

# Working together to keep everyone warm

**By Nancy Helgesen Lyons**

*The Northside News*



This time of year, Madison Gas and Electric (MGE) gets a lot of calls from people who are struggling to pay their bills. MGE as a company is understanding about this situation and has a customer assistance department called CARES that refers people to organizations that can help. Energy Services Inc. (ESI) is one of these organizations.

ESI channels federal and state funds each year from the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program to Dane County residents who need help with energy bills. According to the Home Energy Plus website at [www.homeenergyplus.wi.gov](http://www.homeenergyplus.wi.gov), this program provides

**Northside residents having a difficult time with their MGE bills,** and who would like to know if they qualify for help from Energy Services Inc, can call the MGE Home Energy Line at 252-7117. They can also talk to ESI directly at 267-8601.

If people call ESI directly, it is still a good idea to call MGE also. Even if a person's income is above the income levels that allow people to qualify for money from ESI, MGE can still work out payment arrangements with people and can refer them to other organizations that may be able to help.

financial help with heating and electric bills, energy crisis situations where power is soon to be shut off, relevant budget counseling, information on reducing energy costs and more.

Dennis McQuade, a social worker with Dane County Joining Forces for Families, said that ESI is still taking referrals for this heating season. McQuade said, "Energy Services (Inc.) is a great organization that helps numerous low income people in Dane County. I have heard nothing but positive comments from Northside residents, who have used the agency."

Many people who use ESI's services include senior citizens, people with disabilities, families with small children and people with low incomes. ESI, located at 1225 S. Park St. in Madison, also assists qualifying people with money from the Keep Wisconsin Warm Fund, which is funded by state money and from public donations.

Huong Coleman, Senior Customer Assistance Advisor with MGE CARES said, "The MGE CARES department works closely with Energy Services, Inc. and other community service organizations, like Dane County Joining Forces for Families, to better serve our customers. When MGE customers apply for energy assistance, ESI has the ability to access that customer's energy usage. This can help in speeding up the process of that cus-

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## NBA

community forums in which public input was sought on economic development and traffic/transportation issues," which are two topics that directly affect both businesses and residents alike, she added.

One notable achievement, Wedekind continued, was NBA's commissioning of the "Welcome to the Northside" sign on the corner of Northport Drive and North Sherman Avenue "to help brand and promote the recognition of the Northside."

Other non-business achievements include the group's annual Breakfast with Santa, which generates donations for Northside food pantries, as well as scholarships funded by NBA for college-bound East High School graduates. NBA also donated to the Warner Park Community Recreation Center building and the Lakeview Library remodel.

"[NBA also] provides financial and volunteer support to Northside groups, events and charities, reducing the financial pressure of individual businesses," said Wedekind.

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tomer's application. In some cases, once they are approved for energy assistance, ESI notifies us directly of their benefit amounts. This can prevent interruption of their service or other crisis. Also, we work together in identifying families with special needs or circumstances and collaborate ways to best serve these families. This may include co-payment plans, additional energy assistance or referrals to other agencies."

MGE Residential Services Specialist II Charles Werner said, "For Northside residents struggling with high energy bills, Energy Services Inc. is an extremely valuable community asset. Madison Gas Electric's Residential and Community Services division continues to explore new partnerships and outreach opportunities with ESI to better serve our customers.

"One of our most successful collaborations has been our **Community**

**Energy Resource Fairs.** The fairs serve as an all-access pass for families and individuals to apply for energy assistance, participate in energy education and budget counseling workshops, and meet with various community support agencies, like Joining Forces for Families, Project Home, Dane County Timebank, Tenant Resource Center, and many others. In the past, Community Energy Resource Fairs have been held at Northport Community Learning Center, Mendota Elementary and Lakeview Lutheran Church.

As we move forward to 2009, MGE is excited to continue our strong partnership with ESI."

Together, Madison Gas and Electric and Energy Services Inc. are making a difference for Northside residents this winter, and are waiting to hear from people who need help.

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Here's a birthday wish come true: our free Birthday Sundae. Choose your favorite sundae on our menu. You just have to prove it's your birthday, and children under 12 remember to bring in an adult. It's our way of wishing you a Happy Birthday.  
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## COVER STORIES

*cont. from page 1*

### Business

gathered on Nov. 10 at Warner Park Community Recreation Center to participate in a community forum co-sponsored by the Northside Planning Council (NPC) and Northside Business Association (NBA).

#### Strong Competition

A panel of business specialists opened the forum by sharing their perspective on the Northside business climate. Matt Mikolajewski, from the City of Madison's Office of Business Resources, presented a brief summary of results from the recently completed Northside Market Study. Mikolajewski noted that, according to the study, Northside demographics are good and show significant buying power. However, nearly half of that buying power is lost to strong competition from surrounding markets through "leakage", or money spent by Northsiders outside of the Northside trade area. The study found that the greatest leakage in the area occurs mainly in the grocery stores, food and drinking places, general merchandise, clothing, furniture and home furnishings.

#### Perceptions and Realities

Perception of the Northside as a high crime area was noted in the study as another major challenge to the Northside business climate. The lack

*"We have basically every type of demographic from the Northside. I see the Northside's diversity as a strength."*  
~ Mike Pratzel,  
co-owner of Manna Cafe

of "destination" businesses, aging physical structures, and major roads designed to move people through the area quickly rather than supporting easy access and visibility for businesses were also noted as key challenges.

Lease rates for office and retail space are lower on the Northside than in

### Top points from Northside Business Climate Forum

#### STRENGTHS/OPPORTUNITIES

1. Strong sense of community and identity
2. Location and proximity to airport, downtown, MATC, interstates and availability of affordable space.

#### THREATS/BARRIERS

1. Dated perception of high-crime combined with run-down appearance of some businesses creates a Northside marketing problem.

#### SOLUTIONS/STRATEGIES

1. Form a Northside Economic Alliance to access the tools available from the City (e.g. BID, TIF, Façade Improvement, etc.) and conduct targeted business support.
2. Develop a Northside brand/theme and a coordinated agent/effort to market the Northside.

other areas of Madison, however, competition and perception pose challenges in these areas as well. While the plan makes a number of recommendations, Mikolajewski stated that "There's no single magic answer for what the Northside needs."

Panelist Mike Pratzel, co-owner of Manna Cafe and Northside resident since 1994, suggested that the Northside needs more sit-down, full service restaurants. He stated that his establishment "gets lots of different types of people. We have basically every type of demographic from the Northside. I see the Northside's diversity as a strength." Pratzel also noted that Manna draws clients from all over Madison, but that the Northside lacks the range of businesses to create a critical mass as a shopping destination.

After the panel presented their thoughts, participants split up into groups of five to eight people to discuss the Northside business climate strengths, opportunities, and threats. This small group session brought out several positive traits the Northside possesses, including a strong sense of community, convenient location quickly accessible from the airport and other major points of interest, and the availability of space. (See detailed results in box at top.)

#### Major Threats Identified

The major threats that were identified are misperceptions about crime

and a run-down, tired appearance of some businesses. Several participants voiced concern that the misperception by the general public that Northside crime rates are higher than they in reality, was echoed in the Northside

*"Let's try to figure out some way to be important to the city of Madison. Maybe we can market ourselves as the side of town that still knows how to make things."*

~ Sue Gleason,  
Northside resident and  
member of Economic  
Development Commission

Market Study. Overall, crime on the Northside is at a 10-year low, with the exception of a couple of hot spots where we are concentrating our efforts, according to North District Lt. Brian Ackeret.

Panel member Jeff Maurer, Pierce's Supermarket former president and general manager, also countered concerns about crime, "Northsiders have been very respectful of our store." Maurer reported that Pierce's Northside Market sales numbers have increased by over 10 percent. He added, "We're here to stay."

#### Possible Solutions Identified

Participants then brainstormed solutions to the Northside business climate including alleviating its "tired" look. "North Sherman Avenue does look tired. Maybe we can give it something like a theme," said landlord and resident Bill Rowe.

Marty Rifken, realtor and developer of Lakewood Plaza & Corben Business Campus, discussed Lakewood's efforts to maintain their property well and to provide the kind of smaller retail spaces that seem to be the best fit for the Northside market. Rifken also noted the importance maintaining a traffic pattern that provides both sufficient volume and visibility needed to support businesses.

Other brainstormed solutions included: forming a Northside Economic Alliance to get assistance from the city and create a clear and respected voice for the Northside, organizing a Tax Increment Financing District, engaging more of the business community in problem solving, and promoting a focus on Northside businesses through mailings and newsletters. Panelist Sue Gleason, a member of the City of Madison's Economic Development Commission and longtime Northside resident urged, "Let's try to figure out some way to be important to the city of Madison - maybe we can market ourselves as the side of town that still knows how to make things."

Following the forum, representatives the NBA and NPC made a presentation to the City's Northside Neighborhood Plan Steering Committee on Nov. 20, recommending that the issues and solutions identified in the forum be considered for inclusion in the plan's recommendations.

#### Next Step

As a next step, the NBA and NPC are forming a joint "task force" to further develop some of the ideas from the forum and the market study, and to plan some initial steps we can take together at both the Northside community level and potentially with the City and other partners.

Northside News writer Christina Ballard contributed to this story.

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**Annual Christmas Music Concert**, East Hall  
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## COVER STORIES

cont. from page 1

**Plan**

includes landscaping, coordinated building design with specialty shops and offices below and residential above, outdoor gathering areas decorated with public art and seasonal landscaping, and sit-down restaurants with outdoor seating.

**The Big Street**

Some traffic calming possibilities for Northport Drive might include widening the street terrace and planting street trees and other attractive landscaping, painting bike lanes, reducing lanes from six to four, installing bumpouts and more visible crosswalks, and replacing the chain link fence with a more attractive median fence and landscaping.

**Into the Wild**

Warner Park is the heart and soul of the area for many Northsiders. Possible enhancements might include a walking path around the periphery of the park

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**Speed**

ground information on traffic volume, speed, accident rates, specific locations/intersections with identified problems from Dan McCormick and Scott Langer from the City of Madison Traffic Engineering, Lt. Brian Ackeret from the North Police District and Lisa Wiese from Safe Communities.

Wiese summarized the top concerns identified in the Northside Walking Audit coordinator as follows: "Biking on North Sherman is dangerous, crossing it is difficult, and traffic is too much and too fast."

**Concerns Consistent**

After hearing background information, participants took part in small groups with seven to eight people in each to identify their Northside traffic and safety concerns. Topping the list: traffic speed on North Sherman Avenue is too fast, and biking and crossing North Sherman Ave. and Aberg is dangerous. (See detailed results in box on right). Virtually all of the participants top concerns matched up with the Northside Walking Audit.

Before starting the second round of small group discussion of solutions, Traffic Engineering reviewed tools and strategies for improving traffic safety for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists and access to and visibility for local businesses.

**NORTHSIDE ACTION ALERT**

and onto the lagoon islands, master garden areas with seating and public art, expanded cross country ski trails and ice skating with equipment rentals, better pedestrian and bike access to the park and Warner Park Community Recreation Center and much more.

**Raise Your Voice**

Northside residents are encouraged to share thoughts on draft recommendations by attending the Dec. 13 Neighborhood Plan Open House at 2933 N. Sherman Ave. in the old hardware store at Northside TownCenter (see adjacent ad). Draft recommendations will also be posted for review and comment on the neighborhood plan webpage during the week of Dec. 7 at [www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/northsideplan/](http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/northsideplan/)

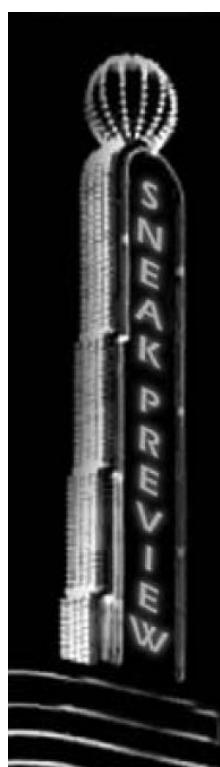
Contact the City Planning Division with questions and to comment at 267-1131, or [lhovath@cityofmadison.com](mailto:lhovath@cityofmadison.com) or [www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/northsideplan/planningSign.cfm](http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/northsideplan/planningSign.cfm)

**Solutions Proposed**

Drawing from the recent Northside Market Study findings, the concept of redesigning North Sherman Ave. as a "Main Street" to improve traffic safety as well as to create a more attractive business district drew strong interest. More than half of the groups reported that as their top solution. Other top solutions included providing access to multiple, alternate bike paths and routes and adding multiple pedestrian amenities, such as clearly marking the pedestrian crosswalks and adding pedestrian signs to the center.

One potential solution that about half of the groups proposed is to reconfigure North Sherman Avenue to calm traffic and make it easier for pedestrians to cross traffic lanes. The most frequently mentioned reconfiguration was two traffic lanes with a center turn lane and bike lanes. Several NBA members participating in the forum related that the NBA had taken a position that North Sherman Avenue should remain in its current four-lane configuration.

The NBA and NPC jointly presented forum results at the Nov. 20 Public Input meeting of the Northside Neighborhood Plan. A lively discussion took place over the merits of various potential reconfigurations of North Sherman Avenue to improve safety. Most participants agreed that slowing traffic down, regardless of whether the lane configuration changes, would be beneficial.



**Neighborhood Plan  
OPEN HOUSE  
Saturday, December 13,  
10am-2pm  
2865 N. Sherman Avenue  
in the old True Value,  
at Northside TownCenter.**

**Everyone's a critic! Come review the  
Northport-Warner Park-Sherman  
Steering Committee's preliminary  
neighborhood plan strategies!**

If you have questions, contact the City of Madison,  
Planning Division at:  
[lhovath@cityofmadison.com](mailto:lhovath@cityofmadison.com)

Visit:  
[www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/northsideplan/](http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/northsideplan/)  
for a calendar of meetings and to sign up to get involved.

**Top Northside Traffic Safety Concerns****Most frequently mentioned**

1. Traffic speed on North Sherman Avenue is too fast.
2. Biking on North Sherman Avenue is dangerous due to traffic speed and lack of bike lanes.

**Second most frequently mentioned**

1. Intersection is very tricky at Hwy CV/Northport Drive/Packers Avenue and has bad visibility.
2. Red light running is a problem at Northport Drive and North Sherman Avenue.
3. Pedestrian crossing difficult on North Sherman Avenue at Aberg Avenue & Northport Drive and on Aberg Avenue at Huxley Street.

**Top Northside Traffic Safety Solutions****Most frequently mentioned**

1. Redesign North Sherman Avenue as "Main Street".
2. Reconfigure North Sherman Avenue to calm traffic and make it easier for pedestrians to cross traffic lanes. (Disagreement noted on specific reconfiguration).
3. Explore and commit to multiple, alternate bike paths/routes.
4. Add pedestrian amenities, e.g., pedestrian flags, ped activated crossing signals, ped signs in center at ped crossings.

**Second most frequently mentioned**

1. Add pedestrian islands on North Sherman Avenue at entrances to Warner Park & Northside TownCenter.
2. Eliminate right turn "skimmer lane" from Northport Drive southbound onto North Sherman Avenue.
3. Time traffic lights better and more consistently, including red in all directions for a few sections to clear intersection.
4. Add traffic stop light at Trailsway.

Upon listening to the results, Northside business owner Mark Deadman, who attended both the forum and this meeting, exclaimed, "People do drive too fast on North Sherman Avenue!"

"Slowing traffic down on North Sherman Avenue will have a big impact on biker safety," said Northsider Craig Jackson who bike commutes to work daily on North Sherman Avenue. Jackson recounted being hit four times on his bike.

**Next Steps Underway**

As a next step, the NBA and NPC are forming a joint "task force" to further develop some of the ideas from the forum and the market study, and to plan some initial steps we can take together at both the Northside community level and potentially with the City and other partners.

About this partnership, NBA President Rylee Wedekind said, "I'm really looking forward to the NBA and NPC working together on these issues that affect the whole Northside."

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**NBA**

One of the NBA's founding members and assistant vice president/branch manager the Northside AnchorBank, Karen Thompson, said the impetus behind creating NBA 15 years ago was a simple yet needed one. "[There just] wasn't any business voice on the Northside," she explained, stressing the need for a "network where business issues can be discussed."

"The business community needs to have a voice in what also goes on. Residents and businesses should look at all sides to see what is best with development, expansion and

supporting its own base," she continued.

While the group plans to continue with its current projects, there is one area of focus Wedekind said should be targeted, namely keeping more of the Northside's money on the Northside.

"In the recent market survey conducted by the City, it showed that there is \$165 million being spent annually by Northside residents and businesses," she said. "Yet only \$54 million actually stays within the Northside."

"That's \$110 million leaving our community," she continued. "There is an opportunity to identify and develop business opportunities that will capture more of this market share."

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## BUSINESS



# Northside Holiday Shopping Guide

## Buy local! Shop the Northside!

by Mary Schumacher

### Craft & Creativity

**Arttogo** Creativity kits for kids of all ages, made right here on the Northside. Available online at [www.myarttogo.com](http://www.myarttogo.com).

### Northside Arts Crafts & Food Faire

Every Sunday until Dec. 21 at the Northside TownCenter in the former True Value location. Also known as the Winter Farmer's Market, it has many unique and desirable items – too many to be listed here. See page 7 for details.

**Virginia Davis School of Dance** Spark creativity in your little dancer! (2037 Sherman Ave.)

### Exercise

New Year's resolutions are just around the corner!

**Warner Park Community & Recreation Center** Gym and full exercise room. Sign up for the day, for the year or something in between. (1625 Northport Dr.)

### Music, Movies & Books

**Frugal Muse** Used books and CDs in a great store with plenty of variety. Plan on spending lots of time here for a selection you won't find at the big box stores. (Northgate)

**Videoland** Buy your favorite movies. (Northgate)

### Pet Stuff

**Noah's Ark Pet Center** Get critters, toys, holistic and raw dog and cat foods. If you feel like giving your neighbors a break, get your dog a bark collar or sign up for a dog obedience class. (Lakewood Plaza)

**Spawoof** Special gifts for the pampered pooch. (2250 Pennsylvania Ave.)

### Technology

**Cricket Wireless** New to the Northside, they offer cell phones, plans and broadband internet access. "No credit checks, no signed contracts." (Northgate)

## Restyle your home without a shopping trip

You're not moving yet you're tired of the way your home looks. You want a change. How about 'restyling' what you already have?

Restyling...One Room at a Time, LLC, based on the Northside, has arrived. This design concept can and will transform your space into the home you will love.

Northsiders Sue Arneson and Becky Mueller are the creative force behind this design concept. Their purpose is to 'restyle' their clients' homes by utilizing existing furniture, art, accessories and collectibles. They use what you currently own, balance furniture arrangements, introduce splashes of color and create architectural interest. Lastly, the design duo complete the look with accessories. All of this can be accomplished without one trip to the store!

A previous client stated, "Working with Sue and Becky was like working with great friends who were able to see the vision I had for my living room. I couldn't be happier with my

### Dining

Get gift certificates or take your special someone out for a tasty Northside meal.

**Benvenuto's** Italian cuisine of pizza, pasta and sandwiches. (Northside TownCenter)

**Café La Bellitalia** Cozy place for Sicilian pizza and Italian cuisine. (1026 N. Sherman Ave.)

**Esquire Club** Supper club dining for lunch and dinner and lively bar scene. (1025 N. Sherman Ave.)

**Great China** Chinese classics for lunch and dinner for take-out or eating in a small dining area. (Lakewood Plaza)

**Manna Café** Popular meeting place for breakfast and lunch. coffee and wireless. (Lakewood Plaza)

**Northside Restaurant** Friendliest wait staff for breakfast, lunch and dinner at Northgate. Great fish fry on Fridays. (Northgate)

**Slice-N-Bullits** Best greasy spoon hamburgers. (2417 Pennsylvania Ave.)

**Wiggies** Bar and grill cuisine. (1901 Aberg Ave.)

**New Orleans Take-Out** Creole cuisine to pick up and enjoy at home. (1920 Fordem Ave.)

**For fast food options**, try Subway, Pizza Extreme, Rocky Rococo's, McDonald's and Culvers. Don't pretend you don't know where they are located!

### Health & Beauty

Get gift certificates or treat yourself to some special services or items that will make you look, smell and feel wonderful.

**DuWayne's Salon** Full service salon with all kinds of products. (2114 N. Sherman Ave.)

**Lois & Company** Hairstyling and more. (466 N. Sherman Ave.)

**Madison Chiropractic** Massages available. (2205 N. Sherman Ave.)

**Massage East** All kinds of wonderful massage. (2114 N. Sherman Ave.)

**Northgate Barbershop** Basic hair cuts for males and females. (Northgate)

**Powers Hair Studio** Hair, nails and massage, and the only place around here to get Moroccan Oil. (5440 Willow Rd.)

**Prime Cut** Beauty salon owned by Northsider Sandy Becker. (1409 Northport Dr.)

**Radiance Skin Therapy & Laser Center** Rejuvenate your skin, remove unwanted hair or get mineral cosmetics. (1001 N. Sherman Ave.)

**Salon Unisex Helen** Hair and nail services. (Lakewood Plaza)

**Serenity Salon & Day Spa** Full-service Aveda company with massage. (Northside TownCenter)

**Sherman Plaza Hairstyling** Come for a haircut and lots of neighborhood talk. (Northside TownCenter)

**Trendsetters** Beauty salon. (1438 N. Sherman Ave.)

### Food & Such

Stock up for your holiday meals or give someone the gift of real food.

**Angkor Thom Asian Market** Authentic ingredients for Asian cuisine plus beer. (Northgate)

**Pierce's Northside Market** Fruit baskets, a bottle of wine, use your imagination for a great gift. (Northside TownCenter)

**Jacobson Brothers Meats & Deli** Lots of great stuff, like brats, meats and potato salad, from a firm that started in the Depression. (Lakewood Plaza)

**Jim's Meat Market** Mmmm meat, and sandwiches and a great deli. (1436 Northport Dr.)

**La Queretana** Mexican deli with products from south of the border. (1417 Northport Dr.)

### Home & Garden

**Dorn True Value** (Northgate) & **North Side True Value** (Northside TownCenter) Visit these two hardware stores for tools, holiday home décor, garden supplies or buy somebody a gallon of paint.

**Jung's Garden Center** Everything for the gardener on your list plus Christmas trees and wreaths. (1313 Northport Dr.)

**Weaver's Auto Parts** Get your car enthusiast a part or something. (Northgate)

### One Stop, Many Options

**Maple Bluff Antique Mall** Find beautiful antiques and collectibles, or just drink coffee and chat with the owner. (474 N. Sherman Ave.)

**Boomerangs** Gently used clothing, furniture, books, jewelry, sports equipment and more, with prices for every budget. Terrie will help you find what you need. (Northgate)

**Family Dollar** Find just about anything you need, for great prices. (Northside TownCenter)

### Specialties & Delicacies

**Annie's Garden Bed and Breakfast** Get away from the Northside right here on the Northside with a stay in this charming and peaceful inn. (2117 Sheridan Dr.)

**Drackenberg's Cigar Bar** Visit the humidor for a fine choice of cigars or just warm up on a cold winter day. (Lakewood Plaza)

**Felly's Flowers** For, well, flowers, along with plants and gifts. (Lakewood Plaza)

**Hats for Husbands** Visit the website for stuff only a Northsider could think up. Online at [www.hatsforhusbands.com](http://www.hatsforhusbands.com).

**Nilda's Chocolates** OK, she's technically on East side but this is a must-visit place for exotic and regular chocolates and the best toffee anywhere. (2611 E. Johnson St.)

**Savidusky's Furs & Leather** Although primarily a service shop, Savidusky's offers consignment resale of used furs and leather apparel. (Northgate)

**Tobacco Outlet** Another humidor with choice cigars for many tastes. (Northgate)



The Clark gas station on Packers Avenue is back open for business with a new owner.

The Coffee Gallerie in the Northside TownCenter has closed.

The Curves in the Northside TownCenter has closed but in its place will soon open Hamann Charcuterie, offering fresh sausages from owner/chef Nicholas Hamann Bruns.

Cricket Wireless opened in Northgate Shopping Center, selling cell phones and plans, and broadband Internet plans.

Meg's Flowers & Gifts located in Westport on Hwy M will close at the end of December. Get great gifts at discounted prices starting after Thanksgiving.

### FIENDS NEEDED

Assist with a craft project, serve a meal or just engage in conversation with the young at heart whose health is frail. Or be an escort on van trips into the community.

Weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Come help make someone's life happier and emotionally healthier.

To view "A Life Transformed" and "The Best Day" go to [www.stmarysmadison.com](http://www.stmarysmadison.com) and click on "Patient Stories".

**St. Mary's ADULT DAY HEALTH CENTER**

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(608)249-4450

VOLUNTEER



Girl Scout Troop #24 members (left to right) Molly Riedemann, Shelby Miller, Alondra Harris and Mary Kate Dornon take a break from finding and bagging seed at Lake View Hill Park.

## Lake View Hill County Park makes progress on restoration

By Janet Battista

*Friends of Lake View Hill Park*

From butternuts to bergamot seed, this year saw a bumper crop at Lake View Hill County Park. Three weekend collection events yielded large quantities of native seed for planting in new areas next spring. Thanks to members of Girl Scout Troop # 24 for their cheerful and careful help finding and bagging seed, even the elusive figwort and bottlebrush grass seed.

After five years of restoration activities, parts of Lake View Hill are beginning to resemble the beautiful open oak savanna that Native Americans left for us to enjoy. Volunteers and management professionals have cleared invasive underbrush in many areas thereby opening the soil to sunlight and allowing

native savanna plants to flourish. Savanna-loving birds and butterflies have begun showing up too.

Janeen Laasch, DNR endangered species botanist, and Dr. Theodore Cochrane, curator of the UW-Madison Herbarium, paid visits to the Park this fall too. Both praised the work that has been done, and remarked on the abundance of giant yellow hyssop, a Wisconsin threatened plant. Dr. Cochrane took many samples back to the herbarium for study and identification.

Butternuts from one of the few remaining genetically pure, healthy butternut trees in the park are on their way to the US Department of Agriculture for propagation. A little bit of Lake View Hill woods may one day grace other woods around the country.

**Friends of Lake View Hill Park Annual Meeting**  
Saturday, January 31  
*Warner Park Community Recreation Center*  
10:30 - Noon  
Members will elect the 2009 Directors

### Volunteers needed for Latino Seniors program

The North/Eastside Senior Coalition (NESCO) is looking for bilingual (Spanish/English) individuals to help plan and/or facilitate monthly discussion groups for Latino seniors. This would require about 10 hours a month. Contact Jim Krueger at 243-5252 or [jkrueger@nescoinc.org](mailto:jkrueger@nescoinc.org) for more information.

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## Cherokee Marsh seeks helpers

By Jan Axelson

Madison Parks has scheduled three volunteer days this winter on the ice in Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park. Volunteers will dismantle snow-fence cages and haul brush bundles and coconut fiber mats onto the ice. When the ice melts, the brush bundles and fiber mats will sink. The brush protects the shoreline by blocking wave action and also provides fish habitat. The fiber mats serve as beds for restoration plantings.

On Jan. 10, Jan. 24, and Feb. 7 (all Saturdays), meet at noon in the North Unit parking lot (6098 N. Sherman Ave.). To sign up and to request to be notified of cancellation due to bad weather or unsafe ice, call Laura

Whitmore, Madison Parks, at 266-5949.

Cross-country skiers, when the snow flies, remember that Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park's South Unit (802 Wheeler Rd.) has three miles of trails and no user fee. The Parks Division grooms for classic skiing as time and funds permit. Last winter, despite over 100 inches of snow, Parks did a great job keeping the trails in shape.

Trails in the park's North Unit and Mendota Unit (access from Westport Meadows Park on Beilfuss Dr.) aren't groomed but are open for skiing, snowshoeing and hiking.

For more news about events in and around Cherokee Marsh, visit [www.CherokeeMarsh.org](http://www.CherokeeMarsh.org).

## "Surly Surveyor" visits Lakeview Library for Cherokee Marsh talk, Jan. 17

By Jon Becker

Why listen to a gruff and somewhat bad-tempered fellow dressed in clothes that appear to be over 150 years old?

Because that "surly" fellow is a costumed, historical re-enactor of the surveyor who charted the Cherokee Marsh environs, reporting on the area's landscape as it appeared at the time of the U.S. General Land Office survey in the 1830s.

"The Surly Surveyor" will be the featured presenter on Jan. 17 at 10 am Lakeview Library.

This unique and exciting program will be presented during the Annual Meeting of the Friends of Cherokee Marsh. Open to the public, the meeting will begin with a brief business session, including reports on 2008 and election of board directors and officers for 2009.

Refreshments will be provided, and there will be a variety of door prizes.

The "Surly Surveyor" will be presented by Rob Nurture, a former Land Records Manager with the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands. This agency preserves the original public land



The "Surly Surveyor" played by Rob Nurture will talk about Cherokee Marsh.

survey records dating from 1833 to 1866 for Wisconsin.

Traveling widely for over two decades, Mr. Nurture has presented interpretive programs about the landscapes that the surveyors encountered. Historic instruments and tools, along with interactive demonstrations involving audience members, provide a rich experience.

Nurture prepares for each program with research of the specific site to be interpreted. He likely will visit the Cherokee Marsh environs beforehand, walking and photographing the original survey lines.

## Chocolate & Wine Tasting

High Above The Capitol Square, Thurs, Dec. 11, 6:30-8:30 pm

A Special Benefit to Support Community GroundWorks at Troy Gardens (formerly Friends of Troy Gardens)



Featuring Gail Ambrosius' Fine Artisanal Chocolates and Frey Vineyards' Premium Organic & Biodynamic Wine (Mendocino County, CA). As seating is extremely limited, prepayment of \$125 per person is required by December 10. Please contact Christie Ralston at 240.0409.



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## COMMUNITY GROUNDWORKS

### Community GroundWorks reaping awards for the Learning Community at Troy Gardens



**By Marge Pitts**

While Troy Farm has harvested more vegetables than ever this season, the Learning Community at Troy Kids' Gardens and Natural Areas Restoration has pulled in several prestigious awards.

With support from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Citizen-Based Monitoring Network of Wisconsin, Troy Gardens and Monona Grove Alternative School formed a partnership this year to con-

trol invasive reed canary grass on Troy Gardens' restored tall grass prairie. Maury Smith, an educator from Monona Grove School, and Christie Ralston, Troy Natural Areas Coordinator, co-organized the effort.

Working together, 10 students have begun developing test plots where they'll implement a range of management options, including close mowing, removing seed heads, digging grass out, covering with various materials, and planting competing species. The students will collect data and present their findings to the Community GroundWorks staff and board in a report that will lead to a workable management plan. In addition, students will share their results with their peers through radio, TV, and internet-delivered reports which they will create.

This project has received the Citizen-Based Monitoring Network's Outstanding Achievements in Youth Monitoring Award, not only for outstanding work but for setting an example of how students can participate in a community project while learning new skills that complement their course curricula.

The Capital Times Kids Fund recently awarded Troy Kids' Gardening Program the second annual Steve Jones Memorial Award, which honors outstanding youth programs in our community. The award follows a generous two-year grant from the Madison Community Foundation to establish the Madison Youth Grow Local Initiative at Troy Kids' Garden.

Through this project, children will learn to grow and prepare garden vegetables and fruits, enjoy outdoor exercise in garden environments, and develop an appreciation for healthy, local food. Children's garden leaders, teachers, and mentors will gain skills to help them facilitate successful youth garden programs in other places. Madison Youth Grow Local will establish Troy Kids'

Garden as a regional resource in children's gardening so that it can serve more children annually; and provide curriculum, counsel, and education to teachers and leaders interested in developing or improving garden programs at their schools, community centers, and community gardens.

To accomplish these goals, Troy Kids' Garden will partner with Madison-area community centers, elementary schools, community gardens,

and high schools. In addition, Madison Metropolitan School District staff, faculty and staff at UW-Madison and other Wisconsin colleges, Oakhill Correctional Institution, and several community organizations including Community Action Coalition, Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program, and Wisconsin Homegrown Lunch will participate in Community GroundWorks' Madison Youth Grow Local Initiative.

**A teen in Troy Gardens Farm & Field Youth Training Program mentors a younger kid in the Troy Kids' Garden Program, all part of the Learning Community at Troy Gardens.**

Photo by Christie Ralston



Photo provided by Christie Ralston

**Monona Grove Alternative School students are creating a management plan for Troy Prairie. Front row (left to right): Christie Ralston (coordinator), Sarah Meuller, Katie Duffey and Travis Vial. Back row: Maury Smith (teacher), Adam Blaser and Steve Meyer.**

## CELEBRATIONS

**Tenney marks 30 years****By Marie A. Anderson**

Every year, about 100 families experience the enriching environment of Tenney Nursery and Parent Center. 2009 marks Tenney's 30-year Anniversary.

The nursery started in 1979 with a new vision for early childhood education. Continuous cooperation between teachers, families, and the community has allowed it to endure and thrive as an exciting place for children to learn in preparation for kindergarten with an intimate learning experience.

Located at 1321 E. Mifflin St., Tenney includes a private garden and playground, fit for imaginative children, as well as beautiful oversized classrooms.

Two main goals are at the forefront of the education. Tenney staff encourage children to learn to take care of themselves and their friends and also to take care of their learning and their environment. Tenney integrates a play-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum to enhance each child's learning. Staff encourage children to manage their personal care, time and materials, and learn to express themselves constructively in order to develop the necessary skills they need for advancement in learning, including

going on to have successful kindergarten experiences.

Tenney is a parent cooperative. Parents are encouraged to spend time in classrooms and stay directly involved with their children's programs and learning experiences. Tenney parents stress the excellence of the intricate community the nursery creates.

"What we, as parents, liked about Tenney was the strong sense of community the school encourages and the quality of childcare it provided," explained Paul Loetscher, father of two alumni students.

Lily Hoyer, another parent, added, "All of the staff is knowledgeable and loving towards our rambunctious toddlers, often giving insight into developmental stages they may be going through."

And this sense of community sticks with the kids who attend Tenney, as they are able to maintain friends from the preschool on their journey to kindergarten.

"What our children liked about Tenney was the enduring friendships they developed there," said Loetscher. "Our sons, who now attend Lake View, still hang out with their Tenney friends."

For more information about Tenney Nursery and Parent Center, contact Executive Director Jill Larson at 255-3250.



Photo provided by Jill Larson

**A parent helper engages and supports during play time.**



Many other classes available for all ages! Call 245-3669. Scholarships Available.

**Interfaith Thanksgiving celebrates all****By Marlene Hardick***The Northside News*

We drove a few miles, walked through a door and stepped on to a global stage. We came to give thanks, in many languages, in the traditions of many cultures at the Interfaith Thanksgiving on Nov. 23 at Lakeview Lutheran Church.

We learned a little of the faiths of our neighbors. Colorful banners with the symbols of world faiths surrounded us. Touching our hearts were the Tibetan children, dancing traditional Buddhist and Tibetan dances. These children will probably never see Tibet. "In Tibet, we are not allowed by the Chinese to dance these dances and celebrate our culture," their leader told us. "We give thanks that in America, we are allowed to celebrate and preserve our culture and our language."

Readings from the Qur'an in English and Arabic reminded us that giving thanks is emphasized often in the Islam faith. Selena Fox, a Wiccan, told of the first Harvest Festivals, ancient pagan festivals which passed on many of the symbols and traditions we still use, including the cornucopia.

Keynote speaker was Patty Leow, an enrolled member of the Ojibwa tribe and a professor at UW-Madison. She reminded us that much of what we have been taught about the "First Thanksgiving" in 1621 at Plymouth, MA was a myth. Celebrations and feasting to give thanks for a good harvest have

occurred since the beginning of history and had occurred for years on "American" soil, as Native Americans gave thanks for bountiful food.

Of 102 passengers who survived a 66 day voyage on the small ship Mayflower in 1620, only 35 were Pilgrims. By the time that they met Squanto, member of the Wampanoag tribe, he was already a world traveler who spoke English and Spanish, in addition to his own native language.

In 1614, European explorers captured him, enslaved him and took him to Spain, where he was sold to monks. The European explorers who captured him left behind in the "New" World an epidemic of bubonic plague that would wipe out 90 percent of the native people of the Eastern Seaboard. When Squanto was able to return to his native soil, all people of his village were dead.

The Pilgrims established their village near that same site, finding some of their first food in baskets that had been left for the dead. Other food, including corn, squash and beans, was found in fields planted by tribes who did not live to the harvest.

What is true is that people of different traditions and beliefs did gather in 1621 to share food and friendship. But that celebration, and ours, originated centuries before. We continue to gather to share food and friendship, as our ancestors did and as our descendants will continue. For that, we should be thankful.

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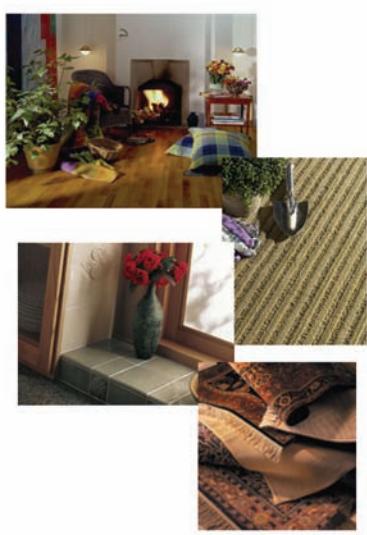


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