

HOME

larger quarters and morphed into one of only six Destination True Value stores in the country, debuting more product lines while maintaining True Value's dedication to customer service and satisfaction. In addition to being fully stocked, you can order items at either store that arrive within a week and they both offer a line of specialty tools, equipment and furniture on a rental basis for jobs or events that may happen only once.

A day at the hardware store may not be quite like a day at the beach, but it is always a treat and reinforces that classic catchphrase "My mama and daddy didn't raise no fool: I can do anything if I have the right tool."

Even the handiest of us face projects on occasion that just seem daunting. We may have the skill but not the time. We may know something about a job but not everything. Or we may just feel like supporting local businesses to do what they do best while we do what we do best — or so that we can play with the kids.

There are many reasons to hire a professional to tackle a project and Northsiders are fortunate to have many handyman and construction contractors available to fit their project needs, no matter how small or large they may be. These professionals already know where everything is in the hardware store and how to use the necessary tools, saving you time and possible frustration. It is all about choices. Your mantra may well become "My mama and daddy didn't teach me to lie: I can do anything if I know the right guy."



Photo by Laura Paprocki

Performance testing improves home's building science, provides cash back

By Maureen Alley
Northside News

In August 2010, the National Association of Realtors released its newest data on existing home sales for July. The numbers dropped 27.2 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.83 million in July — hitting the lowest level since May 1995.

With fewer people buying homes and more staying put, homeowners are looking for ways to improve their homes. In addition, homeowners are looking for ways to make homes more energy efficient. The Home Performance with Energy Star program by Focus on Energy is one that provides homeowners with concrete information on how to make their homes more energy efficient and enhance the home's building science.

Homeowners interested in the Home Performance program reach out to Focus on Energy which then puts them in contact with an independent consultant. This independent consultant goes out to the home and performs an audit and prepares a report of recommendations for the homeowner.

"When the recommendations are completed, then the [consultant] performs a post-audit to verify the measures were completed," said Carter Dedolph, program manager for the single family homes program with Wisconsin Energy Conservation, the nonprofit corporation that manages Focus on Energy.

If the homeowner completes recommendations to the consultant's approval, then they qualify for cash back rewards. The rewards vary on changes. For example, the cash back reward for adding attic insulation is \$100, or \$400 for a new hot water boiler that meets Focus on Energy requirements.

Consultants look at four major areas when they perform audits. "The first part is an attempt at how to make the house tighter — how to keep the warm air in the house. The second part is ventilation. The third part is insulation, and the last part is the furnace and water heater — combustion in the home," said Laura Paprocki, president, Trinity Environmental.

"Having a home performance is an awesome way to have a road map of what to do to a house — what's going to make the most sense," Paprocki said.

Paprocki is a certified auditor for Focus on Energy. This means she applied and was accepted to the Focus on Energy program. She then participated in a two-week training program, followed by an exam. After passing the test, Paprocki participated in field mentoring to ensure she was following best practices. She is a civil and environmental engineer with a strong passion about how living affects the environment.

Focus on Energy doesn't recommend consultants but does provide a list of certified consultants on its Web site: www.finditwithfocus.com. Those interested in getting more information from Paprocki on her services, which she performs in Madison and Dane County, can visit her Web site: www.trinity-environmental.com.

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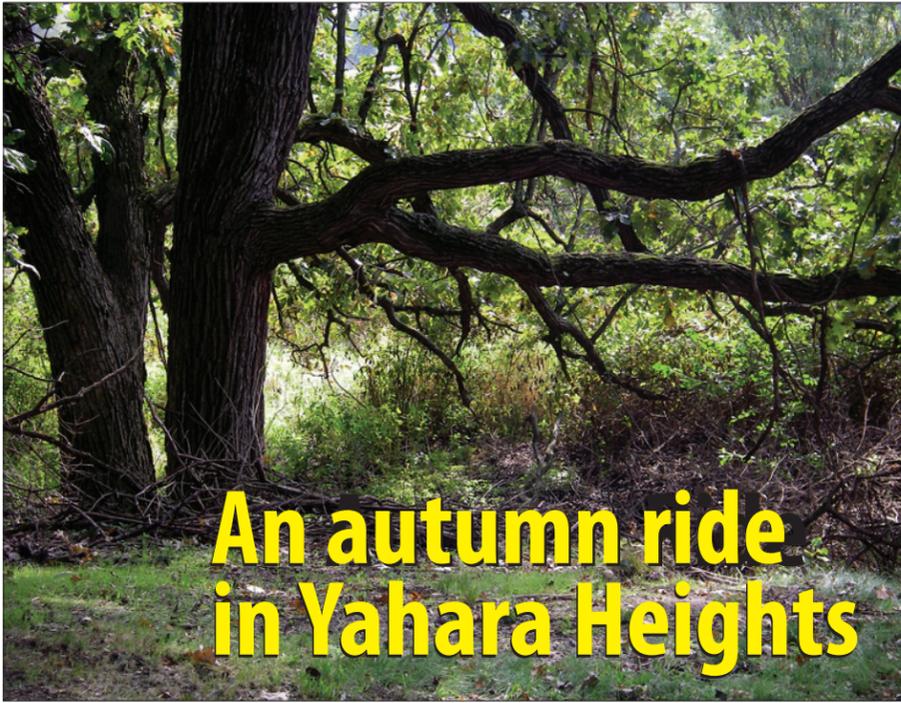
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OUTDOOR



An autumn ride in Yahara Heights

Yahara Heights County Park provides calm and beauty.

By Jeffrey Lee Affeldt

Some city residents consider the Northside to be Madison's backyard: quiet, casual, and laidback. If true, then Yahara Heights County Park surely must be the Northside's backyard.

Just across the water from the better known Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park, Yahara Heights is over 380 wild acres of rolling and partially wooded wildlife habitat and wetlands, with numerous pathways perfect for an autumn stroll or bike ride.

On entering the park and slowly pedaling my bike south on the mowed path, I soon arrive at an unmarked crossroads. Unsure of which way to proceed, I am indecisive until I hear the cry of a red-tailed hawk, and I glance west to see three of these graceful raptors soaring on the warm air currents of this fall afternoon. I turn to follow them and ride down the grassy path into an open meadow.

This far western end of the park includes the popular 20-acre pet-exercise area at the intersection of highways M and 113, but there are also over 3,000 feet of marsh shoreline to explore here, so I follow another path east and then down toward the water, my fat tires crunching over the husks of hickory nuts.

There are several restful views of Cherokee Marsh, from a perspective which perhaps even most Northsiders have yet to enjoy. I also find clues to the people who have inhabited this place in bygone times, from a Woodland Indian effigy mound to scraps of barbed wire and porcelain cookware.

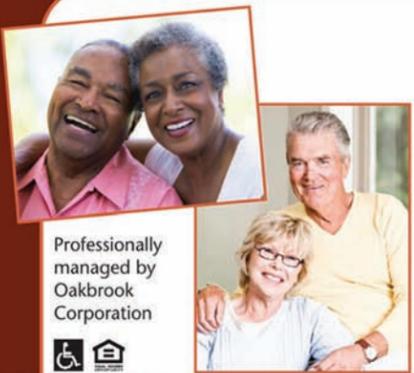
A pleasantly undeveloped park, Yahara Heights has no map or guideposts as I ride the numerous narrow, winding trails. At one point, I'm not quite sure whether I'm on a footpath or a deer trail. As if to settle the matter, a whitetail suddenly bursts out from the tall grasses and bounds across in front of me, perhaps as startled as I am.

As the day warms, I come upon dozens of small frogs basking in these final days of Indian Summer. A breeze drifts in from the marsh here, the leaves of the tall aspens rustling like a thousand golden coins, and I am glad to have discovered yet another quiet outdoor retreat here on the Northside.

Directions: From Warner Park, head northwest about 2.5 miles on Northport/Hwy 113 to the junction with Cty. Hwy M; continue north on Hwy 113 .3 miles and turn right onto River Road. Drive east .6 miles and turn right onto Riverview Drive; proceed another .2 miles to Caton Lane; at this intersection is the marked gate to Yahara Heights County Park. Park your car on the street here and enter the park.



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OUTDOOR

Operation Fresh Start helps restore Cherokee Marsh

By Anita Weier
Friends of Cherokee Marsh

Young people in the Operation Fresh Start program spent weeks this summer working hard in the Cherokee Marsh – installing a new aluminum boardwalk that will not deteriorate like the old wooden boardwalk, placing plants in the water to provide habitat for creatures and removing invasive plants from the marsh.

For some, it was their first chance to venture into the world of nature. It was also a chance to find new opportunities.

“The best thing is I learn about a place I never knew,” said Sean Johnson, who lives on the Westside of Madison. “The mosquitoes are the hardest part of it.”

Tabitha Dahl, 17, who lives in Madison’s Eastside, said her counselor at La Follette High School recommended her to Work and Learn for the program. “We spent a month on the boardwalk and pulling invasive species,” she said.

Dahl loves the work, except for the garter snakes she sometimes encounters.

“I am improving my life. I am going to college at MATC, building houses and being outside working with plants,” said David Meboe, 21, a Madison native who now lives in Cross Plains. He has been working with Operation Fresh Start on various projects for more than a year. “I enjoy working here. It’s the best job I’ve had,” he said.

Russ Hefty, conservation resource supervisor for Madison, directed the five-to-seven person crew in coopera-

tion with Operation Fresh Start crew supervisor David Madden. The five weeks of work in Cherokee Marsh during the summer went well, according to Hefty, and the soft-stemmed bulrushes placed in bricks to secure them in the water will provide cover for aquatic insects that also attract juvenile fish. Among other tasks, the crew replaced honeysuckles with native wildflowers, helped with a controlled burn, re-worked the railings on the East Marsh observation platform and stained that structure.

The city has used Operation Fresh Start crews in city conservation and other parks for 25 years, Hefty said. This year, crews worked for a total of 14 weeks in various parks, and the city paid \$25,000 for that work.

The nonprofit Fresh Start organization has provided comprehensive employment and training services to 7,000 youth and adults in Dane County since 1970. Best known for renovating or constructing 185 single-family houses for sale to low-income first time homebuyers, it also has expanded into year-round conservation work.

In the past, Operation Fresh Start’s seasonal conservation crews have contributed to the restoration of valuable environmental lands and the stewardship of city and county conservation parks. Recently, OFS extended its mission to include two year-round conservation crews. Crew members working in supervised teams will complete labor-intensive



Photo by Anita Weier

Sean Johnson, left; David Meboe (center) and Tabitha Dahl get plants ready for placement in the water.

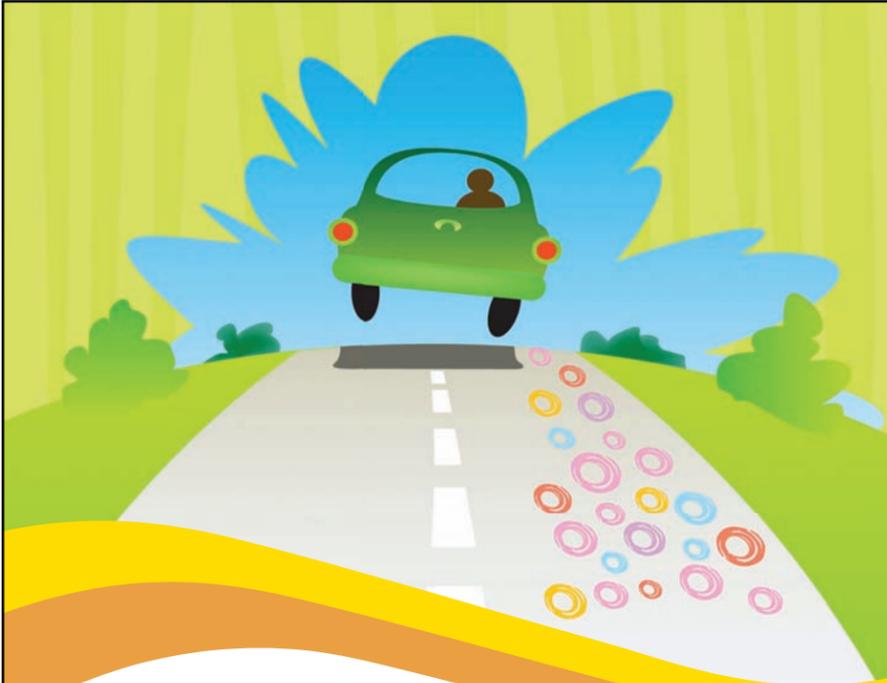
conservation and community development work projects on public lands in South Central Wisconsin throughout the year.

How much is done at Madison parks including the Cherokee Marsh this coming year will depend on the final city budget.

Full Moon Walk in Cherokee Marsh

SATURDAY, OCT. 23, 7 PM – 9 PM

Explore Cherokee Marsh under a full moon. Listen for owls and other creatures of the night followed by a campfire and hot cocoa. Meet in the parking lot of Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park, North Unit, 6098 North Sherman Ave. The gate will be open. This event is sponsored by the Friends of Cherokee Marsh and Madison Parks.



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OUTDOOR

How many humans does it take to raise a baby bluebird?

By Trish O'Kane

In Warner Park, the answer is at least 25.

Take a walk through wild Warner, in the back meadow and near the dog park, and you'll see eight neat little wooden bird houses, mounted on metal poles. In the meadow, listen carefully near birdhouse number two, just off the main path. In September you'll still hear the mournful yodel-warble of a male bluebird whose gangly teenagers are about to go their own way, just like the freshmen college students so many parents have been wistfully pushing out of the nest for the past two weeks.

Approach that little birdhouse. Notice how the front is stained purple from the mulberries the father delivered every few minutes, back and forth, back and forth, across the meadow, all summer. Now back away and the turquoise and rust-colored patriarch may swoop down from his nearby linden perch and sit on house number two to make a point — it's his, leave it alone — he'll be back next year to raise another family.

This bluebird business started one summer night exactly a year ago, when I read about proposals in a neighborhood plan that could have hurt the birds in our park. I didn't know who to call or what to do but then I thought "birds, bird people — Audubon."

Enter human bluebird parent number one: Northsider Paul Noeldner.

I barely knew Paul, but I left an urgent message on his voicemail, after



Bluebird at Warner Park

9 pm. He called back within the hour and we met the next morning at Manna Café. For Northsiders who know Paul, you know that to say he was wildly enthusiastic would be an understatement. With silvery hair askew like a Cedar Waxwing's crest in the wind, he spit out a flurry of ideas. One was to create a Warner bluebird trail. I listened, nodding, thinking, yeh, yeh, right, we'll have time to do that.

But then he didn't go away. He started appearing on my doorstep with bird books and donuts and soft pine needles to put in birdhouses to help bluebirds when their nests get wet, and the next

thing I knew, I was in charge of eight bluebird houses. Paul did everything but sit on those bluebird eggs himself, and if he could have fit in House #2, he would have done that, too.

If Paul is the mother of Warner's bluebirds, Jack Hurst, long-time Northside conservationist, is their father. Jack is the other person I call late at night when I am worried about Warner Park. For the past several decades, Jack has worked through the Dane County Conservation League (DCCL) and the Yahara Fishing Club to save land and wildlife on the Northside and in Wisconsin. He has taught

In September you'll still hear the mournful yodel-warble of a male bluebird whose gangly teenagers are about to go their own way

hundreds of Madison's children to fish during the Warner fishing days he organizes and he has campaigned tirelessly to improve our water quality. In Warner Park, if it flies, if it swims, if it breathes, Jack Hurst is its champion.

While Paul was working through Audubon to get four houses donated (thank you Mark Martin, Jerry Martin and Patrick Ready), Jack was getting the Dane County Conservation League to build and donate the other four houses (thank you to at least a dozen DCCL volunteers). Then parks department employees Craig Klink and Russ Hefty helped place and install the houses, along with neighbor Jim Carrier.

In addition to this immediate human family of over 25, our bluebirds have a large extended family in the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW). Their grandfather is Northsider Mike Rewey, who helped start Wisconsin's bluebird recovery program. Thank you to Mike and to all BRAW members for helping to keep Warner wild.



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Thursday, Oct. 14 at noon. Join us for a discussion of “The Immortal Life of Henrietta” *Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. Henrietta Lacks was the African-American cancer patient who was the unwitting donor of the “HeLa” cells which have directly aided many advances in modern medicine. Copies of the book are available at Lakeview.

Lakeview Chess Club

The second and fourth Monday of the month at 6 pm. Any age – any skill level.

Video Game-a-thon

Fridays, Oct. 1 and Nov. 5 at 3:30 pm. Video games and pizza for Grades 6-12! Play Wii with your friends.

Sweets & Stories on Second Saturdays

Saturdays, Oct. 9 and Nov. 13 at 10 am. Storytime for the whole family with donuts, coffee and juice.

Drop-in Crafts

Wednesdays, Oct. 6 and Nov. 3, at 3:30 pm. For grades K-5, make something to take home.

Teen Magnetic Poetry

Friday, Oct. 15 at 3:30 pm. Have a few laughs with magnetic words. For grades 6-12

Family Wii Night

Mondays Oct 18 and Nov 15 at 6:30 pm. The whole family is invited to play Wii.

Halloween Magic

Saturday, Oct. 23 at 11:30 am. Awesome magician Morris Taylor performs for the whole family.

Lego Club

Every fourth Monday, Oct. 25 and Nov. 22. Come to the library and build your masterpiece! Grades K-5

DIY: Bath Salts

Friday, Nov. 19 at 3:30 pm. Make the perfect relaxing gift. Materials provided. Grades 6 and up. Call to register beginning Nov. 5.

Yoga for Youngsters

Saturday, Nov. 20 at 10 am. Register beginning Nov. 4.

Preschool Yoga Series

Tuesdays at 10:15 am from Nov. 30-Dec. 21. Register beginning Nov 16. Yoga teacher Nikki Cole teaches parent/child yoga classes for children 18 months to 5 years. Bring a yoga mat or towel for each of you. One child per caregiver.

Preschool Players

Tuesdays from Nov. 30-Dec. 14 at 1:30 pm. The Dec. 14 performance will be held at 7 pm. Preschool Players is for children ages 4-5. There are three weekly afternoon rehearsals and an evening performance. Children learn short stories and songs to perform for families and friends. Costumes are provided and parents are encouraged to bring cameras to the evening performance. Register for the whole series beginning Nov. 16.

Preschool Storytime

Tuesdays through Nov. 23 at 10:30 am. Stories, songs and fingerplays for ages 3-5. Younger siblings welcome.

Storytime for the Very Young

Tuesdays through Nov. 23 at 10:30 am. Stories, songs and rhymes for ages 0-35 months. One adult per child.

Adult Noon Book Group

Second Thursday of each month. Discuss books and have treats with your neighbors. Oct 14: “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” by Rebecca Skloot, part of Go Big Read, UW’s common-reading program. Nov 11: “Reliable Wife” by Robert Goolrick. Copies are always available at Lakeview.

Knitting at the Library

Every Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Have a project you need help with? Neighborhood knitters provide expertise and companionship. Beginners are welcome.

Scrabble for Adults

Every Wednesday at 10 am. Give the regulars some competition.

What Northsiders are reading

Compiled by Anita Weier

Imani Lewis-Norelle, 10th grade student at the Madison Country Day School:

“I liked ‘Parable of the Talents’ and ‘Parable of the Sower,’ a two-book story. It’s science fiction about a woman of the future. Colonies of people live in gated communities. Her mother took drugs when she was pregnant with her, so she feels pain or other emotions when others feel it. She leaves and colony and starts a community and a new religion.”

Heather Johnson, a retired teacher, she now does volunteer tutoring with the Literacy Network:

“I was fascinated by ‘The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks’ by Rebecca Skloot. I am a member of a book club, and someone chose that book. The story started in the late 1940s, but it spoke directly to cell research and medical ethics and patients’ rights to know — very current issues. It also dealt with research being done using people — in this case black people — without their consent. They just passed her cells around like fruit from a tree, and didn’t tell her family.”

Mo Cleland, professor of biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison:

“Stieg Larsson’s trilogy is really spectacular: ‘The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo,’ ‘The Girl Who Played with Fire’ and ‘The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet’s Nest.’ The characters are so beautifully drawn and the plots are just great. The court scene in the third book is an absolute classic.”

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SCHOOL

Local schools get federal grants for fresh food

By Anita Weier
Northside News

Lindbergh and Lake View elementary schools have received grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide fresh fruit and vegetable snacks during the school day.

“We will serve the snacks on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays,” said Cece McCaig, a Title I reading

teacher at Lindbergh. “This will promote healthy eating.”

Lake View received \$13,704 and Lindbergh’s grant was \$12,344.

The state Department of Public Instruction awarded the grants.

“Healthier students have fewer absences, and that keeps them in school and on track to graduate with the knowledge and skills needed for success in the

workplace,” State Superintendent Tony Evers said in a written statement.

Wisconsin joined the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program in 2006 with 25 participating schools. For this year’s competitive grant, 104 schools in the state were selected, based on the percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price school meals as part of the National School Lunch and School

Breakfast programs.

The schools will receive about \$54 per student to purchase fresh produce to be served to all students. Typically, snack time is paired with nutrition education, silent reading or another compatible activity.

Other Madison elementary schools receiving grants are Falk, Glendale, Leopold, Lincoln, Schenk and Sandburg.



Spread the word to end the word

A youth rally was held at Black Hawk Middle School on Sept. 24 to celebrate EKS Day in honor of Eunice Kennedy Shriver’s life and to make a global call for people to commit actions of inclusion, acceptance and unity for and with individuals with cognitive disabilities. Students are signing the “Spread the word to end the word” campaign banner, pledging that they will not say the “R-word” in honor of EKS Day.

East High math department shares news and community volunteer opportunities

By Cynthia Chin

Welcome to Sarah Lee, who joins our department from LaFollette High School this year, teaching Integrated Math 2 and 3. Emily Grant continues on family leave this fall. We also celebrate the return of Wendy Callaway to “active duty” as a team teacher in our department; her past experience and commitment to student success in Algebra 1 are very much appreciated. Amy Clements takes her expertise in curriculum planning and delivery to a district-level assignment this year. We wish her the best and would like to express our sincere gratitude for her never-failing commitment to giving East math students the most effective and positive learning experience possible at all times.

Financial literacy

Oct. 2–9 is “Money Smart Wisconsin” week. We encourage you to visit www.moneysmartwi.org to find lists of state-

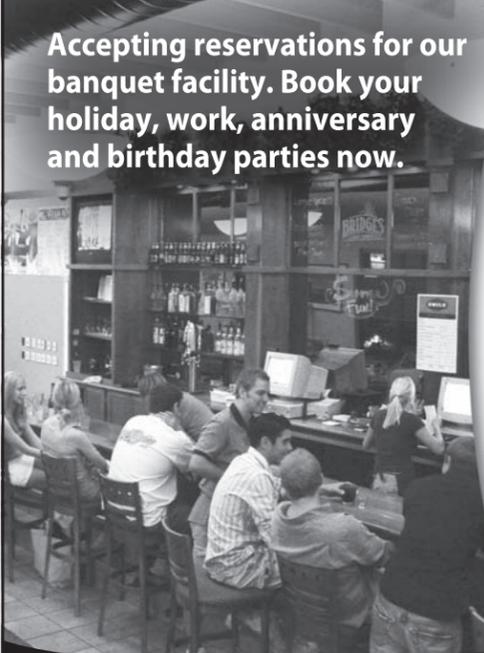
wide education activities and links to on-line resources. For some teen-friendly interactive materials, go to www.pbs.org/your-life-your-money/index.php

Thank you

The math department gratefully acknowledges the donation of a pair of graphing calculators by Westport residents Jim and Pat S. These gifts will go directly to students who might not otherwise be able to own this valuable tool. A “Pay it Forward” calculator contribution from East side neighbors Meg. G and Don B. also play an important part in our service to students.

Community Volunteer Opportunities

Community members interested in volunteering at the school are reminded that current opportunities are listed on-line at www.volunteeryourtime.org. Select “Find an Opportunity” and enter keywords “Madison East High School.”



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ELECTED OFFICIALS

From
SATYA RHODES-CONWAY



DISTRICT 12 ALDERPERSON

It's amazing how the summer flies by. Hopefully that means construction season will be wrapping up soon, too. The one block of Sherman Avenue under construction this year should be done by mid-October. Here's a heads up on construction for next year: STH 113 — Pennsylvania Avenue and Packers Avenue — will be resurfaced next year. Please visit my website at www.cityofmadison.com/council/district12/initiatives.cfm to see a presentation and maps of the proposed project. Also coming soon will be work on the High Speed Rail station and corridor. It's possible that some of the track in District 12 will be impacted, as the maintenance facility might be in the rail yard behind Pennsylvania Avenue. Your best source of information on that is www.dot.state.wi.us/projects/d1/hsrail/index.htm.

School is back in session, and I encourage you to get involved with your neighborhood school, even if you don't have kids. They could always use a few volunteers! As could our local food pantries. If you have a few too many zucchini (or anything else) in your garden, why not donate them to a pantry?

There are a number of things going on downtown this fall. Of course, the budget is being discussed. The City Council will also be discussing Overture Center, so please share your thoughts on that with me. Should we buy the building? Run the programming? Or outsource one or both functions?

And if that's not enough input opportunity for you, the Economic Development Committee is discussing the development process, including the role of neighborhoods and neighborhood plans. We're writing a new cultural plan and a new sustainability plan. We're trying to come up with edible landscapes policies ... and many more things. Please let me know your thoughts on any and all city-related things. You can find me at 242-4426 or district12@cityofmadison.com.

From
MICHAEL SCHUMACHER



DISTRICT 18 ALDERPERSON

The City of Madison is kicking off a new program to encourage Madison residents to manage leaves on their property. The program, called Leave the Leaf, is designed to reduce phosphorus runoff from leaves, improve the quality of area soil and lawns, and reduce the need for more leaf collection trucks and staff.

The old attitude towards leaves was that once they fell they created lawn litter and had to be removed. These days we recognize it is time to view leaves as an asset that can be used to improve your lawn and reduce the use of chemical fertilizers. Leaves also make great mulch, garden cover or rich compost.

Fall leaves add great beauty to our surroundings in Madison. Unfortunately, they also contribute a large volume of material that we have to collect and haul to the compost sites. The same leaves that add color to neighborhoods in fall also add color to our lakes in the summer — and that's a problem.

When you pile your leaves at the curb for city collection each fall, those leaf piles are exposed to rain which seeps through the piles, making a rich nutrient tea that flows along the curb into storm drains and then to the lakes. Those nutrients are a significant contributor to the algae that turns our lakes into a green smelly mess in the summer.

We know that many Madison homes produce too many leaves to be composted or mulched on site. But, any amount of leaves that you can handle at home will benefit the environment and help save tax dollars. Here are a few ways you can handle leaves on your property: mulch leaves on your lawn, make leaf compost, make leaf mulch and make leaf mold. To learn more, go to www.cityofmadison.com/streets/LeaveTheLeaf.



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A Conversation with ... Northside Alders & North District Police Captain
October 13 • 6 pm-8 pm
Warner Park Community Recreation Center
Please plan to attend, all are welcome!
Come meet and share thoughts with:
District 12 Alder Satya Rhodes-Conway, District 18 Alder Michael Schumacher, and North District Captain of Police, Cameron S. McLay
Other topics of interest ...
UW-Madison Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) students will present their community-based research findings for improving opportunities for Brentwood neighborhood area youth.

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ELECTED OFFICIALS

From
**PAUL
RUSK**



DISTRICT 12 SUPERVISOR

Budget Listening Session.

Supervisor Melissa Sargent and I will be at the Lakeview Branch Library on Wednesday, Oct. 13 to hear from you on budget matters. The morning session is 10–11 am and the evening session is 6–7 pm. If you can't come and would like to offer an opinion, please contact me.

2011 budget

In general, the situation is dismal with economists saying this is the worst recession since the Great Depression. Although there are signs the economy is improving, it is clear that maintaining the services people depend upon while controlling property tax increases will be exceedingly difficult. Keep in mind that only about 25 percent of the county's spending comes from property taxes with the

rest coming from state, federal, fees and sales tax revenue, all of which are in poor shape. Much of our spending is mandated.

We have discretionary human service spending, but we don't want even longer waiting lists, especially for those with mental illnesses, frail elderly and children. Public safety remains our top priority so normally there would be no reductions in the Sheriff's Office, but a recent study recommends reductions. Making difficult choices that do not make problems worse for future taxpayers is key.

Radio interoperability.

As chair of Public Protection and Judiciary I have been working hard to help develop a new public safety communications system that complies with federal mandates while improving our current system. We have an urban core surrounded by rural areas with lots of hills and valleys. The 2013 deadline is near, requiring a great deal of county-wide negotiation to come to agreement.

Please feel free to contact me at rusk@co.dane.wi.us or 249-9667.

From
**MELISSA
SARGENT**



DISTRICT 18 SUPERVISOR

Fall in Madison is a lovely time of the year — humidity lessens, LakeView Hill and Cherokee Marsh welcome us with their fall colors, and the pesky mosquitoes wane. Fall also marks the annual budget process for Dane County. This is a long and complex process with many serious decisions to be made. The county departments submitted their proposed budgets to the County Board and county executive at the end of August and this was followed by many hours of public hearings that I attended in September.

The county executive will release her budget proposal in early October for review by the County Board followed by another round of public hearings and much committee discussion.

The full board will continue to work hard through the month of November to finalize and vote on the final 2011 bud-

get for Dane County. During these tough economic times preparing a sound and balanced budget is very important.

Having open communications with the residents of the 18th supervisory district is also very important to me as I know that it is my job to represent each of you and our Northside values on the Dane County Board. We must work together for the best of our neighborhood and Dane County.

Supervisor Paul Rusk and I have arranged for the following joint listening sessions at the Lakeview Public Library. Your opinions and ideas are very important to both us.

Please join us at one of these times:

Wednesday, Oct. 13 10–11 am
Lakeview Branch Library

Wednesday, Oct. 13 6–7 pm
Lakeview Branch Library

If neither of these times work well for you, please contact me with your thoughts, concerns or ideas at either 608.220.2273 or sargent@co.dane.wi.us.

I'm also on Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Melissa-Sargent-Dane-County-Supervisor-District-18.

From
**KATHLEEN M.
FALK**



DANE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Slowing the scourge of alcohol abuse

After watching too many families torn apart and needlessly suffering because of alcohol abuse, two years ago this fall I embarked upon a new, aggressive countywide campaign to counter the many scourges excessive drinking causes our families and communities.

With your help, we expanded the county's "Pathfinders" program that rehabilitates alcohol offenders and helps them find housing and work. We launched a brand new program in our middle schools to help prevent the next generation from starting drinking in the first place and created a first-of-its-kind county coalition to spearhead needed change with a culture that's far too accepting of drinking just to get drunk.

While we've made much progress with those efforts, there's still much work to do.

I was reminded of that during a recent visit I made to a facility known as "Detox." The center run by Tellurian and funded in part by the county is the place

where those who have had many more than one too many, go to sober up.

On a Badger football Saturday, Detox is often full long before the sun goes down. Police cars pull in and drop off drunks who will spend their next 12 hours drying out.

Most law enforcement officials report the vast majority of the calls they respond to after 8 pm, somehow involve alcohol. That probably helps explain why half the sentenced inmates in the Dane County jail on any given day are there for alcohol related criminal offenses. Alcohol abuse costs taxpayers -- the sheriff's department and jail cost over \$60 million a year to operate.

To continue the progress we've made, we're doing more. The Dane County Coalition to Reduce Alcohol Abuse has launched a new tool to help people assess whether those "few drinks" after work each night may be indicative of a bigger problem.

The "eCheckup to Go" helps people learn about their alcohol tolerance and identify personal and family risk factors and strategies to get help before drinking problems escalate.

This new assessment is available at: www.countyofdane.com/commissions/alcohol.

From
**DAVE
CIESLEWICZ**



MAYOR OF MADISON

Reviewing our process

This past spring, I asked the city's Economic Development Division to start on a review of our development process.

To start that process, the city's Economic Development Commission is collecting thoughts from all parts of our community, and I've asked them to vet those ideas with the goal of issuing a report sometime this fall.

I'm open to any recommendations they might have. As I've said before, my goal is not to weaken our standards but to arrive at a process that is transparent, democratic, businesslike, predictable and expeditious.

I have not directly proposed any changes myself, but I hope this process will spur discussion and ideas that we can consider. And I hope that neighborhoods will continue to add to that discus-

sion. Some groups have already started meeting to discuss their ideas, and that's a good thing. I'm hoping what comes out of these meetings are ideas that neighborhood groups can bring to the Economic Development Commission, along with business, labor and other stakeholders.

Our goal should not be to lower our standards for development or to detract from robust participation in the process. I do not want just anything to go up just anywhere or to squash the dialogue between developers and neighborhoods.

But I do want us to earn a reputation as a community that is businesslike in its approach, predictable in its outcomes and expeditious in its decision-making. I want us to be thought of as a dynamic and progressive city that embraces investment and welcomes bold plans but also sets high standards for the projects that get built here.

I am happy that few people now say that our system can't be improved but instead they want their voice heard on how to improve it. Our job is to make sure that everybody who has thoughts on the subject gets their ideas fairly considered.

All Northsiders! Nominate some individual, group, church or business for recognition at the November 5 North Star Awards. See page 3 for details.

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