

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES PROFILES

MMSD School Board candidate profiles

The Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) Board of Education has two open seats for the April 7 election. In Seat 1, Donald Gors is challenging incumbent and current president Arlene Silveira. In Seat 2, incumbent and current vice president Lucy Mathiak runs unopposed.

Candidates were given the three questions listed at right and asked to share their viewpoints for Northside News readers.

Donald Gors*Candidate for Seat 1*

ANSWER 1: If we as a community, state and nation believe that education is one of our most basic resources along with water, food, shelter and heat why shouldn't we do everything possible to ensure that funding for education is not cut? Saying that, shouldn't we always measure the value provided through education? Education's ability to produce young vibrant, engaged citizens who can contribute to our community, state, nation or world upon graduation is important.

Programs are not the same as Budget Items. Program results must be continually tracked and measured. Understanding what is working, what isn't working or the value which a program provides must be understood!

Measurements of Expected, Proposed and Actual Outcomes are essential to all world class school districts. By employing Innovative, Creative Educators and Utilizing Measurement Standards we will continually learn how specific programs leverage their skills, talents which directly impact our young students as they pass through this vehicle called education.

ANSWER 2: Schools can be one component in creating healthy neighborhoods. The involvement or lack of involvement by the citizens of the neighborhood is a larger more important key.

Building Age, Upkeep Costs, Replacement Costs and overall Community Use of School Buildings are some factors to determining overall value. Elementary schools typically are associated with neighborhoods.

ANSWER 3: All the Citizens of every community must continue to engage our young people directly and indirectly. Education takes place every where both formally and informally regardless of the setting.

Indirectly Citizens can become mentors, advocates in schools, involved within their neighborhood or city.

Directly, Parents, can help their children understand the importance of Respect, Discipline, Dignity, Morals, Ethics and Education.

When attending school meetings or school functions children learn how much their loved ones really care about them. The importance adults place on helping their children learn, by creating Healthy, Learning, Teaching Environments is significant to their child's education success and future.

By each of our actions or inactions we set the expectation for our children to follow. Change takes place when everyone is involved; Voting is one action of directly becoming involved.

QUESTION 1

The projected multi-billion state budget gap will likely result in state aid reductions to schools. When cuts are necessary, program and schools are pitted against each other. What will be your approach to deciding what budget items to eliminate or trim? What are your highest priority items to avoid cutting?

Arlene Silveira*Candidate for Seat 1*

ANSWER 1: My priority is to keep as many cuts as possible away from the classroom. Our new strategic plan will drive some of the decision-making in budgeting, meaning we would budget to support our plan. I am an advocate at looking at district-wide processes to see where we can save money based on efficiencies and will continue to encourage that programs are evaluated to ensure we are effectively meeting student needs. If programmatic cuts are recommended, data on the programs and students being served is imperative in the decision-making process. We have to ensure we are meeting the needs of children at each school and different schools have different needs. Class size, support services, and educational environment (including safety) are high priorities.

ANSWER 2: I agree schools contribute to the strength of neighborhoods. I've come to understand that with needs for parent and community involvement in schools and emphasis on developing relationships in schools, it would be difficult to envision a situation where factors that go into a cost-benefit analysis on school closings would outweigh the relationship benefits associated with neighborhood schools. If closings were presented, evaluation data should include: current/projected enrollment; building condition; alternative space; expenses versus savings; other potential shared uses for the building; "people" factor and demographics. Parents/staff from the affected schools should be involved in the dialogue/solution.

ANSWER 3: Parents and taxpayers should be proud of all schools and focus on the health of the entire school district, not just your neighborhood school. A good school district is central to thriving communities. A district's mission should relate to community goals, which is why our new board governance model has strong community engagement and collaboration components and why we are starting our community-based strategic planning. Community involvement in school demonstrates the importance of school and education. There are opportunities to participate through: volunteering; mentoring; development of business-education partnerships (e.g. Webcrafters at Mendota); resource sharing; business internships; advocacy for funding and other school issues; supporting community groups helping students; expanding learning activities at home; modeling the behavior expected of students. Parents and community members are necessary partners in collaboration for student achievement.

QUESTION 2

Many people believe neighborhood schools are an essential component of healthy neighborhoods. If budget cuts require consideration of closing schools, what criteria and process will you use to determine if a school should be closed?

Lucy Mathiak*Candidate for Seat 2*

ANSWER 1: We do not need to pit programs, or areas of the city, against each other to manage the MMSD budget. I have focused on making sure that we make a solid case for decisions when we spend money, reviewing spending to fund highest areas of need, and working to provide resources in keeping with the needs of the students at each school. My top priority is to preserve people, programs, and resources that directly serve schools. Job #1 is educating our children, and I will continue to work to align spending with that basic mission.

ANSWER 2: High-achieving schools are key to strong neighborhoods. Faced with serious funding shortages, I have worked to keep schools open while finding other ways to save funds. I strongly opposed proposals to close Lindbergh, Lapham, and Marquette, and supported moving alternative high school programs from rented space into Lapham and Marquette. That decision was a win-win outcome. It achieved the desired savings, kept neighborhood schools

QUESTION 3

Decisions made by state government and school district leadership play a major role in the quality of our schools, but so do the actions of parents and taxpayers. What actions can parents and taxpayers take to sustain and improve our schools?

open, and worked to the benefit of the full range of students and their families. I believe that closing schools should be considered as a last resort.

ANSWER 3: The most important thing that parents and taxpayers can do is to connect with school communities and then use their experiences as advocates for those schools. Madison's schools have changed dramatically in recent years, but many people are unaware of the changes and what they do and do not mean. We can meet the challenges of schools where 50 percent or more of the students are from low income families, and where the diversity of languages and cultures changes quickly each year. To progress, we must work to educate elected officials at all levels. We must work to include all members of our community in our schools, and to engage with students to understand who they are and their desires for success. Finally, we must become passionate supporters of public education by: supporting school funding; using our voices to educate and engage others in debate of the issues; and, putting aside our differences to work together for schools that are strong parts of our communities.

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A Day of Northside Shopping:

Finding everything you need without leaving your neighborhood

By **Terrie Anderson**

The Northside News

On a sunny day in January, I had a quintessentially Northside day—the kind that reminds you why you love living here.

I had purchased a barely-used “little black dress” at **Boomerangs** a couple of days earlier, for an out-of-town event that required formal evening attire. Straps on the dress needed shortening. My errands started at **Altered States Alterations**. By the normal timeline, the dress would be ready for pick-up a week later. But I had to fly out in four days. Owner Darlene Shell offered to make it a rush job, ready in time—no extra charge!

Next stop was **AnchorBank** for cash for my trip. The teller commented that she hadn't seen me in a while, and we chatted about how online banking is reducing foot traffic in banks. I was pleased to be recognized and remembered.

Further down Sherman Avenue, I went to **Heel and Sole Shoe Repair**, where I claimed a pair of boots that used to be a bit too small. Now they are stretched to a comfortable fit for only \$4.

Then I stopped right next door at **Manna Cafe** to see if I had left my earmuffs there on a visit before Christmas. The staff person said, “Oh yes, these have been here a while, but we figured someone would come in for them! Glad you found them!”

I always visit the birds at **Noah's**

Ark when I stop for food for my parakeet. The owner asked if I was ready for a second bird. It can be expensive, as it requires a separate cage until it makes peace with your pet. She offered to rent me a used cage for the transition time.

I pay timedollars to a Timebank member for my haircuts, but she wasn't available and I needed a trim before my trip. I checked out **Helen's Unisex** salon on the way back to my car. Helen, a Northsider for the past 14 years and originally from Mexico, got me in. She's excited to have opened her own salon just a year ago.

Helen asked what I usually pay for a haircut. So I told her about the Timebank. She was interested, but had questions that were beyond the scope of my Spanish or her English. The **Timebank** office is just down Fordem, so I picked up a brochure and application in Spanish for her.

Then I was back to **Northside TownCenter** before returning home. I picked up a travel book about my destination at **Lakeview Branch Library**. While there, I reserved the reading room for the next Timebank meeting.

My haircut had put me behind schedule, so I eliminated a trip beyond the Northside for groceries and got all the ingredients for a delicious dinner at **Pierce's Northside Market**, with time for a walk around my neighborhood to enjoy the sunshine. What a great place to live, especially on days when I don't even have to leave!



Photos by Valerie Holden

The Holden family visits the Northside's local businesses. Top left, Angelina makes a new friend at Noah's Ark. Top right, Nicholas picks out the best peppers. Bottom left, Willy relaxes while waiting for lunch at Manna Café. Bottom right, Angelina picks out her favorite book at Lakeview Library.

Money for Neighborhood Projects

The City of Madison invites you to explore its Neighborhood Grant Program for your next neighborhood improvement project or activity. Over 200 projects have been funded over the past nine years, including a number on the Northside. Grants have been made for neighborhood newsletters, neighborhood signs, art and beautification projects, neighborhood and business district planning, and many more projects.

Two types of grants are available: **Mini-Grants** (under \$2,000), and **Full Grants** (over \$2,000).

Deadlines: Feb. 27 - Project Intent Deadline for Full Grants

March 30 - Applications Due for Mini and Full Grants

Application forms and more information is available on the City website at www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/grantprogram.htm or by contacting Linda Horvath at 267-1131 or lhovath@cityofmadison.com

Money for Business Improvements

The City of Madison offers assistance to business and commercial property owners to fix up the outside of their buildings. The Facade Improvement Program offers up to \$10,000 per facade and up to \$25,000 per building in matching funds for rehabilitation, beautification, or historic restoration of a commercial building. **This program has been used throughout Madison but never on the Northside. Your business could be the first!**

Application forms and more information is available on the City website at www.cityofmadison.com/planning/facade.html or by contacting Matt Mikolajewski at 267-8737 or mmikolajewski@cityofmadison.com

From China to Madison Crossing Cultural Bridges

The Northside's Black Hawk Middle School partners with the Tongren English Teachers College in rural southwestern China to answer the question, “What do you want the world to know about your city and your life?” Students from both schools use photography and text to capture the essence of life in their community, exploring the similarities and differences between Chinese and American cultures.



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COVER STORIES

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Crime

Before he moved to the Northside resident Andy Brickson believed there was more crime than he sees now. "When I first moved here I had an idea that the Northside had a little more crime than what I've seen. There might be one spot here or there where there are some bad people, but other than that I haven't seen it here. I thought the Northside was a lot worse as a whole than what it is," he said.

A recent market study which was prepared for the City of Madison to assist with the Northside neighborhood plan shows that some people think the Northside is an unsafe place to live or shop.

The market study addresses existing conditions and the potential for growth in residential, retail and services, and industrial uses. One obstacle to economic growth is this misperception of high crime rates, which is a great concern of the Northside Planning Council, Northside businesses, residents, and neighborhood associations. This concern was expressed at a community forum in November which included a panel of successful Northside business owners.

What are the facts about Northside crime?

According to the best information available now, the North District (which includes the Northside and extends out to the East Towne Mall area) has the second lowest calls for service for crimes against persons

How crime is tracked

The Madison Police Department uses Computer Aided Dispatch to take and track calls for service, or incoming 911 calls. Incidents reported by police officers are also included in call for service data. A subset of all calls for service related to neighborhood quality of life, but not including minor incidents like traffic calls, are included in the incidents tracked on the *crimereports.com* website.

Because a single incident can result in multiple 911 calls, McLay says that calls for service data is not highly scientific or useful for tracking crime trends. The incidents tracked on *crimereports.com* provides a better picture, but the best data on reported crime is found in the official numbers for the yearly FBI crime report that will be released sometime in the coming month.

when compared with the four other Madison police districts. The East District has the lowest numbers.

North District calls for service for crimes against persons (assault, battery, sexual offenses) decreased from 561 in 2007 to 440 in 2008. This decrease returns the number of calls for service to the low levels seen in 2004, following a citywide trend. Property crime reports are down from 2823 in 2007 to 2333 in 2008, also back to 2004 levels. In 2007, there was a rash of burglaries being committed by a small number of offenders, after they were apprehended the burglary rate dropped significantly.

When asked why a perception of high crime may exist on the Northside, longtime resident Jim Cousin said, "Some of the incidents may have gotten a little more press, they may be a little more high profile, you may have somebody reacting to the incidents that has the ability to get their voice heard a little more readily than someone else, possibly any one of those things."

McLay noted that the perception is not always driven by an actual increase in crime, but by the way incidents are reported (see sidebar). In the last couple years the Madison Police Department has changed the way they document the work they are doing. Previously, if a person was stopped for questionable activity and was cooperative officers may have let them go with a warning or determined that nothing illegal was going on and they may not have obtained a case number. Now they are being encouraged to get a case number for all the work they do, after a few years this will yield more useful statistics, but at first it may cause an artificial increase in calls for service, leading to a perception of more crime.

This new way of tracking the work the police do may account for some of the increase in reporting of drug activity. In 2006, there were 88 drug incidents reported, in 2007 there were 78 and in 2008 there were 129. McLay notes that this does not necessarily indicate that more drug activity is taking place, but that there is more proactive policing resulting in more people being caught and the work the police do is being measured differently.

McLay said that another activity that may make the crime rate appear higher is a concerted effort by the Police District and Northside Alders to encourage people to report any problems, even if they think it may not do any good. While there are more reports being made, there is not necessarily an



This map from *crimereports.com* shows crime reported in Madison from Jan. 19 to Feb. 2, 2009. Check current crimes in your neighborhood by entering your address on the website's home page.

increase in crime.

One place where there has been a steady increase in reports is public order crimes, or crimes against society, which include open intoxication, noise disturbances, ambulance calls and anything that does not fit into the crimes against persons or property categories. Low level crimes such as juvenile infractions and graffiti may make the overall appearance of crime seem higher.

According to the best information available now, the North District has the second lowest calls for service for crimes against persons when compared with the four other Madison police districts.

So what can we do?

The Northside community is rallying to eliminate these false perceptions and is proactive in assisting the police. McLay said that he quite often hears from residents who want to know what they can do to help, how they can be involved in making the quality of life on the Northside better. This is different from other communities where police have to seek people out.

New resident Ernie Graham moved to the Northside to be closer to his grandson and said that he is thoroughly enjoying his Sherman Village. He says that he has not heard anyone say they are worried about crime in the area; however he is concerned with the

Sherman Plaza area after dark. McLay said that better illumination and appearance for the Sherman – Northport area should be part of the city's neighborhood plan.

Cousin, who lives on the Northside with his wife and son, is satisfied with the safety of the area, "Having lived out there for as many years as we have, we find it to be quite safe."

Crime Prevention Tips

Most crimes are crimes of opportunity and citizens can take actions to remove the opportunity. The City of Madison Police Department has some tips on staying safe and protecting your property:

- Do not leave valuables in plain sight.
- Always lock your home, garage and car.
- Keep your property well illuminated and park in well-lit areas when you go out.
- Keep the brush around your home trimmed so potential criminals do not have a place to hide.
- Never leave your keys in your car, not even if you are just "running in" to a store or warming it up.
- Keep car doors locked at all times and windows rolled up.
- Get to know your neighbors. Be familiar with who is coming and going.
- Look around as you walk and be aware of your surroundings.
- If you go out at night, walk with someone else and stay in well-lit areas.

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Claudia Murray
AFP

cont. from page 1

NS Plan

- Land use
- Redevelopment and housing;
- Transportation;
- Neighborhood & personal safety;
- Vibrant neighborhood businesses;
- Natural resources, parks and open space;
- Community facilities and neighborhood schools

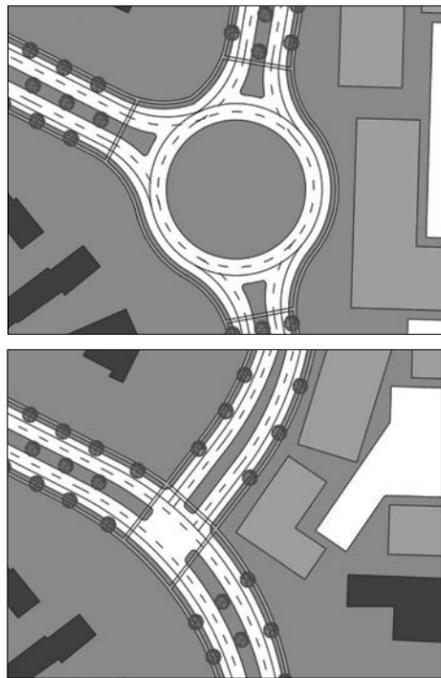
The set up generated conversations around what was important, why it was important and the degree of support for changes to make it happen. By the end of the event, responses from the community were vividly displayed at the stations.

Snapshots of some of the key preliminary plan strategies are highlighted below. A summary of the responses along with many drawings and maps presented at the Open House can be viewed online at www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/northsideplan/index.cfm/.

Reactions to the preliminary plan strategies

"A great cross section of Northside residents turned out" during the four-hour event, stated Lorie Walker, Steering Committee member. "The responses will help us in our next step to determine what is important and how we should proceed to get it done."

Several preliminary strategies which generated numerous conversations between Northside residents were:



Images provided by the City of Madison

Proposed concepts for redesigning the Northport/Packer/CV intersection include a roundabout (top), and t-intersection (below)

• Northport/Packers/CV Roundabout

Preliminary strategies for the reconfiguring the intersection of Northport/Packers/CTH CV generated strong responses. Of 51 reviewers, 61 percent strongly agreed that the intersection should be reconfigured, and 18 percent strongly disagreed. Positive responses were slightly more in favor of investigating the feasibility of a roundabout at the intersection as opposed to a "T"-intersection, but the roundabout also generated the most

NORTHSIDE ACTION ALERT

What do you think?

Review Open House results and preliminary plan strategies, comment, sign up to keep informed and much more at www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/northsideplan/index.cfm/

Send comments to
Linda Horvath

- via email at lhovath@cityofmadison.com
- via phone at 267-1131
- via mail to Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development, 215 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., PO Box 2985, Madison, WI, 53701-2985

Public Input Open House
Another Open House on plan strategies will be held sometime in April. Please check the April Northside News, or check the webpage address below for more information in March.

You may review the preliminary plan strategies and Open House results, and provide comments at www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/northsideplan/index.cfm/ / [CREATINGTHEPLAN/SIGN ME UP](#).

Northside Plan Steering Committee Meetings
(open to the public)

Feb. 12 & Feb. 26
6:30 pm,
Lakeview Lutheran Church,
4001 Mandrake Rd.

Mar. 12 & Mar. 26
Apr. 9 & Apr. 23
6:30 pm,
Northport Community Learning Center,
1740 Northport Dr.

negative comments. This is definitely one of the plan strategies that will need additional technical and public input.

• Northside TownCenter

Land use and redevelopment possibilities are also being discussed for the Northside TownCenter. One possible change includes having part of the shopping center rebuilt along Northport Drive, with buildings closer to the street. Other changes could include increasing employment/office uses, adding structured parking, using environmentally-friendly construction

and design practices, and adding a through-site main street.

• Main Street on N. Sherman

Another proposal in the mix that generated strong support overall with 73 percent strongly agreeing is creating a "Main Street" along North Sherman Avenue with a pedestrian-oriented streetscape that 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.

cont. from page 1

Owls

Day. This is the first bird to nest each year. Owlets hatch around St. Patrick's Day and are soon big enough to be seen in the nest. At eight weeks, they begin to fly.

Barred Owls are the second largest, with round heads, dark eyes and no ear tufts. They are gray-brown with bars on their breasts. They nest in March, laying one to five eggs in a tree cavity, an open nest or a nest box. "Who cooks for you?" is their distinctive call.

The small, shy, Screech Owl, about six to 10 inches tall, is the least likely to be seen. Distinct feathered ear tufts help identify this owl. It may be gray, reddish or brown. Listen for a descending whistled whinny or a whistled trill on one pitch. You may also hear hoots, barks or screeches. In April or May, Screech Owls lay three to four eggs in a tree cavity or nesting box.

Northsider Marge Pitts recommends owl watching at Mendota Mental Health Institute and related one experience. "The call of the Short-eared owl is a sharp bark. First time I heard

it, I thought it was a deer barking (the bucks do that sometimes) or a dog in distress, but then I saw the owl fly away, and I practically fell over with amazement," she said.

Owl watching is best in late afternoon, as day turns to dusk. Owls usually live in the woods and hunt from the wood's edge, finding food in an open grassy area. Special fringed flight feathers allow them to fly silently. With no leaves on the trees, owls are easier to see in winter as they hunt for dinner, usually small mammals such as mice and rabbits, small birds, fish or insects.

An owl cannot move his eyes. Instead, he turns his whole head 270 degrees in either direction. He hunts with excellent eyesight and hearing. Most birds have small holes in their skulls for ears. Owls have great hearing because their ears, hidden under feathers, are large openings. Sharp talons grasp and kill prey and are also used for defense. Sharp bills tear apart meat. The undigested parts such as feather, fur, bone, teeth and claws are formed into a mass in the gizzard and coughed up as "pellets".

Take a hike, enjoy the winter and enjoy the owls.

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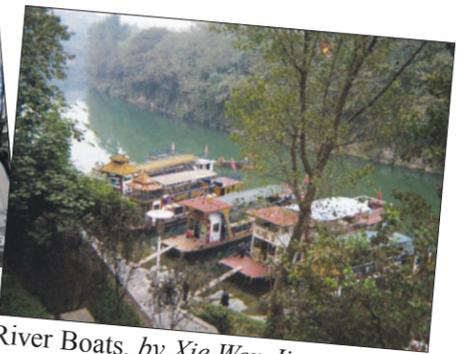
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NORTHSIDE

*From China to Madison:
Crossing Cultural Bridges*
Overture photo exhibit highlights two countries



Capitol, by Molly Riedemann



River Boats, by Xie Wen Jie

The Northside News

What is life like in your city? What do you want the world to know about your country? Middle school students from Black Hawk Middle School and college students from Tongren English Teachers College in rural southwestern China answered these very questions in an exhibit now on display in the Overture Center for the Arts.

Titled *From China to Madison: Crossing Cultural Bridges*, the exhibit captures the essence of life in two communities and two countries. The photographs and corresponding text explore the similarities and differences between Chinese and American cultures. Photographers were asked to take pictures of their lives, focusing the different elements they valued in their cities and cultures. They then wrote short stories about their pictures, sharing their insight about their values and beliefs. The exhibit crosses cultural boundaries as well as age boundaries between middle school and college students.

The exhibit was coordinated by local artist Dana Slowiak, with assistance

from former Madisonian Amy Thronsdon and Northsider Susan Sachsenmaier, based on a trip Slowiak took to visit Thronsdon in China. Thronsdon then worked with the Chinese photographers, gathering text and translations. Sachsenmaier worked with Black Hawk's middle school students through the *Hawk Reporter*, the school's student newsletter.

The exhibit is on display through March 22 in Gallery III of the Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State Street. The Overture is hosting its annual International Festival on Sat., Feb. 21, 11 am-5pm. This free event features international food and performances. The festival is a great opportunity to explore this exhibit, along with exhibits *Our Mexico Our Roots* in Gallery I and *Respite = Relief: 30 Years of Building Resiliency in Children Through Art* in Gallery II.

The project was sponsored by DeWitt, Ross & Stevens and the Arts Access Fund, a component fund of the Madison Community Foundation, with additional support from the Overture Center for the Arts and member contributions.



Photo by Jon Becker

Volunteers brave the cold to help with the Cherokee Marsh restoration.

First survey of Cherokee Marsh shares long history

By Jan Axelson

A level, treeless, wet land with springs, brooks, and grassy growths ... this is how a surveyor in 1834 described the area we know as Cherokee Marsh. Surrounding the marsh were timberlands of black, white and burr oak and expanses of prairie with "first-rate" soil. Land sold for \$1.25 per acre. Former Lands Records Manager Rob Nurre reported these findings while performing in period costume at the annual meeting of the Friends of Cherokee Marsh at the Lakeview Branch Library.

With help from audience members, Nurre showed how survey crews used 66 foot chains to mark out the 6-mile square townships you see on maps today. Surveyors placed posts

every half mile and blazed nearby trees to mark the location in case a post was lost or moved. Some of the blazed trees from the original surveys are still standing.

Nurre explained that in 1850, the U.S. Government granted all 40 acre sections that were at least half "swamp land" to the State of Wisconsin. The state could then sell the land to fund systems of drainage ditches to make the wetlands suitable for farming. Recent work in Cherokee Marsh has plugged old ditches to restore wetlands lost in the era when residents didn't understand their value.

For news about events in and around Cherokee Marsh, visit CherokeeMarsh.org on the web.

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Lenten Services

Wednesdays Feb 25-Apr 1 6:45 p.m.

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday April 9th 6:45 p.m.
Good Friday April 10th 1:00 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.
Easter Sunday April 11th 6:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast 7:30-8:30

Reservations required. Call 244-8077

First Look for preschool children 9:45 a.m. } Except
KidStuff for kindergarten - 5th grade kids 9:45 } Easter
Sunday

EASTER FOR FAMILIES Apr 4th

Preschool - 5th Grade

Morning Session 9:00 - Noon Afternoon Session 1:00 - 4:00
Register by March 27 by calling 244-8077

The Easter Story Easter Snack Coloring Eggs
Easter Craft Easter Bingo Easter Gift Door Prize Drawing

An adult must accompany your child(ren) throughout the event

Bread of Life (food pantry)

Wednesdays 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. & 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Open to the Community

Senior Connections

Every Thursday 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Lunch and activities for Senior Northsiders
Call 244-8077 to reserve a place for lunch

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TROY GARDENS

Spring will probably arrive ... plan today for veggies tomorrow!



By Marge Pitts

Sign up for your CSA share!

Troy Farm, a project of Community GroundWorks at Troy Gardens, is currently selling shares for the 2009 grow-



Photo by Claire Strader

ing season. Members pick up their weekly shares of certified organic produce at Troy's Farm Stand, 500 Troy Dr., Thursday afternoons, 4-6:30 pm from June through October. Members receive an assortment of vegetables plus a weekly newsletter that contains stories and recipes from the farm. We offer one standard share size, designed to feel abundant but not overwhelming for a two-adult household. Members may split a share among friends or purchase extra shares to suit their needs. Visit the Community GroundWorks website at www.troygardens.org and click on "Community Farm" to download a copy of the farm brochure and to see photos of shares from previous years. The cost of a yearly share is \$540, with several payment plans and low-income assistance available. This year members may also choose to purchase eggs weekly or biweekly through Troy Farm. The eggs are raised from pastured hens at Grass Is Greener Gardens (www.grassisgreengardens.com). For more information, visit our website, call 442-6760 or email

CSA shares, such as the mid-summer share shown above, provide fresh, seasonal vegetables from June through October.

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farmer@troygardens.org.

Grow your own veggies!

For those who like to get their hands and knees into the job of producing their food, Troy Community Gardens is getting ready for spring registration and the opening of the gardens. Troy Community Garden plots are 20' x 20'. Every year many gardeners return to their plots but some don't. Troy Community Gardens maintains a waiting list, and a number of new gardeners get plots every year as well. The 2009 Plot Application is available on the Community GroundWorks website. Previous gardeners who wish to return are asked to inform us if they have a new address, email or phone number. If you were not a gardener with us in 2008 and would like to be placed on a waiting list be contacted when 2009 plot applications are available, contact Christie Ralston in the Community GroundWorks office at 240-0409 or christie@troygardens.org.

www.troygardens.org



Photo by John Beck

Who says winter is dull? A stroll at Troy Gardens is sure to cure the winter blues. While the grass or vegetables aren't growing right now, the lands of Troy still boast plenty of color and excitement. And all is not quiet. Plenty of sounds abound in the winter wonderland of Troy. Just listen carefully!

Youth baseball, softball registration ends Mar. 15

The East Madison Little League is now accepting registrations for softball and baseball for youths living in the Madison East High School attendance area. The regular season for most leagues begins May 2 and continues through the month of June. Little League offers T-ball, coaches'

pitch, softball and baseball. Nearly 500 youth participate in EMLL sponsored baseball and softball for girls (ages five to 18) and boys (ages five to 16). Registration forms can be found at www.EMLL.org. Click on registration. All players registering by Mar. 15 receive a \$15 discount. Full and partial

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scholarships are available. All softball and baseball players who will be playing in the minor leagues (ages nine and above) are asked to attend tryouts on Sat., Mar. 28 at the East High School field house. At least one parent or legal guardian must be present at tryouts. The majority of games are played at the Oscar Mayer Park, EMLL's four-diamond baseball and softball complex

across from the Oscar Mayer plant. Eastside businesses interested in sponsoring a team or a billboard at the Oscar Mayer Park should contact Heather Clemitus at 770-2571 or Mike Kiesler at 212-7825.

For more information contact:
Softball - Steve Ottelien, 244-8782
Baseball - Juan Lopez, 445-5826
General - Jim Thompson 242-8624

Habitat for Humanity seeking Northside volunteers

Habitat for Humanity of Dane County is seeking volunteers for the **Northport Commons construction site** Northport Drive and Kennedy Road. Volunteers are needed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. To volunteer go to the "Volunteer Now" button at www.habitatdane.org or contact Lisa Delany at ldelany@habitatdane.org at 255-1549, ext. 104 for more information.

Habitat for Humanity is building a four-unit townhome at the site. As part of its three-year plan, Habitat plans to build a total of 16 homes and sell five of the lots to private developers. Contact Pam Castleberg at 256-9011 for more information about purchasing a lot.

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