

NORTHSIDE NEWS

Vol. 21, No. 5, Issue 125

www.NorthsideMadison.org

April / May 2016

Neighbors weigh in on “Willy North”

By the Northside News

With Pierce’s Northside Market closing early this summer, the announcement that Willy Street Co-op is investigating a third site at Northside TownCenter has stirred both tremendous excitement and some concern.

As of the March 1 publication date of the Willy Street Reader, Willy Street Co-op had already responded to 307 comments and inquiries about a Northside location, with 278 (91%) entirely supportive, only two responses opposing the location, and the remaining including pros and cons or other suggestions. But what do Northside neighbors want to see in a new grocery



Packer resident and staff David Montgomery.

store? We asked residents and staff of the Packer Townhouses and members of the Sherman Neighborhood Association.

Packer program director Jacki Thomas shared resident reactions she’s heard to the potential new grocer. “Usually people’s first response is, ‘Why isn’t it Aldi?’ and they are worried about cost, yes. But then the conversation starts, ‘Have you tried to buy produce at Aldi?’ And once they hear from people who have more experience at



Photo provided by Dawn Scott-Papke

The March 7 Sherman Neighborhood Association meeting, facilitated by Dawn Scott-Papke, where participants brainstormed ideas for a new grocery store.

store? We asked residents and staff of the Packer Townhouses and members of the Sherman Neighborhood Association.

Packer program director Jacki Thomas shared resident reactions she’s heard to the potential new grocer. “Usually people’s first response is, ‘Why isn’t it Aldi?’ and they are worried about cost, yes. But then the conversation starts, ‘Have you tried to buy produce at Aldi?’ And once they hear from people who have more experience at

Willy Street, then it seems to dissipate.”

To address that concern, Packer conducted its own price comparison to assess affordability. “Except for some speciality items, like cheeses or some gluten-free, vegan bakery goods, prices were overall lower, especially in the bulk items, if they were bought at Willy Street. Where they could make direct product comparisons, Willy Street was cheaper than Pierce’s.”

Willy Street continued on page 10

Tragedy on Northside underscores devastating toll of domestic violence

By the Northside News and Domestic Abuse Intervention Services

Community members gathered Saturday, Feb. 27, for a candlelight vigil and remembrance in honor of Christina Hatcher. Three days earlier Hatcher had been found dead in her Calypso Road apartment in what appears to be a case of domestic homicide. Her live-in boyfriend is in custody as the primary suspect in the case.

While Hatcher had lived in the Brentwood neighborhood only three weeks, her death had a profound impact on the families in the community, who came together to reflect on the impact of domestic violence and the tragic end of a young mother’s life. Hatcher leaves behind two daughters, ages 5 and 3.

As new community-building efforts are initiated in Brentwood, neighborhood leaders hope to strengthen trust and open lines of communication between apartment residents, homeowners, landlords, police and other agencies. While not all tragedies can be avoided, the neighborhood hopes that a stronger safety net

Domestic continued on page 8

Northside TownCenter celebrates 50 years

By Doug Moe

This is the story of a how a dairy farm became a shopping plaza, and the shopping plaza a town center, in the process energizing a neighborhood, while staying all in the family.

It’s a story that crosses three centuries, but to start let’s consider the last 50 years, because it was in the first few months of 1966 that the Sherman Plaza opened at Northport Drive and Sherman Avenue on Madison’s Northside.

The brothers Richard and Ernie Bruns opened Sherman Plaza with a handful of tenants and a pocketful of dreams. Their grandfather, Ernest Bruns, an immigrant from Germany, was the first to have farmed the land, taking title almost 100 years earlier, in 1867.

Through all the changes, the property stayed in the Bruns family, and it remains in the Bruns family. The Northside TownCenter — the name was changed from



Northside TownCenter: Dave and Don Bruns hold a photo of the original Bruns farmhouse. Photo by Greg Anderson

Sherman Plaza in 2005 — is now operated by Richard’s son, Dave Bruns, and Ernie’s son, Don Bruns.

This year’s 50th anniversary of the Sherman Plaza opening is cause for both reminiscing — two of the original tenants, Sherman Plaza Hairstyling and the Lakeview Public Library, are still there — and looking forward to what the next 50 years might bring. Dave and Don Bruns have always shared a passion and vision for the Northside that’s reflected in the tenants

NSTC continued on page 12

UPCOMING EVENTS



COUNTY BOARD CANDIDATES FORUM
March 29 • 6:30 pm
Warner Park Community Recreation Center



SPRING ELECTION
Tuesday, April 5
Have your ID ready
For details, see page 9.



FEED SPRING BAZAAR
April 30 • 3–6 pm



First Outdoor Northside Farmers Market
May 8 • 8:30–12:30 pm
Northside TownCenter parking lot



SUNDAY SUPPER
May 29 • 4–6 PM
Warner Park Community Recreation Center

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See page 2 for details.

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For more information about enrollment, contact Martee Mikalson at 608-843-0515.

Re-elect

Like you, I value a neighborhood that protects the environment, ensures that everyone feels safe and honors the hard-working people who drive our

economy. Because of who we are, I know we will continue to move our community forward.

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Michele with daughter Priya, husband John, son Josef and Juniper the dog

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NORTHSIDE NEWS

From
**ABHA
THAKKAR**



EDITOR

As time goes on, more and more of my experiences as interim director of the Northside Planning Council (NPC) begin to spill over into my column as editor of the Northside News. I see this as a reflection of the ways in which we're better integrating all of the programs and initiatives of NPC into a unified whole. We'll be sharing more of this vision in the June/July issue with our annual report.

NPC adopted two significant programs in March: the River Bakery Training Program — now the FEED Bakery Training Program — and Healthy Food For All.

The FEED Bakery Training Program is an excellent way to learn skills in a new industry. Get a ServSafe Certificate and a Wisconsin Bakers Certificate, as well as help with job placement, all while helping to run a working production bakery. Operating the Bakery Training Program allows us to truly tailor our job training opportunities to meet the needs of our community, including the possibility of adding a culinary training program down the road. Currently, the program is available free to low-income residents, but we're also considering making some tuition slots available for students who are interested

in developing new career opportunities. Support job training by enjoying FEED Bakery products, available at FEED and a growing number of locations all over town.

Healthy Food For All (HFFA) collects locally produced food from around the region that would otherwise go to waste and repackages it for distribution to food pantries and neighborhood centers. It's on track to process more than 100,000 pounds of food this year. HFFA gets food to the people who need it most, and we see it as an excellent way to round out the mission of the FEED Kitchens.

The Northside News continues to play a critical role in all of this work as the go-to publication for many area businesses and organizations. This issue is packed — we always have to make hard choices about what to include. The Northside is a dynamic place, and every issue of the Northside News reflects the vitality and creativity of our community. As we work to build out our digital presence, we hope to enhance the effectiveness and reach of the Northside News even further.

Finally, we'll have some exciting new initiatives to announce as we look to getting more deeply involved in community organizing again. We see organizing and economic development as our two key strategies moving forward, and we're working to make sure the two complement each other in ways that more effectively foster equity for all members of our community.

Join us and be part of this fascinating, ground-breaking work!

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NORTHSIDE NEWS

www.northsidenews.org

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Contribution Deadline: Monday, May 2

Distribution Dates: May 26–30

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NORTHSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL

From

LISA WIESE



NPC BOARD CHAIR

If I had to choose a word to describe serving on the board of directors of the Northside Planning Council, it would be “fluid.”

Since the last issue of the Northside News came out, we’ve had two outgoing and four incoming board members. In February, the NPC’s longest serving board member, Nikki Sanders, resigned. As board chair, she guided NPC in a successful transition to a new board of directors. Terrie Anderson, herself a former NPC chair, has stepped down from the board to focus her efforts on initiatives happening at the FEED Kitchens. And new to the board in February, we have Christine McFadzen, Kyle Sydow, Renee Walk and David Wilder.

Since I rejoined the board of directors last June, NPC has been a fluid landscape in which to work. We’ve put countless vol-

unteer hours into FEED Kitchens to ensure its success as a key ingredient to a stable local food system. We’ve brought Healthy Food For All under our umbrella, channeling good food that is currently going to waste into the hands of our hungry neighbors instead of into a dumpster. We’ve adopted the bakery training program founded by The River Food Pantry that lays a path to a living wage job as a baker and possibly, in the future, other culinary-based careers. We have fostered relationships among the Willy Street Co-op, Pierce’s Northside Market and the Northside Town-Center, with the goal of the Willy Street Co-op becoming our neighborhood grocer when Pierce’s Northside Market leaves us, to prevent the neighborhood stress of once again becoming a food desert. And we’ll be launching the Northside Community Coalition this coming year, reconvening the gathering of representatives from different neighborhoods, nonprofits, schools, businesses and churches, to serve as a clearinghouse of information and a base of collective action in our community.

No doubt we’ve had a fluid and expanding program and volunteer base. As community leaders step up to fill vacancies, all board members past and present have lent their expertise and time to our initiatives, collectively leading us to where we are today. We have been on a 23-year journey of organizing our community, creating community resources, and now operating many of those resources on behalf of the community. While I find it disorienting to be the longest currently serving member of the NPC board, I also know we have a capable and energized board ready to lead NPC in its ever evolving role on the Northside.

Sunday Supper with a Mexican flair

By Dale Matthews

The Northside Planning Council (NPC) has been sponsoring the Northside Sunday Suppers for five years now. Suppers are held on the last Sunday in months that have five Sundays. Come check us out.

We put on this event with the help of Warner Park Community Recreation Center (WPCRC), Northside Farmers Market, Boomerangs Resale Store, Madison School Community Recreation (MSCR) and FEED Kitchens. The supper is always free, but donations are appreciated.

Our next Sunday Supper is May 29, 4–6 pm, at WPCRC. Our menu will consist of Mexican comfort food:

taco salad, tacos, tamales and Mexican desserts.

This is an informal get-together where neighbors and friends meet, eat, and get to know each other. There is no agenda, just good food, good fun and good people. We are always looking for volunteers, so if you can help, please email Dale Matthews at chopsmilo@yahoo.com or call 217-9631.

Future Sunday Suppers will be held July 31 at the Warner Park Rainbow Shelter, and Oct. 30 at WPCRC. Check www.northsidemadison.org for updates.



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County Board Candidates Forum

**Tuesday, March 29
6:30 pm • WPCRC***

*Warner Park Community Recreation Center
(Northport Dr. & N. Sherman Ave.)

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NORTHSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL

Ishmael White thanks FEED for his bright future

By Sheri Gasser
Northside News



Ishmael White

"If it wasn't for FEED, I don't know where I would be," said Ishmael White during our interview. I was inspired by his passion, his love for what he does, and his motivation to learn and further develop his skills. Although he was recovering from the flu when we spoke, it didn't seem to slow him down. He is someone with boundless energy, and I could tell it was a struggle for him to sit down with me for an hour. Following our interview, anxious to get back to work, he quickly resumed his daily tasks, blending back into the scene with the people and place that changed his life.

Unemployed and with a conviction record, White was first introduced to the FEED Kitchens through the Madison-Area Urban Ministry (MUM) Just Bakery program. The Just Bakery is a three-month program that combines classroom learning and hands-on kitchen training, with the goal of teaching life skills and opening doors to careers in bakery production. White began the program last March. He recalled how challenging it was for him at first and the patience of the instructors. Program Coordinator Carmella Glenn and FEED bakery instructor Jim McLaughlin were aware that White is bipolar and worked with him

to get past this potential barrier. Regarding McLaughlin, White said, "He taught me a lot of things. He told me to quit saying 'I can't' and 'I'm trying' and just do it. I tried it his way and it really worked."

After completing the Just Bakery program, White volunteered at FEED for three months until he was officially hired as a part-time baker and custodian. "I was thrilled," White said. He described FEED Kitchens Manager Adam Haen as his inspiration. White said his whole world has changed, and he is now optimistic about his future in his chosen career path.

Jack-of-all-trades might be a better description of the various tasks White handles at FEED. In addition to baking, White is responsible for keeping five separate industrial kitchens clean and the equipment running. There's a big difference between home kitchens and industrial kitchens. Not only is the scale of the equipment much larger, but food preparation practices are much more stringent when cooking food for public consumption.

At FEED, food safety is a priority. Users must go through training in order to use the



Ishmael White packing up cookies for sale.

Photos by Adam Haen

work on his bike in the dark. FEED operates 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week, so working there requires flexibility in one's schedule.

Despite some early mornings, White stressed that FEED is a great place to work. He enjoys learning from his co-workers and interacting with the people who use the facility. He stays busy and there's always something to do. He said everyone who comes to FEED comes in with a smile. And yes, he does get to sample some of the food that's prepared there. According to White, "You have to enjoy what you're doing; you have to love what you do; you have to put love into your food."

White said his love of baking came from his grandmother. He remembered her always baking when he was a child, and her upside-down pineapple coconut cake was his favorite. He recalled sitting in her kitchen, watching as she prepared the cake, and waiting for his chance to lick the spoon. "My love for the kitchen was always there but I wasn't putting it into use. Some things come late, but better late than never," he said.

White especially enjoys baking croissants. He went over the process with me beginning with making the Danish, rolling the dough, setting the dough, rolling it again, cutting, weighing, making the design and twist-tying, giving an egg wash, proofing, adding a topping, and then baking. The result is delicious but the task is complicated, so perhaps it's best left to bakers like White.

In his spare time, White enjoys reading, watching movies and raising goldfish. His dream is to one day open a bakery or food cart, and he already has a name picked out: Ishmael's Sweet Shop. Now that would be really sweet!



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The River Bakery is now the FEED Bakery

By The River Food Pantry Board

From its inception in November 2013, The River Bakery has provided job training at FEED Kitchens in commercial baking to The River Food Pantry clients to help them become self-sufficient. However, The River Food Pantry Board has determined that continuing to run the bakery training program is not in our best financial interests and is refocusing on our core mission of feeding the hungry. We continue to celebrate the 18 trainees who completed the training program and subsequently secured employment. Their

individual stories represent far more than the financial impact.

Although we are sad to see The River Bakery go, we are excited that its mission will live on under different ownership. The Northside Planning Council will take over operation of the bakery and training program through the FEED Kitchens and will continue helping those unemployed in our community gain the experience and skills to secure employment and earn a living wage.

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CANDIDATES FORUM

Learn more about your candidates for County Board

Read the candidates' answers to the following questions:

1. Aside from campaigning or serving in elected office, what other organizations or projects are you involved with in the district?
2. What can be done to draw more businesses to the district and what role can the county play in that?
3. What are the district's best assets and how do we enhance them?



Adam Tobias
Candidate District 18 Supervisor

1. I am not involved with any organizations or projects specifically within the 18th District, but I have volunteered as a coach in youth sports leagues throughout Madison.

2. Addressing the loss of businesses and jobs on the Northside is one of the most important issues facing our community. Unfortunately, our elected officials in the 18th District have been turning a blind eye to these problems.

If elected, I would immediately call for a task force to examine the county's taxing structure, business regulations and incentive packages to see how we can be more accommodating and attract additional commerce to the Northside.

I also want to look at the feasibility of working with a private entity to construct a hotel near the Dane County Regional Airport. In addition to generating tax revenue or rental payments, a hotel will keep visitors on our end of the city, which will improve activity at our local businesses.

We should also explore building an aerospace or high-tech incubator park at the airport or Oscar Mayer property. For example, an aerospace park in the small West Virginia city of Bridgeport produces an annual economic impact of more than \$1 billion.

Lastly, I will work with local elected officials and chambers of commerce to actively recruit businesses to come to the Northside.

3. I believe our district's best assets are the Dane County Regional Airport, Cherokee Lake/Marsh and the Madison Mallards baseball stadium.

As I already mentioned, we could be doing so much more to take advantage of the guests that come to our city because of the airport. A hotel would keep those visitors on the Northside and create more foot traffic at our businesses. An aerospace or high-tech incubator park would also be crucial in bringing businesses and jobs to our community.

We also need to do more in promoting one of Madison's greatest natural resources: the Cherokee Lake/Marsh. As someone who was born and raised on the other side of the city, I didn't know much about this great waterway until we moved to the Northside. Now my family and I visit there regularly. In addition to more detailed promotions, the county could operate a canoe/kayak rental program so more families can enjoy this amenity.

The Madison Mallards stadium already attracts a lot of people to our area, but that only occurs about 35 times a year. We should be holding youth tournaments and other activities there on the days the Mallards are not playing.



Michele Ritt
Candidate District 18 Supervisor

1. As a special education teacher, a former Peace Corps Volunteer, an environmental conservationist and a parent, I am an active member of my community, working with several groups that affect residents of the Northside. I am a member of Friends of Cherokee Marsh and the North Lake Mendota Neighborhood Association. I serve as assistant director of Camp Hozhoni, a camp for children with cancer that is open to all children in Wisconsin. I also work with Santas Without Chimneys, providing holiday cheer to area children experiencing homelessness, and Stone Soup Squad, delivering food and supplies to people who are homeless.

2. In order to draw more businesses to the Northside, we need to make sure we have the infrastructure in place that businesses need. We need to work collaboratively with business owners, neighbors and other elected officials in the area to address the issue together. The Northside Planning Council is a vital partner in promoting economic growth in this area. The FEED (Food Enterprise and Economic Development) Kitchens is an excellent example of innovation

on the Northside. FEED provides space for individuals and food businesses to prepare their products, without the barrier of building and financing their own commercial kitchens. Space is also available for food service training, providing essential vocational skills to neighbors seeking employment in the food industry. The Northside is also home to the Dane County Regional Airport, which is a major employer in the area. I look forward to continued work with the Public Works and Transportation Committee in discussions about a potential hotel and restaurant at the airport. These amenities would bring more jobs as well as visitors to the lovely Northside.

3. Certainly the best asset of District 18 is the people who call it home. We are diverse and hard-working. We value our neighbors and community. We care about each other and our neighborhoods. Also, the Northside is incredibly beautiful, rich with natural resources and green space. We enhance these resources by protecting them. One of the most important environmental challenges we face is water quality. Warmer lake temperatures, erratic weather, an influx of phosphorous, run-off and invasive species all threaten the waters that define our area. Our quality of life is connected to our ability to enjoy the lakes and wetlands that shape our area. Green space is vital to our health and recreation. I am a strong proponent of investing in the stewardship of Lake View Hill Park, Warner Park and Cherokee Marsh. I am a strong supporter of our neighborhood parks and natural county lands.



Paul Rusk
Candidate District 12 Supervisor

1. My effectiveness as a county board supervisor is greatly enhanced by being active in my diverse district, one that now stretches to the East Towne Mall. I regularly go to Sunday suppers, neighborhood association meetings, farmer's markets, Wild Warner programs, Maple Bluff's caucus and bocce fundraiser, and NPC's annual awards event. I've attended recent listening sessions involving the future of the Oscar Mayer property and Warner Park lagoon. I'm always available to assist anyone with local government issues. I try to use my experience strategically, for example, in helping our neighborhood associations with their many challenges involving land use decisions.

2. One of the Northside's biggest economic development challenges is the future of the massive Oscar Mayer property, and what can be done to further revitalize our two shopping centers. It's my hope that we can maximize the creation of good jobs at the Mayer site by taking advantage of existing resources. I believe we can enhance some of the wetlands on the adjoining Hartmeyer site to help overall water quality and lessen possible flooding. Our business opportunities are numerous. A vibrant Dane County Airport that still has developable land, Madison College's outstanding and ever-growing educational opportunities for a highly trained workforce, Dane County's Job Center for advising job seekers, and the upcoming Madison Public Market with possible linkages to the FEED Kitchens and other food and agricultural possibilities. The Madison Region Economic Partnership, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, local government and the Northside's Economic Development Coalition all have roles to play. Utilizing infill sites for urban services is especially important for protecting our productive farmland from development. Dane County's UW Extension and Better Urban Infill Development (BUILD) can enhance economic development on the Northside. Creatively using Tax Incremental Financing districts broadly is an important component in building local economic development.

3. The Northside has many important assets. Greater promotion and usage of green space for recreational activities reduces stress and enhances quality of life. We are fortunate to have an abundance of beautiful parkland with close proximity to Lake Mendota, including Warner Park and Cherokee Marsh, and dozens of smaller parks. We have a variety of housing options available including choices for first time homeowners. Midsized and larger homes are often more affordable on the Northside, requiring less property tax. Some apartment rents can be more affordable than other parts of the city, benefiting seniors and others with modest incomes. Our neighborhood schools, with dedicated and caring teachers, surround us. With four neighborhood centers and a stunning Warner Park Community Recreation Center, we are the envy of many neighborhoods. Being close to Madison's downtown makes it possible for many to rely on public transportation. Our two shopping centers could use additional options, but they provide easy access to many of the products and services we need. I have enjoyed living in four different locations on Madison's Northside since I was a UW-Madison student and would highly recommend it as an outstanding place to enjoy all that Madison has to offer.

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COMMUNITY

Northside Farmers Market outdoor season is coming soon

By Rita Jones

Northside Farmers Market

The Northside Farmers Market is looking forward to the start of our 12th season. The dates are Sundays, 8:30 am–12:30 pm, May 8–Oct. 23, at the Northside TownCenter, 2817 N. Sherman Ave., across from Warner Park. We are eager to reconnect with returning vendors, volunteers and customers and to meet new ones. Buy locally grown and produced food in season, listen to music and participate in community.

Here are some of the highlights planned for this season.

Opening Day, May 8: Tree House Jam provides music starting at 9 am; the traditional opening day piñata breaking for children at 10:30 am. We will again offer a small gift on Mother’s Day. Moms can

come to the information booth and request a flower that can be planted in your garden to enjoy all summer.

Let’s Eat Out Madison: In addition to welcoming back Tamale-ria el Poblano’s tacos and tamales and Fresh Cool Drinks spring rolls and smoothies, we will also be partnering with Let’s Eat Out Madison to have various food carts join us throughout the season.

Events/Music/Yoga: More events are in the planning stage. Dane County Timebank Plant Exchange is May 22. We are currently



Photo by Rita Jones

Seedlings will appear at the first outdoor farmers market.

working to fill our calendar with musicians at the market. Blue Soul Yoga will return to offer early morning yoga classes; dates

and times will be announced at a later date. Watch our Facebook, Instagram and website pages listed at the end of this article.

Volunteers: We are always seeking volunteers for setup and take down, and to staff the information booth. We also have opportunities to help with events, music programming, volunteer coordination, public relations/advertising, website and more. Contact Nahrissa Rush volunteers@northsidefarmersmarket.org.

Find Us Online: For vendor listings, events, news and our new vendor profile series, go to our website (www.northsidefarmersmarket.org) and sign up for our newsletter; like our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/MadisonNFM); or follow us on Instagram for contests (www.instagram.com/madnfm).

Margaret’s Fund seeks applicants for 2016 scholarship

By Alyssa Kenney

Margaret’s Fund

Margaret’s Fund: A Northside Scholarship is accepting applications for its 2016-17 school year award. Any Northside resident who is an adult returning to post-secondary school after an interruption in education is invited to apply.

Applicants must be a Northside resi-

dent and be accepted into a degree or certificate-seeking program for the 2016-17 academic year. Preference will be given to applicants who actively participate or volunteer in Northside organizations and have overcome substantial obstacles or challenges to success.

Obtain the application and full guidelines at <http://northsidemadison.org/margarets-fund-scholarship>.

The application postmark deadline is Monday, June 6.

Margaret’s Fund was established in 2007 to support residents of Northside Madison neighborhoods who are pursuing higher education. The award goes to a graduating high school senior in odd-numbered years and to a returning adult in even-numbered years.

College is expensive in many ways beyond tuition and books, the two areas covered by most scholarships. Because Margaret’s Fund is unrestricted, the recipient can use the award to pay for some of the often forgotten extra costs of college, such as child care, computers,

transportation, supplies or special fees. The scholarship award is \$500.

Since 2009, Margaret’s Fund has awarded seven scholarships: 2009 Tara Hoffman, 2010 Nicole Tackes, 2011 Stacey Yang, 2012 Omobolanle Kikelomo Olumbi, 2013 Chekwube Obieze, 2014 Melissa Marie Alexander, 2015 Aminata Bojang.

Margaret’s Fund is professionally managed by the Madison Community Foundation. Donations are tax deductible and very much appreciated.

Questions about Margaret’s Fund: A Northside Scholarship can be directed to Alyssa Kenney at 213-7917 and ackenny@yahoo.com or Anne Pryor at 244-7099.

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FOR INFORMATION ABOUT VENDORS, MUSIC, YOGA, EVENTS AND CONTESTS SEE:

www.facebook.com/MadisonNFM www.instagram.com/madnfm
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COMMUNITY

■ WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?

Lake View Hill water tower update

By Diane Walder
Northside News

What's all that eerie clanging noise reverberating through Lake View Hill? Yes, it's the construction of the new high capacity water tower. While it's been only two years since public meetings were held to discuss this \$5.2 million project (it's probably seemed like an eternity for residents within earshot of the hill being subjected to all that clanging), its construction has been free of delay and is right on schedule.

If you haven't been paying attention, you've missed a wonderful display of the tower's changing appearance which, at a distance, first looked like a nuclear reactor, then a medieval castle tower, and then a gigantic toilet paper tube. Close up, it's just a very large cylindrical, albeit complex, cistern.

According to Madison Water Utility spokesperson Amy Barrilleaux, the tower houses two inside tanks — a 1 million gal-

lon lower tank and a 300,000 gallon upper tank, with 40 feet of air between the two. The separate tanks serve two zones — one immediately around the tower and one that serves much of the northeast side. Pressure zones are like miniature water systems within the city's larger system. "Madison's water system is divided into 10 pressure zones based primarily on elevation to maintain an even hydraulic pressure. This tower is only one of a handful in the Midwest that serves more than one pressure zone," explained Barrilleaux.

"The lower tank is finished," said Barrilleaux. "All this work has been on-site and is likely the source of some of that clanging noise you've been hearing," she said.

Construction of the 60-foot diameter bottom plate for the upper tank has begun. It, too, is built on the ground and then lifted into place. The 10-foot side walls will then be installed, the roof constructed on the ground, and then the last — and most

exciting — part will be the domed roof lifted by a crane and placed on the upper tank shell. And voila! It's finished. The noise stops and the tower gets a paint job, beginning in May.

The paint is specifically made for steel water reservoirs and helps prevent corrosion. The color, chosen through the Citizen Advisory process, is named "Constellation Old Linen" and is an unobtrusive shade of tan that is expected to blend in with the natural surroundings.

Barrilleaux suggests that anyone interested in witnessing the spectacle of the gargantuan cap lifted and placed by the crane on the top of the tower should subscribe to the project email list at www.MadisonWater.org. An email will be posted as soon as a date is chosen. "No one will be allowed into the construction site itself to view, but you should be able to see it happening from just about anywhere in the area," said Barrilleaux.

Check it out.



Photo courtesy of Madison Water Utility

Photo entitled Water Tower: The Lake View water tower shell on Jan. 16, 2016

Domestic continued from page 1

could make a difference in the future.

Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS), located on the Northside since 2014, shared the following statement in the days following Hatcher's death:

[This recent] homicide provides a devastating picture of the magnitude of domestic violence. In 2014, Wisconsin experienced 43 domestic violence related homicides. To mourn the death of this young woman, DAIS will illuminate a Remembrance Lantern in the front win-

dow of its Fordem Avenue facility.

Each year, a third of all referrals to the Dane County District Attorney's office from law enforcement agencies are domestic violence related. DAIS estimates that there are 12,000 incidents of domestic violence in Dane County annually, affecting at least 33 Dane County residents every day.

Domestic violence is grossly prevalent in our society as one in four women and one in seven men will be a victim of domestic violence in her or his lifetime. Nationally, girls and women between the

ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence, almost triple the national average.

"Abuse is often shrouded in secrecy, and victims of domestic violence overcome tremendous fear, shame, and isolation to reach out for help," said DAIS Executive Director Shannon Barry. "It is essential that we, as a society, continue to discuss the issue of domestic violence so that victims know there is help and that they are not alone."

Victims of abuse and their friends and families are encouraged to contact the DAIS

24-hour help line at 251-4445 to learn more about the support and resources available. DAIS provides support for safety planning, information on restraining orders and emergency shelter. Services are also available for non-English speakers.

To speak with a DAIS representative about the prevalence of domestic violence in communities across the country, around the state of Wisconsin and right here in Dane County, please contact DAIS Communications Manager Kaitlyn Gaynor at 338-1045 or kaitlyng@abuseintervention.org.

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— Former Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk

ELECTION DAY: TUESDAY, APRIL 5

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COMMUNITY

Seeking Americorps applicants for 2016-17

By Rebecca Ressi

Vera Court Neighborhood Center

Are you interested in gaining experience working with youth while giving back to the community? AmeriCorps might be the right fit for you. Partners in Afterschool Success (PASS) AmeriCorps members are responsible for serving youth at agencies or school sites throughout Dane County, including Vera Court Neighborhood Center (Vera Court).

The Vera Court PASS AmeriCorps members will provide tutoring and academic support to select students at Blackhawk

and Sherman Middle Schools. During the afternoon and early evening, members will engage youth in a variety of academic and enrichment programs at Vera Court Neighborhood Center. The center's enrichment programs focus on youth empowerment, leadership, healthy lifestyles, life skills and civic engagement.

David Presser, a 2014-15 AmeriCorps member and current youth leadership coordinator, said his AmeriCorps experience was beneficial. "I got to serve the community while doing something fun every day.

It helped me make connections in the youth field in Madison and led to a job."

In addition to agency responsibilities, PASS AmeriCorps members will engage in their own professional development and participate in national and/or local service projects and AmeriCorps events. PASS members are required to complete 1,700 hours of service from Sept. 1, 2016-Aug. 31, 2017. Applications will be accepted starting April 1. Apply for the AmeriCorps PASS position online at <https://danecountyhumanservices.org/pass/default.aspx>.

Help Vera Court raise funds for summer camp

By Rebecca Ressi

Vera Court Neighborhood Center

Summer camp at Vera Court Neighborhood Center provides nutritious meals and free programming for 150 of our community's children. For many of them, summer camp also provides opportunities they would not otherwise have, like learning to swim, doing science experiments with UW-Madison college students, growing their own food, and eating s'mores around a campfire on their first camping trip. Most importantly, they continue learning all summer long with daily reading and math activities.

Join us Thursday, June 16, at 5:30 pm for our summer camp fundraiser, Baseball & BBQ. Your \$15 donation gets you a great dinner, tickets to the Mallard's game, and a fun gathering with friends and neighbors. All proceeds go toward our children and youth programming. Tickets go on sale April 15. Call 246-8372, email general@veracourt.org, or stop by Vera Court Neighborhood Center, 614 Vera Court, to buy tickets or find out more.

Are you ready to vote April 5? Voter ID is now required.

By League of Women Voters of Dane County

If your address has changed since you last voted, you will need to register to vote at your new address. You can register at your municipal clerk's office, with a Special Registration Deputy, or at any Madison Public Library. Beginning 20 days before an election, you can only register at the clerk's office or at the polls on Election Day. Registering early will save time on Election Day. You will need to show proof of residence when you register.

Voters are now required to show a photo ID when voting. You can use a U.S. passport, a Wisconsin driver's license, or a Wisconsin state ID card with an expiration date of Nov. 4, 2014, or later. The Madison City Clerk recently determined that Veterans Affairs unexpired or non-expiring IDs will also be accepted as a photo ID beginning with the April election.

The address on your photo ID does not

have to be current. Out-of-state IDs are not acceptable.

If you don't have a Wisconsin driver's license or ID, you can get a free ID at the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offices at 4802 Sheboygan Ave. or 2001 Bartillon Drive in Madison. If you are 60 years of age or older and need a ride, contact RSVP at 441-7898.

You will need to bring:

- Proof of citizenship, name and date of birth (usually a certified birth certificate). If your name does not match your birth certificate, bring proof of name change (i.e., certified marriage certificate or certified judgment of divorce). If you don't have all the proof you need, the DMV will help verify your information.
- Proof of Wisconsin residency (usually a utility bill, lease or pay stub)
- Proof of identity (usually a Social Security card)
- Your Social Security number

For full details go to <http://wisconsin.gov/Pages/dmv/license-drivs/how-to-apply/id-card.aspx>.

Note: if you have a driver's license or ID from another state, you will have to give it up to obtain a Wisconsin ID. UW-Madison students can get a special free ID for voting at the WisCard office at Union South. UW-Madison students will also need to show proof of enrollment at the polls.

Seniors and people with disabilities who vote by permanent absentee ballot are exempt from the voter photo ID requirement. For more information, see <http://bringit.wisconsin.gov/are-there-exceptions-new-law>.

Nursing home residents can be visited by a representative of their local clerk's office to cast their vote. Nursing home residents do not need a voter photo ID, as staff will vouch for their identity.

At the April 5 spring election, we will

vote for Dane County Board, Wisconsin Supreme Court, presidential primary and other local offices. Talk to your family, friends and neighbors. Make sure every eligible Wisconsin voter has the documentation needed to vote.

For more information about voting in Madison, go to the clerk's office website at www.cityofmadison.com/election.

The League of Women Voters of Dane County website is www.lwvdanecounty.org.

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