

TROY GARDENS

Beyond Troy Gardens: Community GroundWorks expanding reach



By Marge Pitts

Community GroundWorks

Community GroundWorks at Troy Gardens (CGW) has begun teaching and expanding urban agriculture beyond the borders of Troy Gardens. Their "Growing School Gardens" program, led by CGW's Education Director Nathan Larson and Program Manager Rachel Martin (described in the last issue of the Northside News) is working with several local schools to strengthen their school garden programs and to create a gardening curriculum that could be used in many more Wisconsin schools.

Now Troy Farm Manager Claire Strader and Nathan Larson are launching two new programs respectively that will take them away from Troy Gardens in order to expand CGW's reach to private homes as well as East Side Madison teens.

The first endeavor, "Madison FarmWorks," will install and maintain organic production gardens of any size at clients' homes and businesses. Madison FarmWorks will offer a range of services from which clients can choose all or part, including garden design, installation, and weekly maintenance as well as crop harvest and delivery to the family's doorstep. They will provide a monthly newsletter with stories from the gardens, harvest tips, recipes and news about the growing local and organic food movement. Clients who would like to create and maintain their own gardens may choose the "Build Your Own Farm" option, with the benefit of CGW's instruction and consultation specific to



Photo by John Beck

Can you see the eggs? A killdeer made a nest on the ground in Troy Kids' Garden this spring. The nest was discovered by children on Opening Day of Troy Community Gardens. The killdeer hatched the eggs and we hope the family is eating many insects!

their goals.

According to Program Manager Megan Cain, who is playing a leadership role in both of these new programs, the objectives of Madison FarmWorks include increasing organic urban food production; helping people connect with the process of growing food; educating and empowering people to grow their own food; and creating beautiful edible gardens at people's homes and businesses.

The second new program, the East High Community Farm Project, part of CGW's Youth Grow Local Initiative, is "a seed-to-table curriculum opportunity to learn how to grow food as well as how to harvest and prepare it," according to Larson.

Collaborating with Madison East High School and the Goodman Community Center, CGW's objective is to engage a diverse population of high school youth in creating and maintaining a small production farm on land adjacent to Kennedy Elementary School on Madison's East Side.

The site was formerly used as part of the East High Agriculture Program, but the program was temporarily suspended after long-time agriculture instructor Mary Klecker retired. According to East High Principal Alan Harris, work

has begun to consider how the agriculture component of East High's curriculum might be reinstated. "We're working with the Goodman Community Center and Troy Gardens on putting together a community-based ag program that would incorporate several different pieces that have some potential," Harris said.

This summer, Megan Cain will lead a group of teens from Madison East as they grow and harvest vegetables, which will be provided to the Goodman Community Center.

According to Becky Steinhoff, Director of the Goodman Center, most of the food will be used in Goodman's meal program and food pantry. A crucial aspect of the program, Steinhoff points out, is "that the farming and culinary arts component will be supporting food security issues in our community."

The ultimate purpose of this project is bigger than vegetables. "We want to create a new model of sustainable agriculture education," said Larson, "that is linked to the school district and has a diverse array of community partners."

Sources for this article include an article by Jim Massey published in "The Country Today," www.thecountrytoday.com.

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SCHOOLS

Mendota says good bye to Mrs. Gunderson

By Christina Ballard
The Northside News

For the past 12 years Sandy Gunderson has served as the principal of Mendota Elementary School. This year she will be leaving the Northside school.

Born in Portage, Gunderson grew up with 13 brothers and sisters, which likely contributed to her exceptional understanding of children, their abilities and the knowledge to expand their minds. She graduated from UW Madison in 1972 with a BS in Behavioral Disabilities and has been with the Madison Metropolitan School District since 1975. Prior to coming to Mendota, she worked for 17 years at the district offices providing support to schools for special education. She also taught students with emotional disabilities at East High School for four years. She took on Mendota's leadership role as principal in 1997.

Everyone who is familiar with Gunderson agrees that she created an environment where students, faculty, staff, parents and community member's voices are heard and their opinions and ideas are validated.

"Sandy is extremely receptive and welcoming. Her open door policy is above and beyond," said Ginger Seery, a parent of two children enrolled at Mendota.

Fil Clissa, PTO member and mother

of one graduate and one student at Mendota, was part of the hiring committee when Gunderson came aboard. "When Sandy came she really turned things around fairly quickly," she said.

In the recent *Mendota Messenger*, the school newsletter, Gunderson wrote, "I wanted to be the Mendota principal and lead the school reform efforts which, were critically needed at the time."

Gunderson arrived at Mendota after multiple temporary principals when the school's literacy rates were the lowest in the district and has turned things around to make them some of the highest. She has accomplished this through a variety of efforts.

Math Instructor Catherine Hunt explains that the summer Gunderson was hired, she started making positive changes by throwing out all the out-dated material, had the halls repainted and light fixtures upgrade, and she met with teachers for their input to develop a vision for the school. This started Mendota on its way to success.

Gunderson implemented the TRIBES learning community model, which helps to create a positive learning environment, prevent violence and achieve high academic standards. Mendota also guarantees a class size maximum of 15 for kindergarten to third graders by receiving Wisconsin's Student Achievement Guarantee in Education (SAGE) grant. To help better understand students, Gunderson started the Respect and Responsibility intervention program, which tracks and records student's behavior.

Mendota has a community breakfast program, provides hot lunches and participates in the Madison School and



Photo by Dana Slowiak

Mendota students and staff wish Mrs. Gunderson a happy retirement!

Community Recreation's (MSCR) Safe Haven after-school program, which provides activities, teaches alternative ways to resolve conflict and helps build teamwork and cooperation skills.

Thanks to Gunderson, in 2005 the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction awarded Mendota the New Wisconsin Promise School of Recognition award for academic achievement for low income students. Mendota has hosted visitors from near and far, from Madison to Thailand, including Wisconsin's Governor, to observe how the exceptional school has become a great success.

The October 2005 issue of *The Northside News* reported that Gunderson said, "The impressive con-

tinuous improvement at Mendota School is a direct result of supportive and involved parents and our highly trained and talented staff focusing on the whole child, one child at a time." This exemplifies Gunderson's all-encompassing approach to education.

While Gunderson credits the community for Mendota's success, the teachers, staff, parents and students will tell you it is because of her. Clissa expressed the community admiration of Gunderson. "She has been a beacon for our community," she said.

Mendota School is lucky to have had such a motivated leader to grow it into the superb example of academic achievement it has become for communities near and far.

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SCHOOLS

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**Summertime is Work Time
for the MMSD Board of
Education**

The Board of Education's work over the next three months includes:

- Aligning the **district budget** with state funding cuts while preserving programs passed in May.
- Work to secure funds from the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act** as the details are finalized and we know more about eligibility and the ways in which those funds may be used.
- Discussion, review and approval of a **MMSD Strategic Plan** starting with a special meeting on Mon., June 15. The draft plan was developed through extensive community input beginning in January and is available on the web at <http://drupal.madison.k12.wi.us/stratplan>. The web site has direct comment forms, and there will be at least one public hearing on the plan before it is approved.

- Review and approval of a long range **Technology Plan** for the district. The plan and an on-line comment form are available on the web at <http://infosvcweb.madison.k12.wi.us/tech-plan>. Funding for the plan will be determined separately through the annual budget process.

- Presentation and related board actions on the recommendations of the community **Fine Arts Task Force**. The recommendations will be presented on Mon., July 13, and the full report is available on-line at <http://boeweb.madison.k12.wi.us/no-de/18>.

- Presentation and related board actions on the proposed plan for **Talented and Gifted (TAG)** programs in Madison's public schools. That plan is scheduled to be presented on Mon., July 13 and will be posted on-line when it is available.

- Amendment to the **MMSD Student Code of Conduct** and related **expulsions** policies and procedures.

Board meetings are broadcast on cable television and on the web at <http://mediaproductweb.madison.k12.wi.us/Board+Meetings>.

We encourage public comment, so send your input to the board at comments@madison.k12.wi.us

**Distinguished Service Awards honor
two Northside educators**

The Madison Metropolitan School District annually honors those educators who show repeated dedication to their craft. Recipients are nominated by fellow schools and school community members. This year, two of the recipients work at Northside schools. On March 30, Pat Smith of Mendota Elementary and Jennifer Ruel of East High School were among those honored. Below is text from the awards ceremony, highlighting their accomplishments.

Pat Smith, Mendota Elementary

She's a North Star, a Joining Forces for Families partner, and a Climate and Order Action Team facilitator...she's a rock in the foundation of Mendota Elementary School. But to kids and their families she is "Ms. Pat".

In the halls, after school, on weekends and in the summer, Ms. Pat is an advocate and friend to the Mendota community. She is a master at helping to stabilize families in a school with a high student mobility rate through relentless community outreach and a magical ability to make connections on behalf of children.

Pat gets kids focused on learning, setting goals, experiencing academic progress and reaching their potential. In addition to her expertise in caring for the needs of all families, Pat Smith is a resourceful, organized and efficient professional. She develops confidence in others as a cooperating teacher for University social work students, and a coordinator of classes on bullyproofing and positive behavior (SAVE, TRIBES).

For the past 19 years, she has been a key leader, serving on the Mendota steering committee and school improvement planning team. In every facet of Mendota's successful school reform you'll see the loving hand of social worker Pat Smith. Thank you and Congratulations.



Jennifer Ruef, East High School

In Jennifer Ruef's classroom, tackling the challenge of a tough algebra problem feels like a team sport, where every player contributes. Her values and beliefs are evident. All learning builds from students' strengths - and each has unlimited potential.

As a result of Jennifer's persistent and informed work, and her role on this powerful teaching team, high-level mathematics is now within reach of every East High student. She's a tireless advocate for students not typically reached by traditional approaches. She seeks to remove the invisible classroom line that divides those who succeed from those who don't. Her wide-ranging teaching strategies are grounded in research and carefully reviewed as she documents her own learning. She actively invites input from students, welcomes parents and volunteers into her classroom, supports student teachers and embraces opportunities to innovate. Jennifer created the District's first Wisconsin Technical College System academic credit course to expand post-secondary options for students.

This forward thinker is simultaneously a revolutionary and a calming influence, known for serving tea on testing days, keeping an open phone line for homework help and performing an aerial dance at Arts Week. Sought out by students and colleagues alike, Jennifer Ruef is a ready source of East Side Pride. Congratulations.



Congratulations to these nominees from our other Northside schools:

Educational Assistant Martha Broadway, Lake View Elementary; Educational Assistant Barbara Bausch, Black Hawk Middle; High School Teacher Beth Torrison, East High; Joe Thomas Community Service Award for Students, Anika Harris, Shabazz High

~ text and photos gathered from Madison Metropolitan School District website



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SCHOOLS

Shabazz MSCR club fights youth tobacco with F.A.C.T.

By Christina Calcese

Students from Malcolm Shabazz City High School have formed a chapter of the statewide Fight Against Corporate Tobacco (F.A.C.T.) movement as one of the co-curricular program options offered by Madison Schools and Community Recreation. Through activism and education, Shabazz students hope to raise awareness about the negative consequences of tobacco use. The club evolved as an effort to combat the stereotype that youth tobacco use is embedded in school culture at Shabazz.

"Shabazz is a school that has acquired a reputation for having a large percentage of smokers," said Cameron Welty-Lopez, a senior at Shabazz and a passionate member of F.A.C.T. "But we're also the only high school in Madison to have students participating in the F.A.C.T. movement." Shabazz is an alternative public school on Madison's Northside, serving students from every attendance area in the district. The school is highly regarded for its service-learning programs and its strong pro-diversity culture. Shabazz students have long been involved in service work for ecologically sound practices and for social justice. Through F.A.C.T. students are now engaged in service for wellness and healthy lifestyles.

This spring, Shabazz students launched a number of activism-oriented activities to bring their message to the Shabazz community. They designed and spray-painted tee shirts to spread the F.A.C.T. message, chalked messages outside the school building, and placed plastic rats in semi-conspicuous places throughout the building, as a symbol that additives in cigarettes are akin to rat poison.

F.A.C.T. is Wisconsin's youth tobacco prevention and control program, funded by the Department of Health and Family Services. F.A.C.T. has been successful statewide, in part because it is youth-driven, and in part because the benefits of joining the movement are more appealing to young people than smoking cigarettes. Shabazz students hope that by creating a movement at their school as visible as the presence of tobacco, students who do not smoke will choose not to start, and students who do smoke may find inspiration and support to quit. For more information, visit www.fight-withfact.com.

F.A.C.T. is one of several MSCR recreational and enrichment programs at Shabazz; others include art, current events, gaming, cultural diversity, film and performing arts. MSCR has been growing programs in all Madison high schools over the last four years.

Math News from East

By Cynthia Chin

Do you want to make a difference? Do you have strong math skills and a desire to use your knowledge to help younger students? The math department is currently seeking senior math students to act as teaching assistants. As a Math TA you can explore teaching as a career option and gain a deeper understanding of math by teaching others directly in the classroom! This is an independent study program (pass/fail) and you earn elective credit or service E points as you help teach math students in the entry level classes of Algebra, Integrated 1, Geometry, and Integrated 2. Please see Mr. Somerson in room 107 if you have any questions or contact him at ssomerson@madison.k12.wi.us or 204-1793

Keep an eye out for calculator sales. In order to learn and apply the mathe-

tics covered in most classes at East, students will be required to use a graphing calculator. The specific models from Texas Instruments are TI-83, TI-83+, TI-84, and TI-84+ ("Silver editions" have higher computing speeds and more memory, but are not required.) Please do NOT consider any other models. They will not be supported in class.

East High School offers a calculator rental option to families in need of assistance. The rental fee is \$15 for the entire school year. The East Math Club funds a few rental scholarships each year. A copy of the rental agreement will be available at registration.

Calculator donations are very much appreciated and should be directed to the math department chair, Steve Somerson at ssomerson@madison.k12.wi.us or 204-1793.

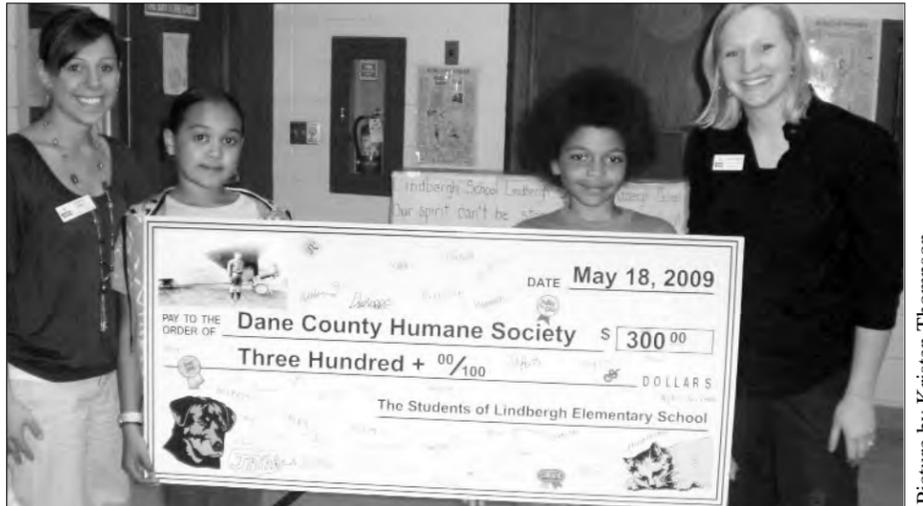
Awards and Acknowledgements.



Photo and submission by Shirley Raymakers

Author visit at Lindbergh

Jeff Hagen, author of children's book *Hiawatha Passing* and storyteller, read to Lindbergh students to "kick off" Children's Book Week on Mon., May 11. Mr. Hagen read his children's book, shared his newest drawings and told a suspenseful story. Various activities set up by librarian Shirley Raymakers occurred all week in celebration of reading.



Picture by Kristen Thompson

Shown in picture (left to right) are Gayle Viney (Humane Society), Alexis Willard, Sasha Lewis-Norelle and Julie Lussier (Humane Society).

Lindbergh students donate to DCHS

By Anne Sicher

Lindbergh Elementary students generously donated \$300 to the Dane County Humane Society to help them in their efforts to care for and find good homes for homeless animals. Lindbergh students receive "Behavior Bucks" whenever teachers see them showing respect, cooperation, safety, responsibility, or productivity. Children

can use their "bucks" to shop at the school store or to donate to worthy causes. Many of Lindbergh's generous children choose to support those less fortunate than themselves!

In addition to the donation to the Humane Society, Lindbergh students have donated to Heifer International and U.W. Children's Hospital. Teachers, parents and the community are all very proud of our great Lindbergh kids!

Thanks to everyone who came to this year's Pi-Mile event in May. See you next year!

Math students and staff would like to express their deep appreciation for many years of dedicated service by Angela Vakharia and Jennifer Ruef, who are relocating with their families this summer.

Competition winners and student teaching assistants recognized during Math Week in mid-May included

TAs: Erick Arellano-Ruiz, James Bartelt, Elijah Bernstein-Cooper, Kori Bertun, Abby Buechner, Dominic Dharam, Walt Hetzel, Cathy Kim, Will

Lustgraaf, Kris Meyer-Ruef, George Otto, Lydia Strebe, Michael Tryon, Olivia Wine.

Trig-Star Winners: Samir Terrab, Todd Schlaefer.

MAA (top school prize): Neil Robmann

AMC10 (top school score): Isabel Jacobsen

AMC 12 (top school score): Duncan Skinner

Trevor Knight Rising Star Award: Ebonie Brooks, Chou Thao

2009 Outstanding Senior Awards for Math: Erick Arellano-Ruiz, Ashley Maitland, Eli Uttal-Veroff,

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SCHOOLS



Above: We studied perimeter and made blankets to donate to the Dane County Humane Society.

Right: Caption: Raking (and composting) for one of Lake View's "senior" neighbors.



Photos submitted by Kim Besmer

Lake View students learn to help our community on the Northside

By Lydia Nyachieo, S. Brennan and our classmates

This year, our second and third grade class from Lake View Elementary learned a lot about our community. We learned how we can help the community and how the community can help us.

In September, we planted flowers at school that were donated by North Side True Value (formerly known as Meikle's). The flowers made the entrance of our school look beautiful. When October came, we walked to a Lake View neighbor's house and raked. Mrs. Zanoni was overjoyed by the work we did...and it made us feel proud. In November, we walked to Berkley Park and cleaned up garbage along the way. When we were walking a neighbor stepped outside her house and yelled, "Thank you!"

Over the winter, we studied measurement and then we made warm blankets to donate to the animals at the Dane County Humane Society (DCHS). Gayle Viney from DCHS came to tell us about the society and

how they help animals in our community. On a beautiful day in March, we went along Tennyson, where our school is, to clean up garbage that had piled up during the winter. Someone in our class found a dirty old sock! George Dreckmann from the City of Madison came to our class and taught us how to recycle properly. One fine April afternoon our class went to Warner Park and cleaned up the soccer and football fields. We loved it! Kids in our class found lots of things, including baseballs. We were glad that we could do something to help the earth. In May, we planted flowers at school that were donated by the hardware store again. Jeff, the manager at the hardware store, went to Lake View when he was little and wanted to do something to help his old school. We also had Safety Steve from the City of Madison come and teach us about bike safety. He wants to keep us safe when we are biking in the community this summer.

Thanks to all of the people that came and taught us about our community!



Photo by Margaret Adelmeyer

Two Os took on the hard work of pulling out the thistles in the front flower bed. Yikes!

O Ambassadors help make Lake View a great place

By Margaret Adelmeyer

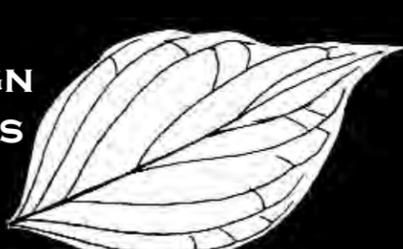
The Oprah Winfrey Angel Network chose Lake View Elementary as an O Ambassador School, a joint project of Oprah's Angel Network and Free the Children. The program empowers young leaders and educators to dream big and accelerate global change through a step-by-step exploration of active learning, idea sharing and taking action. The O's explore four main themes of poverty, education, health and sustainable development. Youth practice active global citizenship to raise awareness about children's rights and fundraise to create positive change.

After taking two neighborhood walks, the third, fourth and fifth grade O's ranked traffic and safety as a high priority. They worked with the "Slow Down for Schools" Campaign. As part of the campaign, they made a banner for each class for the all-school walk with Mayor Cieslewicz on May 5.

The O Ambassadors also ranked cleaning up litter and keeping Lake View and the neighborhood clean and beautiful as a high priority. O's organized the Earth Day Warner Park Clean Up on April 24 and painted the new garbage cans for the playground. They came up with catchy slogans to promote Earth-friendly citizens, including, "I don't take cash, but I do take trash" and "Be green, not mean." O's have weeded and spread mulch around the school's trees and flower beds to keep Lake View a beautiful place for its students and community members. O's donated money to the Kids Can Free the Children international organization to help to empower people with the opportunity to learn, grow and break out of poverty by providing children with the priceless gift of knowledge.

Way to go, O's! Keep working hard to make our Lake View community a great place to learn.

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Middle school students respond to global warming presentations.

By Laurie Veenendaal

Lakeview Lutheran Church recently hosted two speakers on the increasingly urgent issue of global warming. In February, Todd Schaack, an atmospheric scientist at UW Madison, spoke during the adult education hour about research currently being done at the university, and projections for the future if current trends remain unchanged. Also in February, Hannah Hill, an intern with the Sierra Club, spoke about her group's efforts at educating the public about what people can do to stop contributing to the problem, and at best, begin to work together to reduce levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Schaack explained that global climate is an extremely complex problem involving some factors scientists still know little about. One of those, surprisingly, is the behavior of clouds. Accurate climate records have been kept only for a short time, but using core samples from the Arctic and Antarctic ice shelves can tell scientists about how much CO₂ was in the atmosphere for periods of thousands of years.

Some were surprised to learn that greenhouse gases are necessary for humans to survive on earth. However the dramatic rise in greenhouse gases trapped in the atmosphere in the last 150 years is "almost certainly" caused by human activity, for example the growth of industry and the use of cars.

When asked, "What do we do now?" students responded:

- Stop polluting!
- Step up research to develop alternative energy sources.
- Everyone do something now and keep the change going.
- Clean up the mess humans have made.

When asked, "What worried them the most?" they cited:

- "We have been overwhelming the earth's balance for 150 years.
- "No one knows how quickly changes need to be made!
- We may be losing our planet.
- "My kids and grandkids won't be able

to live and grow old.

- My kids and grandkids will never see a polar bear."

They did, however, also have hope. One student noted, "We CAN stop this now. We have a problem, but we can still do something about it," and "We could see a positive change in 30 years if we start now."

When asked how concerned he personally was about this issue, Schaack admitted, "Before I began studying it, I really thought some reports were exaggerated and alarmist. After flying over some of America's coastal regions, I now have a different opinion. It is a complex issue with no easy answers."

She focused on what people can DO to reduce global warming, the history of global warming and what we can do to make the future safer and more hopeful for generations to come.

When asked if students thought they could make a difference as individuals, responses were mixed. Some said, "Yes, because everyone can change something and try to influence others to change, too." Most agreed that no one could do it alone, and that "change is hard because we are used to the way things are" Others thought that individuals could not make much difference because "the world is a big place with six billion people." Others commented, "Individuals changing won't bring the big change we need." Some think that there are simply people who are satisfied with the way things are and don't want to change.

However, according to Hill, making what many consider very small changes can make a huge difference. Two congregation members, representing both MG&E and Wisconsin Power and Light, both agreed that using energy efficient appliances, light bulbs and doing whatever is possible to conserve both electricity and water can indeed make a huge difference in our personal and collective "carbon footprint."

As the Asian proverb reminds us, "The journey of a 1,000 miles begins with a single step." Global warming is a complex issue with a complex history and an uncertain future, but we can each take our "single steps" and bend our ways "in the direction of hope."

Cherokee Marsh declared a wetland gem

By Jan Axelson

It's official: Cherokee Marsh is a wetland gem. On May 18, on a knoll overlooking Cherokee Marsh near the School Road boat landing, the Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA) presented the news to a gathering of wetland enthusiasts, conservation professionals, and elected officials.

The occasion was the rollout of the Wisconsin Wetland Gems, a list of 100 high quality wetlands statewide. The WWA compiled the list to celebrate the state's diverse wetlands, including Cherokee Marsh.

The WWA's Becky Abel reminded those present that wetlands have many functions, including providing homes for fish and other wildlife, reducing flooding, improving water quality, connecting to ground water, protecting shorelines, and offering recreation. Department of Natural Resources Secretary Matt Frank stated that Wisconsin's wetlands helped minimize flood damage after last year's heavy rains. Topf Wells, Chief of Staff to Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk, affirmed the County's commitment to preserving and restoring wetlands in the Lake Mendota watershed.

The occasion also included a reunion of former Madison School District teachers, administrators, and natural-



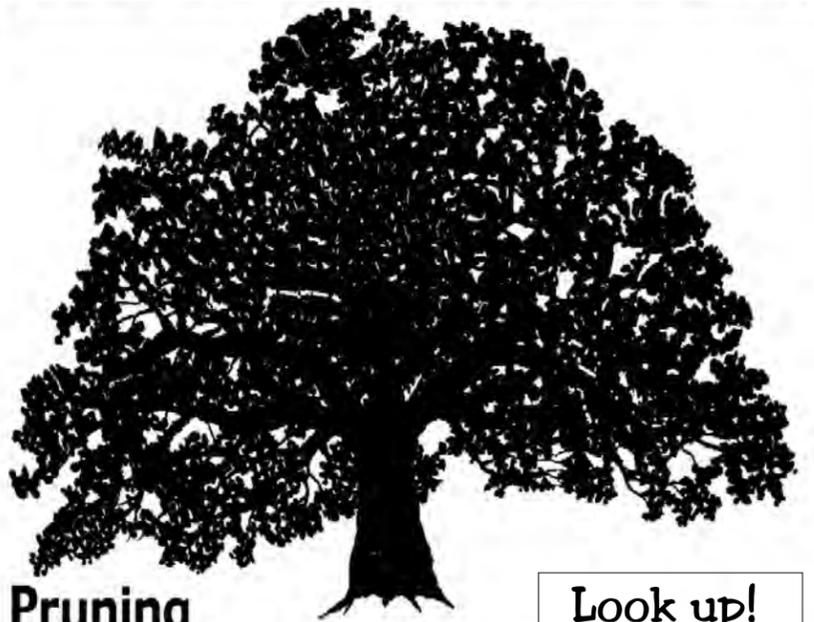
Photo by Mario E. Quintana

Cherokee Marsh shows its beauty in every season

ists who led or were involved with summer programs and field trips in the marsh since 1971. Some of the students, such as Middleton's Public Lands Manager Penni Klein, have gone on to careers in environmental fields. Concluding the event were tours on foot and in replica Voyageur canoes on loan from the Department of Natural Resources.

For more news about events in and around Cherokee Marsh, visit www.CherokeeMarsh.org.

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From
**CAPTAIN
CAM
MCLAY**



NORTH DISTRICT POLICE

Greetings from the North Police District! As the warm weather is upon us, activity levels and demands on police resources has increased. The good news is that we have not been hit with a major crime, such as a homicide, that strains available police resources for an extended period of time. This allows us to continue conducting follow up on reported crimes that we receive when investigative leads indicate the potential for solving that crime.

One of the more exciting developments has been the rallying of stakeholders to support the apartment area of the Brentwood Village Neighborhood. This area, in 2007 and 2008, saw significant crime and disorder issues. Many incidents included open-air drug activity. In the latter half

of 2008, Police Officer Susie Gonzalez was assigned to the Brentwood Village Neighborhood as a temporary neighborhood intervention officer. Her primary goals are to address crime and disorder problems. PO Gonzalez is working in a collaborative effort with police investigative resources, involving other local, state and federal agencies. She is also identifying and cultivating existing leaders in the resident population. She was requested to seek the involvement and support of the other stakeholder agencies that may help with our effort.

What has occurred is indeed exciting! The North/East Senior Coalition, with support from the Madison Police Department, Alders, the Northside Planning Council and other vested stakeholders, applied for and was awarded a grant from the City of Madison. Specifically, this grant will be used to cultivate leadership in the resident population.

Many City agencies have taken a vested interest in increasing the quality of life for the Brentwood Village Neighborhood. Some of these agen-

cies include: Building Inspection, as well as the Zoning Department; Traffic Engineering Division; Streets; Parks Division; the City Attorney's Office; Community Services Commission and the Apartment Association of South Central Wisconsin. At the same time, PO Gonzalez has been maintaining constant communication with the Planning division's Northport-Warner Park-Sherman Avenue Neighborhood Plan effort, currently in progress. PO Gonzalez's efforts assure that the issues in the neighborhood are addressed in the long-term planning stage.

With advocacy from Brentwood neighborhood leaders and the support from the Mayor's office, City agencies are formalizing mechanisms for assuring that all City agencies are at the table as we work through the issues that need to be addressed. This will help prevent the Brentwood Village Neighborhood from becoming the kind of neighborhood where the quality of life erodes for the residents and the area becomes a hardship on city services.

I am pleased and impressed by the way everyone is rallying to help in this effort. It shows what makes the Northside a very special part of the City of Madison and a great place to work and/or live!

*Capt. McLay can be reached at
cmclay@cityofmadison.com
or 245-3652*

**Northside Police Officers
You Should Know**

- Warner Park/Woodlands areas**
Officer Scott Templeton
- Brentwood/Northport Corridor**
Officer Ed Bernards
- Brentwood Neigh. Intervention**
Officer Susie Gonzalez
- Northport/Packers/Kipling Dr.**
Officer Katie Adler, 245-3679
- East High School Resource**
Officer Kat Riley, 204-1673

To contact any CPT Officer or Sgt. Jason Freedman, call the North District at 243-0542.

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DISTRICT 12 ALDERPERSON

Thank you for re-electing me; I'm excited to serve another term. Despite five new members, this council is like the last – committed to serving our constituents, yet interested in citywide issues. We will continue to need to seek compromise and consensus, since the ideological spectrum on the council remains broad.

Over the last term, I've worked on many things. I've tried to respond to your emails and phone calls and to proactively share information about things going on in the city. I've worked on a number of issues that are specific to District 12: the Northside Market Study, the update of the Northside Plan, Warner Park Stadium, Demetral Field, bike access and traffic calming, development proposals, safety issues, and the like. And I've worked on a number of citywide things I'm proud of. I've been an advocate and champi-

on for the Metro bus system, which I ride almost every day. I've also worked on water quality and conservation issues, instituted a better communication plan during snow emergencies, and helped the City take another step towards sustainability by authoring a resolution that requires any City facilities to be green-built.

I hope to continue to provide you with excellent constituent service and to advocate for our neighborhoods. I will continue to work to make the Metro system as strong as possible. We are facing difficult economic times, so two top priorities will be economic development and finding ways to support families. I believe that both of these priorities can be furthered by focusing on economic and environmental sustainability. Finally, I will continue to support open government and citizen participation. I hope that you will share your ideas and concerns with me over the next two years, and that together we can continue to make Madison a great place to live.

*Ald. Rhodes-Conway
can be reached at 242-4426 or
district12@cityofmadison.com*

From
**MICHAEL
SCHUMACHER**



DISTRICT 18 ALDERPERSON

What makes a great community? That is the question many Northsiders have been wrestling with, most recently with the Neighborhood Planning effort. We already have the foundations of what many would consider important for a vibrant, thriving community: a farmer's market, a cozy library, an incredible park, cafes and restaurants.

It seems many of our conversations about the Northside are about gaps and deficiencies these days. But look at what we have. Here are just some of our assets: the natural beauty of Cherokee Marsh, hundreds of home-based or small-office businesses, numerous retail stores and commercial ventures, high owner-occupied housing, sustaining neighborhood and faith-based organizations, and successful partnerships with the City and the County. Examples include the County's Job Center on Aberg and the community centers at Vera Court, Kennedy Heights,

Northport and Packers Avenue. They are all economic, social, and human capital generators. And let's not forget the many nonprofits such as the successful Dane County Time Bank and River Food pantry.

During the last year there's been greater City government focus on the Northside. We completed a professional marketing study of the Northside and we are in the process of creating the first Tax Incremental District (TID), which will likely generate some modest but critical dollars for pedestrian, bike, and aesthetic improvements. All these great efforts have in common a desire to making the Northside a better place.

But we all know government funding is limited. So what can we do as a community to build on these assets? Let's start with the basic step of making our Northside visually more appealing for our residents and visitors. Public art, clean streets and new facades are signs of a vibrant community. Once we create value to others, they will visit us and perhaps decide to invest or move here.

*Ald. Schumacher
can be reached at 242-1779 or
district18@cityofmadison.com*

Upcoming Common Council Meetings:

June 16 ~ July 7 ~ July 21

Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in Rm. 201 at the City-County Bldg. 210 MLK, Jr. Blvd.

From
**DAVE
CIESLEWICZ**



MAYOR OF MADISON

Getting Through This Together

The bad budget news just keeps on coming, but it's important to respond to the challenges we face thoughtfully.

With layoffs, unpaid furloughs and cuts to state aid payments at the state level, local governments are bracing for the trickle down effects of the state budget. My first concern is for the many Madisonians who will lose their jobs or see their paychecks reduced in the coming months.

As for city government, it is important to understand that the city and state budgets are very different animals. Our city budget relies heavily on property taxes, while the state has to rely on projections of income and sales taxes that will come in over the coming two years. Those projections, in turn, are highly dependent on the economy. This means that the state has

a budget problem for this year, 2009.

In Madison, our problem is not as immediate. Although revenues like investment income and building permits will be down, the lion's share of our revenue is already in through property tax payments. So, at this point I'm hopeful I won't have to take any draconian measures for 2009.

What is more concerning is 2010. We're likely to see significant reductions in state aid payments and new construction in the City has slowed.

The important thing is to approach the problem carefully. When you're driving a big bus, slamming on the breaks can injure a lot of people and throw the bus out of control. It's better to tap the breaks and ease to the shoulder.

These are hard times, but if we keep our heads about us, plan carefully, talk to one another, and work together in good faith, we'll come out of it poised to take advantage of the recovery that will surely come.

*Mayor Cieslewicz
can be reached at 266-4611 or
mayor@cityofmadison.com*

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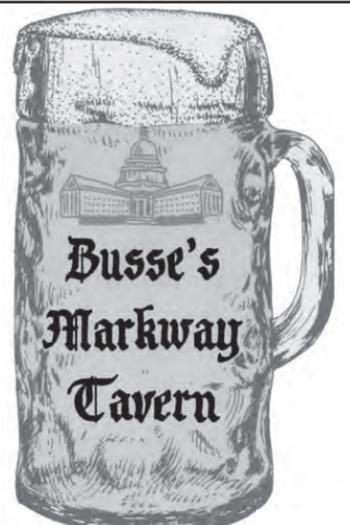
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