside News* have been greeted with much enthusiasm. "Give us more history!" is a frequent request from readers.

2006 will be a great year for history. We are planning now for six issues full of historical stories and photos. Our readers may be able to help. Let us know if you have good quality photos of Northside residents and places from the past 150 years.

**2006 is Madison's 150th Birthday.** Madison150 is the Madison Sesquicentennial Commission planning the celebration. The Commission invites ideas from citizens and organizations. Mayor Dave Cieslewicz hopes to see a yearlong celebration of life in Madison - past, present, and future-that brings together the arts communities, schools, businesses, neighbor-

hoods and local government. The City of Madison will hold celebratory events the weekend of April 7, 2006!

Does your neighborhood or organization want to get involved? You can attend meetings, sponsor an event, or submit ideas. Make Madison150 a true reflection of the diversity of this city. The most important aspect of planning is to involve ALL neighborhoods, organizations, and individuals that would like to participate in this historic event.

Get more info at [www.madison150.org](http://www.madison150.org). To discuss an idea, contact Rebecca Kasemeyer, Arts Administrator for Madison's CitiARTS program at 261-9134 or [rkasemeyer@cityofmadison.com](mailto:rkasemeyer@cityofmadison.com).



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