

NEIGHBORHOOD

Kindness bounds aplenty at Kennedy Heights

By Alyssa Kenney

Executive Director, Kennedy Heights Community Center

On Aug. 17 our summer programs ended with graduation for preschool students heading to Kindergarten and a cook-out for youth and their parents that had attended our summer program.

During a regular year the staff and volunteers take the last two weeks of summer to prepare for the school year, clean the building and do staff training. This August was tragically different. On Aug. 22 three residents of Kennedy Heights, Lakisha Dancy and her daughter Maya Resse and Demetrius Dobbs, were killed in the bus tragedy on North Sherman Avenue. The same lighting storm that killed three community members also flooded the community center and did substantial damage to our preschool and many of our early childhood books and materials. Instead of our usual preparations for school, staff members were mopping floors and organizing a community grief meeting. Many of us were crying.

Within hours of the announcement of names of the deceased, the outpouring of support was overwhelming. Both Northside alders, a Northside police officer, the Lindbergh School social workers and many residents, volunteers and other community leaders sent wishes of support and condolences. The kindness and support from the community was overwhelming. Thank you, everyone.



Photos by Lisa DeChateau

But that is not all. The week following the accident, Kennedy Heights was scheduled to be a host site for United Way's Days of Caring. A group of energetic and social volunteers from TASC, Total Administrative Service Corporation, joined staff and painted the entire inside of the community center. A coat of white paint does wonders for making everything look clean. In this case, it helped brighten the community's soul, too. Thank you, TASC.

The very next day, a team of employees from Summit Credit Union arrived at the community center with 180 backpacks filled with school supplies. Over five hours, Summit Credit Union employees and Kennedy Heights staff distributed the backpacks. The families that had been so affected by tragedy the week before were able to receive backpacks and everything they needed for school. Thank you, Summit Credit Union.

On Sept. 16, the Northside Farmers Market donated food and cooked a fantastic memorial dinner for the com-



Above: A full community center joined together for a community memorial meal. Left: Youth learn to create mosaic tiles from artist Dana Slowiak for a memorial.

munity and the family members of those who died. Over 100 people attended. Cooking a dinner and serving it to so many people in Kennedy Heights small center was a challenge, but the diligent volunteers managed our space artfully. Dana Slowiak from the Northside Artists Group coordinated a mosaic project that will be part of a future memorial in the community. Thank you to the farmers, volunteer cooks and artists!

There is little to learn from terrible tragedies, but perhaps they provide an opportunity for reflection, both in our lives and our community. Thank you for the kindness.

Rev. Carmen Porco honored



Rev. Carmen Porco with Jessica Doyle

During the State Superintendent's Annual State of Education address Sept. 20, Rev. Carmen Porco received a "Friend of Education" award recognizing his success as the Director of Northport and Packer Community Learning Centers. Both provide educational programs for pre-school, school-aged and adult participants.

~ Submitted by Jacki Thomas

LAKE VIEW HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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ENVIRONMENT

Celebrate Lake View Hill Park conservation rezoning Oct. 20

By Jon Becker
FOLVHP President

On October 20, the City of Madison's Common Council will have voted to approve the rezoning of Lake View Hill Park from residential to conservation.

To celebrate this historic event, the Friends Lake View Hill Park invite the community to a gathering on Sat., Oct. 20 at 5 pm. The celebration will be held in the park, on the lawn near the southwest corner of the Dane County Department of Human Services Building.

Dorothy Wheeler, District 18 County Supervisor, where the park is located, played a key role in the rezoning effort these past two years. Wheeler remarked, "The City's action will confirm and enhance actions taken by county supervisors in recent years, designating the area as a county conservation park. The Council's vote is the culmination of an effort dating back to the 1970s, toward preserving both the historic buildings and campus of the former county tuberculosis sanatorium and the natural areas that the community wanted to save and restore. Now the community's efforts to restore the parkland can go forward without any fear that this property

will ever be sold to a developer. This valued urban green space now has all the protection that the government can provide."

A limited edition t-shirt marking the occasion will be unveiled, custom-designed by artist and Friends board member Jennifer Goodnough. The shirt incorporates the logo that graced the t-shirt of community activists who advocated against development of the area starting in the 1980s.

Around a sunset bonfire, Friends past-president Nelson Eisman and others will share their campaign stories. Beverages and sandwiches will be provided.

The Friends Lake View Hill Park recently incorporated to better continue decades-long local support of the effort to conserve the park's ecological and cultural legacy. The park hosts an historically significant former county health facility, now renovated and now housing county offices. The park is also the site of the highest elevation in Madison, climbed by famous environmentalist John Muir in 1863, just before he left the University of Wisconsin.

For more information about the Friends rezoning celebration, please call Jon at 242-8525.

Busy and historic autumn for park group

By Jon Becker
FOLVHP President

The Friends will begin preparation for the park's first master plan, during the next two Friends board meetings, on Oct. 13 and Nov. 11 (Thursdays), 7-9pm, in the Dane County Department of Human Services building. The county plans to involve the wider public early next year, complete the plan in the summer and publish it before the end of 2008.

At the start of the Nov. 11 board meeting, the public may comment on the park's beautiful new Managed Meadows, which this year already saved over \$5,000 in mowing costs, while adding wildlife habitat that protects mature trees from insects.

Please see related articles above for more Friends of Lake View Hill Park activities.

For more information about the Friends of Lake View Hill Park, please visit the Friends website at www.madison.com/communities/friendsoflakeviewhill/index.php or call Nelson at 244-2055.



Photo by C. Ritter

During a recent work day, volunteers both learn about the Lake View Woods and help restore them on a beautiful day.

Lake View Hill Park restoration continues Oct. 13

By Shannon Wall
FOLVHP

Those familiar with Lake View Hill Park have in recent years watched degraded woods begin to bloom with new and more diverse life. Many also know that it has taken a lot of community help to accomplish this progress, an effort started over 20 years ago.

Join the Friends of Lake View Hill Park for the annual Fall Pull-a-Thon on Sat., Oct. 13. Work as long as you like from 8 am-12 pm to help continue the effort to restore this conservation park. Meet near the water tower in the park,

behind the Dane County Department of Human Services building, off Northport Drive.

On what promises to be a crisp autumn day, the Friends invite both nearby neighbors and other community members to join in. There will be a variety of work, from collecting native plants seeds for planting in future years to pulling invasive plants to removing downed wood.

Volunteers of all ages and abilities are needed. Beverages and snacks will be provided.

For more information, call Shannon at 335-2959.

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Northsiders venture to Monona Bay to raise toxins-in-fish awareness

By Jody Schmitz
The Northside News

On a warm and breezy autumn evening, more than 50 people gathered at Brittingham Park on Monona Bay to talk about fishing and to eat a fish fry. Drawn to together by the Northside-based Madison Environmental Justice Organization (MEJO), the group was a diverse collection of African-American, Latino, South Asian and white adults, children and anglers interested in the safety of the fish in the Madison waters.

Many Northside residents fish on the heavily-polluted Monona Bay, which is why the event was held there. Cooks for the Sept. 20 event were Beulah Lee, an active volunteer from Kennedy Heights, and Benito Olivas from the Vera Court neighborhood.

Materials were passed out explaining fish consumption advisories for locally-caught fish because of concerns regarding levels of mercury, PCBs and other toxins in the fish. Monona Bay has levels of mercury, PAHs, arsenic and lead that are of "probable concern" and need to be investigated further, according to MEJO Executive Director (and Northsider) Maria Powell.

Children busied themselves making signs about keeping the waters clean and the fish healthy. The signs were later put up by the adults and children on the shores of Monona Bay, a popular fishing spot for many poor and minority anglers where county and state officials have long neglected to post notices of the fish advisory, according to Powell.

Based on extensive conversions with local shoreline anglers, MEJO members have found that the potential dangers of consuming too many locally-caught fish is not widely known. Monona Bay is an especially popular fishing spot but has no advisory signs.

Other popular fishing spots for Northside residents include Warner Park, Tenney Park, the Yahara River and Cherokee Lake in Cherokee Marsh.

Educational programs titled "Let's Talk Fish" have taken place in recent years at Kennedy Heights, Vera Court and Warner Park Center. More programs are planned by the group.

For more information about MEJO and to learn more about the mercury levels of specific fish, visit www.mejo.org or call 240-1485.

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PEOPLE

Journey from Sudan: 'You have to have peace and love each other'

By Jacki Thomas
The Northside News

As the world focuses on the intertribal Arab conflict in northern Sudan, now recognized as genocide by the United Nations, many forget that 10 times as many Sudanese have been killed in the conflict between north and south Sudan since the end of British-Egyptian colonial rule in 1955. Newly liberated Sudan saw a concentration of power in the Arab north and resistance to this rule in the Christian south. A peace accord was signed in 2005, but as both sides again increase weapons stores and fail to build cooperation, it appears this peace may be as short-lived as the break in conflict during the mid-1970s.

One Northside resident knows all too well the tragedy of this conflict. A Madison resident for three years, John Riek was born in the short lull between the first and second civil wars in the small southern Sudan village of Aduk.

"Everything is green, a lot of trees... we have a good life," said Riek, remembering his childhood. "We swim in the river, play soccer, climb trees. We have enough food in my house, in my family. My dad is a good worker."

As the oldest son of a landowner, Riek was sent to Khartoum for high school. He earned many medals in boxing and was scouted for the Sudanese

Olympic team. By the time he began college, Western corporations had discovered oil in southern Sudan. In 1980, President Nimeiri began sub-dividing the south, into three states, to pull the newly found oil lands into northern Sudan.

"The government did something no good for the people," said Riek. The government "cut the country into two, two countries, three countries, and four countries." This caused war because the people in the South they didn't understand why the government didn't provide enough food and medicine.

By 1983, southern soldiers mutinied and formed the Sudan People's Liberation Army, or SPLA. Both government and rebel forces were known to kidnap boys as young as eight or 10 years old and force them to fight in the reignited civil war.

"When the war come so bad, we lose many people," said Riek. "And then the government come to find the kids, young kids. If you have two or three, they took two. They left one."

"The first time they come, they come in my house around seven o'clock at night. They find everybody at home because the life over there is different than like here. When they come, they choose my brother. My mom, she said, 'No, he's little. I have a bigger one in Khartoum'. They said, 'No, we have to take this guy'. My mom, she is crying,

"The government come to find the kids, young kids. If you have two or three, they took two. They left one."



Photos by Jacki Thomas

John Riek, above, left his homeland Sudan to escape civil war. His daughter, Jane, was born in Egypt while John waited to come to the United States.

and they took my brother to the army." When Riek learned of his 14-year-old brother's kidnapping, he returned to Aduk, determined to find him. Shortly after his arrival, the soldiers returned. They claimed his brother died, and they had to take another person.

"My mom say, 'No.' Then they took the gun out and they talk to my mom so bad. [They said] 'If you don't like, we take this guy, we gotta shoot your head,'" Riek said. His mother stopped crying and tried to talk to the soldiers, only they did not understand her.

"I talk to my mom, 'Don't cry. I have to go.'" His mom protested, but Riek insisted he go with the soldiers. "I have to go. If I don't, they kill you, and we gonna have a bad life when you die." His mom stopped crying, and he went with them.

When the SPLA entered into peace talks with northern Sudan, Riek was able to slip back to Aduk. He married and began farming land owned by his father. This respite was short-lived. When peace talks failed, fierce fighting erupted once again.

Riek described the nightly conversations he would have with his mom. "She say, 'Don't stay here. If you stay here, they take you back,'" said Riek. In the end, he listened to his mom. He and his wife left his country, heading to Cairo, Egypt.

"We go to the United Nations, and then I tell them my story," He said explaining the three-year process to resettle outside of Sudan via Egypt. "They accept me to come here to the United States."

He found employment at a small factory in Cairo. During their third year as refugees in Cairo, his daughter Jane was born. His wife died six days after Jane's birth. He remembers only that they had a happy conversation before bed and that she woke briefly in the night, com-

plaining of a headache.

When he tried to wake her in the morning, Riek said, "She had gone from this world." He had a big problem, and he didn't have anyone to help. He knew his daughter's survival depended on him to purchase milk. He placed the six-day-old infant in a duffle bag given him by an Olympic recruiter, slung it gently across his shoulders and went to work. He continued this routine until he and Jane were resettled in Madison.

In spite of the losses and horrors, Riek is a soft-spoken, smiling man, who radiates peace.

"If your friend is a Muslim or a Christian," he said, "you have to have peace and love each other - no fight and no pain."

Jane began kindergarten this fall. Already the small, quiet girl with the enormous and ever-present smile is a favorite of the teachers. After school, she loves to read and draw pictures in the community center. She draws happy pictures, with a giant sun in a blue sky. Below, everything is green and there are lots of trees. If you look closely you just might see children, swimming in the river, playing soccer and climbing the trees.

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CHURCH

“Right here, right now”

Join the CROP Hunger Walk/Bike/Rock Event on Oct. 14

By Lynn Case

“Right here, right now.”

Pastor Dean Kirst of Lakeview Lutheran Church used those words in his sermon as he auctioned off 34 pies made by parishioners on Rally Day, Sun., Sep. 9.

Rally Day marked the kick-off for fall programming at Lakeview and the start of the CROP season. The pies raised \$1,069, all of it to be part of Lakeview’s contribution to the 33rd Annual CROP Hunger Walk/Bike/Rock Event on Sun., Oct. 14.

Kirst challenged his congregation to have 100 participants and raise \$10,000 for CROP in 2007. This is \$1,800 more than last year when Lakeview raised \$8,200.

Lakeview will build its team again this year by selling colored “Walking Together” T-shirts (this year’s color is purple) and donating proceeds to CROP. This is the fifth year for the colorful shirts. Members will also raise pledges from sponsors supporting their efforts to walk 1.5 or 3.5 miles or to bike the Lake Monona Bike Trail.

CROP invites everyone to take a stand against hunger in our local community and around the world by joining hands to walk, bike or rock and raise money.

Christ Presbyterian Church at 944 E. Gorham St. will host the event for the second year. Registration begins at



Photo by Lynn Case

12:45 pm, and the event starts 1:30 pm, rain or shine. There is no set registration fee.

Madison hopes to raise \$75,000 this year with proceeds benefiting the Dane County Food Pantries, Meals on Wheels and global hunger programs. Already 58 Madison area churches and groups committed to participate.

Anyone wanting to make a contribution or a pledge form should call CROP at 222-7008.

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St. Paul to survey seniors

By Paul Heitmann

St Paul Lutheran

A brief mail survey, addressed to over 3,000 senior adults in zip code 53704, is being conducted by St. Paul Lutheran Church.

The purpose of the survey is to identify the areas of concern where St. Paul may be able to be of service to this

segment of the community. The church is initiating an emphasis on ministering to the needs of senior adults in its neighborhood.

If you receive a copy of the survey questionnaire, please complete and return it so that resources can be effectively directed to best serve Northside senior adults.

Holiday fair at Zion Lutheran

Zion Lutheran Church, at 2165 Linden Ave., is holding its seventeenth annual Holiday Fair on Sat., Nov. 3 from 9 am to 3 pm. Zion's fair features numerous crafters, homemade soups, a bake sale and a trash and treasure sale.

Crafters are invited to participate in Zion's fair by calling 249-3588 for an application or more information. Cost is a one-time \$20 fee.

Fire Station Open House Oct. 13

The City of Madison Fire Department will observe **Fire Prevention Week** through Sat., Oct. 13. All 11 City firehouses will open their doors to the public from 9 am to 3 pm for an Open House that includes tours and a scavenger hunt with treats donated by Sara Lee Food and Beverage. **The Northside’s Station 10 is located at 1517 Troy Drive.**

Members of the Department’s Community Education Unit and firefighters will also visit all elementary schools in the City of Madison throughout the month with the popular Fire Safety Obstacle Course.

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NPC Community Organizer  
julie@northsideplanningcouncil.org



*cont. from page 1*

## Schools

out into smaller groups to approximate house meetings while allowing participation from the greater community. The event also sought to build relationships around the four issues that surfaced at the previous house meetings.

Participants at the Roundtable ranked the four issues both individually and as a group. The results were two-fold. First, there was clear consensus around the need for state level school funding reform. However, participants recognized that the School District is already engaged in statewide efforts to lobby the legislature to lift the revenue caps and have a limited ability to do much more.

Following that, participants ranked the three remaining issues (improving the budget process and communication with the community, keeping the schools open and implementing an equity policy), which faired virtually

equally in terms of importance moving forward on a grassroots campaign.

"The timing is right for this campaign," said Wendy Sauvé, the East Attendance Area PTO Coalition representative to NPC. "It gives the School Board a more unified vision from the community about what they want instead of the bits and pieces that the Board usually gets. I think they've wanted that direction for a long time."

### District-wide Forum

The campaign culminates with a District-wide Forum on Oct. 21 with Madison School Board members. NPC and the PTO Coalition leaders will share the results of where they have found common ground between the School Board members and the greater community.

Six of the seven School Board members will be in attendance at the Forum, which begins at 3 pm in the Tripp Commons in the University of Wisconsin-Madison Memorial Union. (Beth Moss will be out of town.) The event is free and open to the public. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

*cont. from page 1*

## Apartments

substantive changes, the Nimrod brothers assured me that they will make physical improvements very quickly," wrote Ald. Michael Schumacher to the Northside email discussion list. "Let's welcome the new owners to our community and work with them to make these apartment complexes once again the crown jewels of the Northside."

Playground equipment will be installed at both properties in March or April, according to Joe Nimrod.

Playgrounds are a top priority for the tenant association, according to James. "We want the kids to have something to do and playgrounds are a good start." The Northside Planning Council began advocating for playgrounds in April when the Nimrods were first pursuing purchasing the properties.

The new owners are also open to making community services available

to the tenants, according to Joe Nimrod, and will work with the tenants, NPC and the City of Madison to see how they can do so. The Nimrods were especially impressed by the Northport Community Learning Center when they recently toured there with director Carmen Porco and program coordinator Pat Steele.

The 128-unit Woodland Park Apartments are located at Troy and Northport Drives behind the PDQ convenience store. The 128-unit Woodlands Apartments are located at the intersection of Northport Dr. at Kennedy Rd. The properties were owned by the Will family of Delafield and managed by David Hoffmann since 2002. They still own the similarly-troubled Midvale Townhomes and Zurich House Apartments on the South Side.

The Nimrod Group of Companies is a realty brokerage, property management, and maintenance and construction business in operation for 26 years.



Photos by Jim Powell

*cont. from page 1*

## Safety concerns

"It's the little things that are disturbing," he said. "They might seem like minor problems now but they could grow. There's no reason why we can't turn things around."

The listening panel also included Mayor Dave Cieslewicz, Police Chief Noble Wray, North District Police Captain Richard Bach, alders Satya Rhodes-Conway (District 12), Larry Palm (District 15) and Joe Clausius (District 17), as well as other police representatives.

"The information you provided us tonight will not fall on deaf ears," said Police Chief Noble Wray, as the meeting wound to a close.

The chief informed the audience that his department is working to speed up the normal one-year period needed to train a police officer. By using an accelerated academy, he hopes to have six to 12 officers patrolling Madison streets by summer 2008. He also noted that some administrative positions currently staffed by uniformed officers will be civilianized.

To loud applause, Chief Wray told residents that the Northside would soon receive its own Community Policing Team (CPT), which will work proactively on issues such as gangs, graffiti and theft. Currently, the North and East Districts share one CPT, consisting of five to six officers and one sergeant. The North District's CPT should be in place by January 2008.

"We heard you loud and clear," said Mayor Cieslewicz. "This is a strong message to your alders and to myself."

He emphasized that he would work to include a net increase of 18 new police officers in the next city budget and that he would work to pass a proposed chronic nuisance abatement ordinance scheduled for a vote before the Common Council in September. The ordinance would give the city a new tool to deal with problem rental properties. (Note: The nuisance abatement ordinance passed on Sept. 18, and the number of net police officers to be included in the budget has since increased to 30.)

"I'm always impressed when I come to the Northside about how strong the neighborhoods are," the Mayor added.

Alder Schumacher closed the meeting by saying, "The belief that we can make a difference is what will change our neighborhoods."

**See page 26 for safety tips from a Neighborhood Watch training**

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# Young entrepreneurs thrive on Northside

By Mary Schumacher  
The Northside News

The persistent myth about younger workers implies they have little loyalty or work ethic and a huge sense of entitlement. Happily, several Northside residents stand out against this negative stereotype. Far from indifferent slackers, these Northsiders share traits of dedication, hard work and a desire for success. Furthermore, they are all entrepreneurs under 30 years old who have located their businesses on this side of town. Their stories reveal words of wisdom for conducting business on the Northside, as well as the secrets of business success.

**Darcy Deadman** was just 22 when she opened **Serenity Salon and Day Spa** in May 2002. A fourth-generation entrepreneur, she felt confident taking on a considerable financial risk by investing in a stylish, contemporary salon.

"I wanted to create a positive experience for my customers," Deadman explained. She felt her business would succeed with the help of a business owner mentor and encouragement from family members and by placing high value on customer service and education.

Others embarked on their businesses by following youthful endeavors. **Meg Finnegan** opened **Flowers by Meg**, a flower, gift and wedding planning shop in 2006 when she was 25, after working for flower shops during high

school and college.

**Brothers Casey, Zachariah and Travis Davenport** were middle- and elementary-schoolers when they started mowing lawns for vacationing neighbors in Maple Bluff. Through word of mouth, their business grew. By the time oldest brother Casey was a junior in high school, they had purchased their first commercial lawn mower. Today, the brothers have multiple trucks, bobcats and snow plows, with seasonal employees to help them with their lawn and landscaping business, **Best Buds**.

In contrast, former Marines **Aaron Kin**as, 26, and **Jon Fuller**, 28, started their decorative concrete business **Ageless Concrete** this year after noticing the lack of stamped and colored concrete in Madison. After developing a business plan, they generated cus-



Aaron Kin (right) and Jon Fuller, co-owners of Ageless Concrete

Photo by Dana Slowiak

tomers by designing a website, handing out flyers door-to-door and advertising on the website Craigslist.org.

Meanwhile, **Jeff Taff** is a fourth-generation carpenter who is stepping into his family's home remodeling business. At 24, he is fortunate to benefit from an existing successful business but comes with his own skills and ideas, having completed a business marketing degree.

In fact, a focus on education, training, and on-the-job learning is a constant theme for these young owners, both to help them get started and to continue doing well in their businesses. Experience also is a productive teacher.

When advising future business owners, Finnegan points to the importance of both financial and emotional support from family and friends.

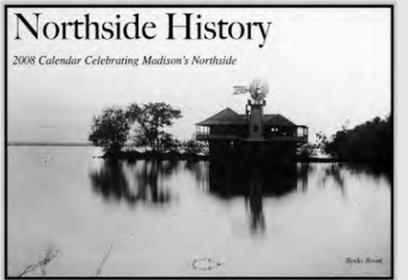
"If you have the support, go for it. There's nothing wrong with starting small. Your business will grow," she asserted.

Casey Davenport advises aspiring entrepreneurs to monitor their business finances and to be ready to work hard.

"Nobody cares as much or will work as hard as you will. That's what it comes down to. It's the secret of our

See next page

## 2008 NORTHSIDE HISTORY CALENDAR



### The very first Northside history calendar is here!

Published by the Northside Planning Council and *Northside News*, the 2008 Northside History calendar celebrates Madison's Northside. The 12-month calendar features images of Northside history, including Rocky Roost (the sunken cottage island) and Northgate Shopping Center (when coal silos stood on the site).

Residents are invited to submit their Northside history photos for future calendars, so start digging through your albums!

The calendar is available from the Northside Planning Council and *Northside News* for \$12, plus shipping. You may also pick up your calendar from our office, but be sure to call Dana at 661-0060, ext. 1 before you visit.

The calendar is also available at many fine Northside businesses.

*Proceeds benefit the nonprofit Northside Planning Council and Northside News*

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**BUSINESS**

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**Young businesses**



Photo by Dana Slowiak

**Meg Finnegan, owner of Flowers by Meg**

success," he said. "Your business becomes your life," Taff added. "You have to put in a lot of long hours for it to work. And you must communicate well, with your customers and your employees. This is

critical, to make sure everyone is on the same page."

Kinas echoed the need for making choices.

"The biggest thing I've experienced is a lot of sacrifice," he said. "You have to be willing to put business first. You also have to keep yourself positive. Business is always a challenge. Finding new customers or trying to figure out how to do a difficult job can get you down. You need to keep yourself positive."

Regarding the Northside as a place to start a business, these business owners agree about its advantages.

"The Northside is a good place for young entrepreneurs," said Finnegan. "Of all of Madison, the Northside has the best community feeling, with many small businesses. It has a homey feel to it."

Deadman agrees. Coming from an entrepreneurial family with long ties to the Northside, she feels the community provides a good place to start a business.

"The Northside is unique, kind of a secret. It's so community-oriented. People want to see businesses succeed here. That's truly what helped me succeed," she said.



Photo provided by Ron James

**Pierce's Northside Market recently donated \$486, proceeds from three brat stands Pierce's hosted during the store's grand opening in July. The recipient was VFW Post 8483, located on Highway CV. Pictured from left are Chuck Cooker, Bruce Squires, Gay Anne Frappier, Lynn Oyer, Patrick Fitzpatrick and store manager Ron James.**

**What businesses does the Northside need?**

Seven years ago the Northside Planning Council and *Northside News* conducted a consumer questionnaire about Northsiders' buying habits and how they felt about Northside businesses.

The result? Northsiders asked for an Italian restaurant, a coffee shop and a farmers market, among other things. Today we have all these businesses.

So we're doing it again! We're conducting a **2007 NORTHSIDE CONSUMER QUESTIONNAIRE** to see what has changed in the past seven years and also to see what businesses and services you would like to see in our community.

You can take the survey in several ways--choose one: **INSERT:** We've inserted a copy of the questionnaire into this newspaper. Please fill it out and return it to us. Instructions are in the questionnaire.

**ONLINE:** You can visit [www.northsidenews.org](http://www.northsidenews.org) to complete the survey online or print a copy to complete and mail or drop off below.

**CALL:** You can call us at 661-0060 to request a copy be mailed to you. Please leave your name, phone number and address.



**Northside Family Restaurant** has replaced American Table in Northgate Mall. New owner **Gus Selemi** is a long-time restaurateur who also owns the Parkway Family Restaurant. The menu features chicken, fish, and pasta dishes as well as cuisine from Gus's home country of Macedonia, including goulash.

**Pierce's Northside Market** is now offering online shopping at <http://pierces.foodmagic.com>.

Pierce's is also offering a free Thanksgiving turkey for shoppers who purchase at least \$450 of products between September 10 and November 11, 2007. Shoppers must use their Pierce's Market Club Card to qualify. Visit the store for details.

Northsider **Shannon Seip** is co-owner of a new kids' café in Middleton. **Sam I Yam**, 6719 Frank Lloyd Wright Avenue, is designed for parents with young children and features healthy and tasty meals that the whole family will enjoy.

The **Nimrod Realty Group** has purchased the 128-unit **Woodland Park Apartments** at 1502 Troy Drive and the 128-unit **Woodlands Apartments** at 501 Northport Drive from Will Trinity LLC and Will Woodlands LLC respectively.

- Compiled by Mary Schumacher and Jim Powell

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# Handcrafted natural cherry wood creations

## Showroom more than another roadside attraction

**By Mimi Jett**  
*The Northside News*

With all the talk these days about the importance of buying locally, there is not a better example of local harvest, production and finishing than Cherry Creations of Wisconsin.

Meet owner Jack Hall. He was raised on a farm near Rio and has been part of the Northside community for nearly 30 years.

"The biggest thrill is the smell of the cherry wood, right when it is being cut, and looking at the unique grains. Wood is so beautiful to me," he said.

Since his first adventure in wood-working at 19 years old, Hall dreamed of having a workshop to build hand-made furniture out of the wood he harvests locally. You may have noticed his Roadside Showroom on County CV, which appeared this summer in front of his place. Inside this box are examples of many of Hall's creations. From large chests to coffee tables, all pieces are made from cherry or oak woods that come from within 30 miles of Madison. The distinct coloring, knots and pronounced grains of the wood all contribute to the beauty of these hand-crafted goods.

Hall harvests trees from lower lands, called coulees, that have more twists and turns in the wood. He prefers the



character of this wood and uses the unique visual elements in the design of many pieces. Recently, Hall purchased a stand of 22 cherry trees, which he will cut this winter. Once cut, logs are cut into boards at Schwenke Sawmill in Portage. Boards air dry outside for two to three years before being cut and planed into fine furniture. Most wood today is kiln dried, which takes less time, but Hall is true to his craft and insists that air-dried lumber is best.

Over the years, Hall accumulated all the equipment he needs to take a piece



Northsider Jack Hall shows his woodwork studio where he turns locally grown cherry and oak into furniture such as the dresser (above left).

Photos by Mimi Jett

of rough wood to its final form as a table or shelf. He built most of the furniture in his house, and the house as well, from his shop next door. Now that his shop is well equipped and his craft perfected, Hall is ready to realize his dream of woodworking as a vocation. As a professional painter since the 1970s, he learned a lot about the application of finishes to make his furniture look beautiful. Painting is not as

rewarding as woodworking, so Hall spends more time doing what he loves most.

Stop in at the Roadside Showroom (5865 Highway CV) and take a look at what is created. There will be an open house inside his shop on Nov. 31. See examples of his work at [www.cherrycreationsofwisconsin.com](http://www.cherrycreationsofwisconsin.com). Contact Jack directly at [jackwhall@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jackwhall@sbcglobal.net) or 206-6934.

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NSAG presents "Reflections of the Northside" at the Overture Center of the Arts, January - March 2008.

If you are interested in joining NSAG, please contact Dana Slowiak at 241-3669 or [danaslowiak@hotmail.com](mailto:danaslowiak@hotmail.com)

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