

COMMUNITY

A sense of community at the Northside Farmers Market

By Fiona Stoner

Northside Farmers Market

As we enter this busy holiday season, remember to visit the Northside Farmers Market to find quality, locally made gifts — jams, sauces, pickled veggies, cheeses, meats, breads and yarn. We also have art and other finished products available. We offer gift certificates as well to make your shopping easier. Gift certificates can be used during the winter or summer market. There is something for everyone at the Northside Farmers Market.

Our indoor season opener was a great success. The market was busy from the start at 10 am, and folks seemed to enjoy the atmosphere and the opportunity to win a \$5 gift certificate given away each half-hour. Look for a repeat of that event in January.

The indoor winter market is a warm, inviting space for you to relax and enjoy good conversation. There is plenty of room to sit and relax while you enjoy freshly brewed Colectivo coffee, hot prepared food or delicious kettle corn. There is no rush at the indoor market; you can stay awhile, join the knitting group or listen to live acoustic music.

In the winter it is easy to become iso-



Photo by Grisel Tapia

Dios de los Muertos Celebration at Vera Court

The morning after Halloween more than 200 community members filled Vera Court Neighborhood Center for the Latino Family Resource Center's celebration of Dia de los Muertos. Families and friends gathered to place favorite foods, candles, flowers, calaveras (decorated sugar skulls), and pictures in honor of loved ones on the ofrenda (altar). Mexican folklore music and dance was provided by the Ballet Folklorico of Maria Diaz and the Danza Indio de todos Los Santos. Dia de los Muertos is one of the many cultural events offered by the Latino Family Resource Center, which also provides translation and employment services.



lated; it can be a challenge to get out and join community gatherings. You still need people time in the winter, though, and we hope the Northside Farmers Market will be a favorite destination. Join us for children's story time at the market. Once a month we will offer a program geared toward children. We'll bring out the old favorites and find new books and

songs to share with anyone who enjoys a well-told story.

You will find us in the storefront two doors down from True Value Hardware from 10 am–1 pm. We meet weekly through Dec. 20. Dates in the New Year are: Jan. 10 and 24, Feb. 7 and 21, March 6 and 20.

Like our Facebook page to get important updates on vendors attending the market or for event updates in December and

January. Sign up for our newsletter (<http://northsidefarmersmarket.org/>) and find us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/MadisonNFM) and on Instagram (<https://instagram.com/madnfm/>) to join our page and receive updates as the season begins.



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NorthsideFarmersMarket.org
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COMMUNITY GROUNDWORKS



Abundance at Troy Garden and Land Day

By Jill Schneider

What a beautiful day it was to celebrate Troy Garden and Land Day on Sept. 26. More than 80 people attended the event this year, some of whom had never been to Troy Gardens. Whether you were new to Troy Gardens or not, it was a great day to explore the land and enjoy the company of others.

Photos by Jill Schneider



Above: Workshop participants learn about natural pest management.



Apple cores ready for the compost bin.

Right: Apples ready to be cored and juiced.



Far Right: Rolling out pizza dough.



Children enjoyed a variety of activities.

Garden, led the pizza-making activity. For nearly three hours, there was an assembly line of children and adults producing a varied and yummy stream of pizzas going in and out of the cob oven.

Volunteers and interns were on hand to show off our new Pollinator Habitat and the Troy Prairie, as well as the Troy chickens in the Kids' Garden.

Several volunteers donated their time to make this event happen. Thank you.

The following businesses graciously donated door prizes for the event: Ace Hardware Center on Williamson Street, Benvenuto's Italian Grill, Café La Bellitalia Ristorante & Pizzeria, Klein's Floral and Greenhouses, Manna Café and Bakery, Meikle's Northside True Value, and The Coffee Gallerie. We are grateful for their support of Troy Gardens.

Marilyn Sallee returned this year to teach a workshop on pests and diseases. Several gardeners attended to learn how to combat the various plant problems they experienced last summer with the strange

fluctuations in weather. Master Gardener and volunteer, Percy Mather, joined us again this year to answer gardening questions.

After the workshop, the actual work began with cleaning and grinding apples in the apple

press. We almost didn't have an apple press this year, but Jim Lindemann, owner of Gardens of Goodness, graciously loaned us one of his hand-cranked presses. The apple crop was smaller than past years, but we still managed

to produce more than 10 gallons of delicious juice.

Gardeners brought potluck dishes to share and veggies from their gardens to make pizzas in the cob oven. Ginny Hughes, program manager for the Kids'

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ENVIRONMENT

Nature trails and tales: the value of urban nature

By Paul Noeldner

Join the fun with school naturalists. Madison Bird City Friends of Urban Nature partners — Madison Parks, Friends of Cherokee Marsh, Wild Warner, Madison Audubon and the Parks Foundation — would like to thank the Natural Resources Foundation for a grant that will help sustain and grow the popular Bird and Nature Walk program by bringing school naturalists on board to help lead walks and share their experience and knowledge. Free, family-friendly bird and nature walks are offered on Sundays, every month, year-round: the first Sunday at Cherokee Marsh, the second Sunday at Warner Park, the third Sunday at Turville Point, and the fourth Sunday at the Lakeshore Preserve. See the Northside News calendar and <http://cityofmadison.com/parks> for more Bird and Nature Walk details. Join the fun.

We are all saddened to hear that Oscar Mayer is closing. This impacts families and businesses, but it impacts Northside nature as well. There have already been some changes to Northside nature as operations at Oscar Mayer changed in recent years. A number of large wells that were previously used by the plant are no longer in use and the water table is returning to naturally higher levels along the east side of Lake Mendota, where lifetime resident Shirley Sundquist remembers walking Commercial Avenue when it was a corduroy (wooden log) road through a frog-filled swamp. The wetland was part of the historic Hartmeyer plant property, and in the 1950s it was reportedly called Italian Village Pond

by some folks. We can see evidence of nature's return in the glisten of sunlight on water as we drive across the railroad tracks on North Sherman Avenue and look toward Oscar Mayer. On the positive side, birds and wildlife are thriving in the recovering wetland and surrounding oak opening knoll and old field meadow slowly returning to prairie. This small but important gem is providing beautiful nature recreation value to the highly urban lower Northside neighborhood.

Patients and staff at the dental clinic on North Sherman Avenue enjoy watching

nesting wood ducks, pied-billed grebes, northern shovelers, eastern bluebirds, red-tail hawks, fox, deer and sandhill cranes. In a city and county struggling to restore the quality, beauty and value of its lakes, this historic wetland is once again providing important Yahara watershed runoff retention and filtration and should be preserved.

The value of urban nature in the heart of neighborhoods for regular daily nature recreation, nature education, and natural health for both children and adults is well-known. Interested parties are encouraged to friend the Facebook page Friends of

Hartmeyer Park, an informal initiative to help bring attention to this important urban natural area and grow support for preserving it. Among the many questions about the Oscar Mayer closing, Northside nature lovers hope that city and county plans will include the opportunity to preserve this large (roughly 18-acre) urban natural area in the heart of Madison, perhaps helping to make some of the bitter lemon life has just served us on the Northside into refreshing natural lemonade that we and our children can enjoy for years to come.

Bats Live! Nature's nighttime superheroes

By Jennifer Redell & Janet Battista
Friends of Cherokee Marsh

Bats are amazing animals that make up 20 percent of the world's mammal diversity, and Wisconsin is home to seven of these species. Join Jennifer Redell, conservation biologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bat Program, and live bat ambassadors for a free public presentation 10 am–12 pm, Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016, at Warner Park Community Recreation Center. This free family-and kid-friendly event is sponsored by Friends of Cherokee Marsh.

The first half-hour of the program will be geared for families — learn about bats of the world and the secret lives of your

own backyard bats. After a short break, the program will continue with an overview of the Bat Program's work around the state and updates on the bat-killing disease white-nose syndrome.

The Friends of Cherokee Marsh will hold a brief member meeting at 10 am, before the presentation. Help celebrate this past year's accomplishments and goals for 2016. Everyone is welcome at both events. Refreshments will be provided.

Excited children learn about bats with Jennifer Redell, DNR Bat Specialist.



Photo by Kim Wahl

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

ENVIRONMENT

Carp harvested at Cherokee Marsh

By Jan Axelson
Friends of Cherokee Marsh

In early November a commercial fishing crew came out to the Yahara River at Cherokee Marsh to harvest carp. Reducing the carp population is desirable because the fish stir up the bottom and muddy the water, making it hard for good aquatic plants to grow and feeding algae blooms on the river and downstream.

Launching their boats from the School Road boat landing, the crew of six set a net across Cherokee Lake (near Burning Wood Way), then pulled the net in and loaded the captured fish onto the boats. The fish went to a processing plant in Iowa for use in pet food. As they loaded the boats, the crew tossed any netted catfish and other game fish back into the river.



Commercial fisherman harvest carp at Cherokee Lake.

Photo by Jan Axelson

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LEDs lead in holiday lighting

By Dan Tortorice

The owners of the Las Vegas Strip are betting on a sure thing. They are converting the millions of display lights on their famous street to LEDs (light-emitting diodes). Last year the owners of Rockefeller Center in New York updated the 45 thousand lights on their holiday tree. We Northsiders, who have a proud history of lighting our homes and yards for the holidays, would be smart to follow their example.

Everyone remembers those brightly colored Christmas tree bulbs from our

youth. We had to be careful not to burn our fingers when touching them. The heat we felt was the energy from each bulb being wasted. The heat shortened the life of the bulb and helped dry out our Christmas trees, which was dangerous. If we strung together too many strips of these bulbs, we would blow an electrical circuit in our homes.

LED lights contain no glowing filament to generate heat. They also contain no glass, which can break. They are simply a tiny electrical chip encased in solid plastic. They use up to 95 percent less energy

than old-fashioned bulbs and last up to ten times longer, about eleven years.

According to MGE's "Responsible Energy" guide, the comparisons in energy use between LED display lights and older holiday lights are staggering. A string of 60 LED bulbs used for eight hours daily over 45 days would cost about 25 cents to operate. A string of just 25 C-7 bulbs, the ones we used as kids, would cost almost \$6 for the same period. Up to 20 strings of LED lights can be connected end-to-end without blowing a typical household circuit.

The price of LED holiday lighting is

dropping rapidly, along with other LED products. They come in several colors, with white and blue being the more expensive options. Prices start at about \$7 for a string of 35 bulbs. Other styles include twinkling bulbs, globes, icicles, ropes and shapes such as reindeer and Christmas trees.

To use LEDs outdoors, you must purchase bulbs that are listed for outdoor use. Make sure they are UL rated and warrantied for at least two years.

These lights are a good bet to ensure a bright holiday season and a bright energy future for many seasons to come.

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OSCAR MAYER CLOSING

Oscar Mayer from page 1

It was her father, Tad Froncek, who really carried the torch for Oscar. He developed and managed the graphic arts department on the 8th floor for 27 years before retiring in 1978. "At neighborhood picnics my dad would ask 'is this Oscar Mayer product?'"

"One thing my dad was most proud of was the color coding for Oscar's yellow and red trademark. The colors were maintained by a number and it remains so. What made that trademark so distinct were those colors encased in that rectangular shape — technically called a rhomboid. And then they developed the UPC code. When I was in high school, we all got in the car, went down to Janesville to Woodman's to see the scanner for the bar code. He wanted us to see how it worked."

"My dad saw so many things at Oscar catapult into the computer age. Whenever I'd drive by the big yellow sign, the words beneath Oscar Mayer — "since 1883" — were in script type. The Oscar

Picture of the past

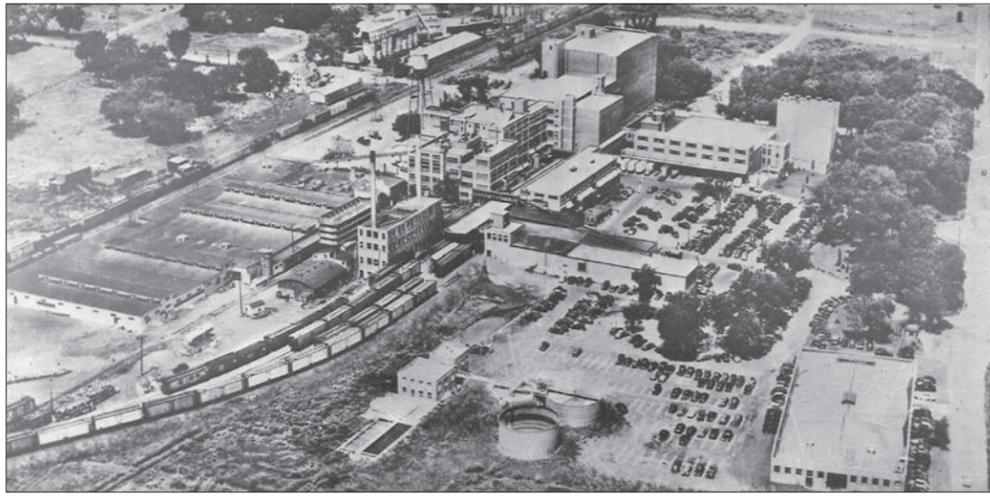


Photo courtesy of Capital Newspapers

Above: Madison Plant, 1941, looking parallel to Packers Avenue.

Mayer family was disappointed that Kraft took it down. The family wanted it to be a kind of welcome sign into Madison from the Northside."

Oscar Mayer was like a busy little town in its heyday, and as an industrial

workplace it had its hazards. While Tad Froncek worked on the 8th floor, the majority worked in "the bowels" as Nancy Froncek describes it. Nancy begins to laugh when describing the efforts the company made to reduce complaints about that awful stench. "There used to be scented misters — like lilac — to cover the odor. Of course it made no difference. Our family would drive by the fountain and somebody would comment about the smell, and as we pinched our noses my dad would say 'that's the smell of progress.' That's what you get when you buy a house near a railroad track."

"Oscar's closing should have been no surprise to anyone who deals with the

company. 3G Company owns Kraft Heinz and their history is cutting business off at the knees. If the governor and mayor had done any research when the offer was on the table for Kraft Heinz, they would have known what was to come," said Nancy.

Nancy is referring to the business practices of 3G Capital, a private-equity group that formed the Kraft Heinz Company. According to an article in Fortune Magazine titled "What to Expect When 3G Buys your Company," the firm is known for its "widespread layoffs, lower budgets, new levels of austerity, and a shift in the corporate culture" immediately following a business acquisition.

"Not seeing that Weinermobile around will be a real shame. What people don't realize is the trickle-down — the effect is devastating — the suppliers, the people who clean floors, the employees' market... its considerable charitable donations to our community..." laments Nancy.

Oscar Mayer was iconic and its impact on Madison was immeasurable. We'll hold onto our childhood memories of eating a slice of big bologna between two slices of Wonderbread, and that jingle you can't get out of your head. And hold onto that wiener whistle. It might be worth something someday.

(*Headcheese is not a dairy cheese, but a meat jelly made with flesh from the head of a calf or pig and often set in aspic.)

<http://fortune.com/2015/03/25/3g-capital-heinz-kraft-buffett/>

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ARTS

VSA Wisconsin uses the arts to change lives

By Kathie Wagner
VSA Wisconsin

Nearly 30 years ago, an introduction to music began to change the life of Madison resident Ricardo Vasquez, a shy nonverbal 9-year-old. His mother remembers when Ricardo attended a VSA choir concert and was invited to join the group onstage. Concerned because he did not speak, she wondered what would happen. Imagine her surprise and delight when he stood in the front and sang at the top of his voice. He did not talk, but somehow knew the words to those songs. Music was the key to learning new skills and developing self-confidence. Over the years, Ricardo has become more verbal. He learned to play the drums and marimba and is now the proud owner of his own businesses, Vasquez Productions and Vasquez Tuning Company.



Ricardo Vasquez plays the marimba at a VSA event.

In 1985, the lens through which we viewed disabilities was very narrow. Students with disabilities were educated in self-contained classrooms and many individuals with disabilities were institutionalized. Over time attitudes and perceptions have changed. Policy makers, educators and community members have come to recognize that everyone, regardless of ability can make an important contribution to society.

VSA Wisconsin now uses the arts as a learning strategy to enhance learning in other academic subject areas and improve vocational skills, problem-solving, communication, fine motor skills and more. We've learned that disability is invisible when it comes to creativity. It simply doesn't matter. Let's embrace and celebrate the talents of all artists.

'Tis the season – Unique items at VSA Wisconsin gift shop

By Kathie Wagner
VSA Wisconsin

Need a gift for someone special? The VSA Wisconsin Gallery gift shop features the work of artists with disabilities and is stocked with a variety of unique items, including mugs, tote bags, occasional cards, t-shirts, hand-carved duck decoys and more. Proceeds from the sale

Note cards featuring mosaic designs created by VSA Wisconsin participants. Hand-carved duck decoys by Dan Sullivan.

of these items will be used to support a variety of arts programs conducted by VSA Wisconsin.

Browse through the shop and discover notecards featuring images of mosaic murals created during VSA Wisconsin artist residences and t-shirts featuring images by award-winning artist Joe Arts. Check out the hand-carved "Boonduck" decoys which whimsically take flight as Wingdings (Canvasback), Ol' Coots (Mudhen)

and Quacker Jacks (Mallard). Created by VSA Wisconsin award-winning artist Dan Sullivan, each decoy is hand-carved out of barn timbers, fence posts, pier pilings and other weathered wood using antique rasps, rifflers, chisels, saws and other hand tools.

The gift shop is open Monday–Thursday from 9 am to 4 pm or by appointment. For more information, go to http://vsawis.org/exhibitions_sales/art_for_sale/.



Photos by VSA Wisconsin staff

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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Madison Country Day School hosts Rocky's Fun Run

By Kimberly Hazen
and Jeremy Clements

Madison Country Day School

On Friday, Oct. 23, Madison Country Day School (MCDS) hosted more than 400 participants for the fourth annual Rocky's Fun Run. The field of runners included students, faculty, family members and other members of the MCDS community. The Rocky's Fun Run is a fundraiser for the MCDS Booster Club, which helps provide athletic equipment, uniforms, professional development for coaches and other needs of the school's athletic department.

Benjamin Hebebrand, head of school at MCDS, mentioned the turnout was "eye opening, despite the rain." He noted the efforts of MCDS staff and expressed appreciation for the supportive school community. "Bravo to the volunteers who worked so hard in the rain to make this event happen."



Photo by Maheen Ott

And they're off! More than 400 runners and walkers participated in Madison Country Day School's fourth annual Rocky's Fun Run to benefit the MCDS Athletics Booster Club.

Rocky's Fun Run, named after the school mascot, is the culminating event of homecoming week at MCDS. This year's attendance was the largest so far and raised more than \$6,000 for the Booster Club.

Boy Scout Troop 127 celebrates a new Eagle Scout

By Julie Laundrie
Boy Scout Troop 127

Madison's Northside Boy Scout Troop 127 has awarded the highest rank in scouting to another Boy Scout, Andre Hermes. Andre celebrated the Eagle Scout award with a ceremony at

Eagle Scout Andre Hermes with his mother, Julie Laundrie, father, Ron Hermes, and sister, Vienne Hermes.

the Wisconsin State Capitol with fellow scouts, friends and family.

Andre's Eagle Scout project expanded the Blackhawk Community Gardens, in partnership with the Blackhawk Community Gardens Association, and was completed last spring. The expansion project allowed gardeners previously on a waiting list for plots to plant and harvest all summer long. Andre said his favorite part of the project is that "the garden expansion will provide healthy food for people for years to come."

Once a scout has completed his Eagle project, he must file the project and seek support from community members willing to speak for his personal character. After a conversation with the troop scoutmaster and final approval by a special group to review the advancement, the National Boy Scouts of America gives the final sign-off on the advancement. Only about 6 percent of eligible Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle, and the achievement represents many hours of community service, dedication, personal growth and, of course, camping and outdoor fun.

Troop 127 meets weekly, Thursdays at 6:30 pm at St. Peter's Catholic Church on the Northside. Cub Scout Pack 127 also meets weekly, Mondays at 6:30 pm at Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church. Both groups are open and welcoming to all families and youth.



Photo by David Presser

Members of the Youth Leadership group dissect a cow eyeball in preparation for a trip to the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery.

Vera Court youth give back

By Rebecca Ressi
Vera Court Neighborhood Center

Many people associate this time of year with the season of giving. For Vera Court Neighborhood Center's middle school Youth Leadership group, the giving is year-round. Youth Leadership Coordinator David Presser sees that service learning not only benefits the community, but also the volunteers. "Giving back to others is so important to these teenagers' character development," he said. "It helps them think critically, increases self-esteem, and shows them how their actions can positively impact others on a larger-scale."

Volunteer activities ranged from helping at a food pantry to dissecting cow eyeballs for research preparation at the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery. The club has attracted more than 60 students for larger events, like the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service; but the majority of the 250 service hours for the past year were from a core of 15 dedicated students. "It's fun, it gives me new learning experiences, and I like helping others," said Fernando Perez, a Youth Leadership participant with over 25 hours of service.

In addition to community service, the group meets weekly to discuss relevant social issues. This student-led focus group setting allows the students to talk openly about their views on topics like prejudice, stereotypes, drug or alcohol abuse and self-care, and how those issues impact their lives.

While this club is for middle school students only, this is just the beginning of civic engagement for Vera Court's Youth Leadership participants. "We're really proud of our Youth Leadership crew. I have no doubt they're going to be taking the forefront in finding solutions to a lot of Madison's social issues," Presser stated.

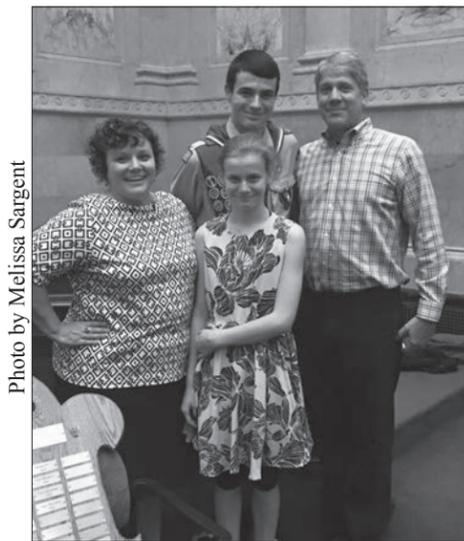


Photo by Melissa Sargent

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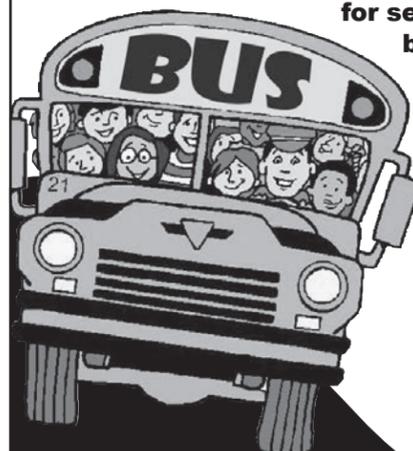
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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Neighbors and friends learn about MMSD Community Schools

By Elizabeth Merfeld

Madison Metropolitan School District

In April 2015 the Madison Community Foundation awarded Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) a three-year \$300,000 grant to support community planning and implementation of four Community Schools — two in 2016-17 and two more in 2017-18.

Community Schools integrate programming and services that students, families and community members identify as needed directly into schools, making them hubs of coordinated support. Through strategic partnerships and a full-time coordinator, Community Schools connect residents with resources within their community, such as health care, academic tutoring, mentoring, food access, parent leadership opportunities and more.

The Community School strategy is a proven, research-based strategy that has been in existence for more than 10 years in communities around the country. Students in Community Schools have shown increased academic performance, specifically in math and reading. Community Schools have also shown reductions in graduation and student engagement gaps. For example, at the Cincinnati Community Learning Centers, since its inception in 2000, graduation rates rose from 56 percent to 80 percent by 2013. Within 10 years, 2003–2013, the



Meeting participants “build community” with spaghetti and marshmallows.

Photo by MMSD Communications

achievement gap shrank from 14.5 percent to 4 percent. Students participating in the Tulsa Area Community Schools Initiatives outperformed their peers by 32 points in math and 19 points in reading.

The MMSD Family, Youth and Community Engagement Department and the Packer Community Learning Center hosted a presentation on the MMSD Community Schools framework in October to get the community’s input on what a Community School should look like. (A second meeting took place on the west side of Madison

at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.)

Approximately 30 parents, grandparents, community members, students and journalists worked in small groups getting to know one another and identifying the elements of their ideal school. Some of their responses included: a person who welcomes my child and knows my name, colorful banners, cultural diversity, clean, a parent lounge, diverse staff, tutors, translators, moms, pops, health services, social services, sharing, networking, connecting, pictures, children’s work, doing things for

children to help them be strong.

MMSD Community Schools Coordinator Chela O’Connor led the group in team-building and brainstorming activities. Videos from Tulsa, Okla., and Oakland, Calif., offered examples of Community School models from other parts of the country. Participants began to form a picture of what a school that holistically serves students, families and community members, might look like in Madison.

The Community Schools discussion piqued the group’s curiosity. The possibilities brought about by Madison Community Foundation’s planning grant generated questions from the participants: How does the steering committee decide what is needed? When will the schools be chosen? Does the school curriculum change? Is the committee paid for their time? Is the lead partner already serving that school area? How do they measure the benefits to children and families? What will the process to apply look like? Where does the funding come from for all these services? How will you ensure the steering committee represents the entire school community?

Both the descriptions of the ideal school and the questions generated by the presentation will influence the process and plan for building Community Schools. You can learn more about Community Schools at face.madison.k12.wi.us/community-schools.

Student opportunities at East High School math department

By Cynthia Chin

EHS Math Department

In addition to their classroom studies, East High School (EHS) area students are encouraged to participate in the many extracurricular events involving science, technology, engineering, arts and math.

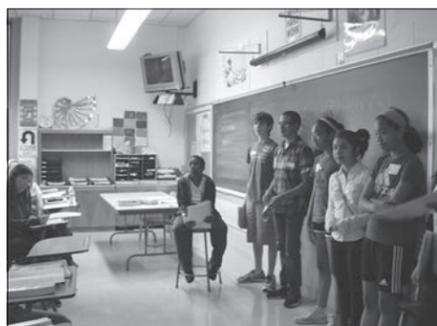
Funded by a Dane County By-Youth-For-Youth grant, the Engineering Club hosted students from O’Keeffe and Sherman Middle Schools at a Nov. 5 kick-off for “Way to B-ME,” a yearlong exploration of biomedical engineering careers. Projects included designing an artificial heart valve, improving the design of crutches and a laparoscopic surgery simulation. Blackhawk Middle School students will also be involved in future afterschool events.

High School students got an early start on this project during an Oct. 17 visit to UW-Madison, where they toured the biomedical engineering labs and had the opportunity to discuss problem-solving and careers with several biomedical engineering students. We thank the National Society of Black Engineers-Madison Chapter for arranging that experience.

There are many more Saturday sessions to come. Check out the Engineering Club to find out what’s next and how you can participate.

A special note: The Engineering Club would like to take this opportunity to thank the engineers and food scientists of Kraft Foods and Oscar Mayer for their support of grade 7–12 science and technology outreach in the EHS attendance area. Their participation and financial support in past years helped build our program into what it is today.

The next college visit sponsored by the Engineering Club will be to the Milwaukee School of Engineering Dec. 10. Space is limited. Contact Ms. Chin in person or via email to learn more (cchin@madison.k12.wi.us).



Top: A student-created artificial hand. Bottom: Students from Sherman and O’Keeffe visit a pre-calculus class.

Our next math meet will take place Wednesday, Dec. 2, at Memorial High School. Ask your math teacher for a permission slip. All students are eligible to compete. Have fun representing your school in this algebra-geometry-probability-logic challenge. Join the Math Club to prepare along with the rest of the team. See Ms. St. Peter or Ms. Malnor at lunch on Fridays in Room 3032.

The UW-Madison Mathematics Department offers hands-on enrichment activity sessions Monday nights at 6 pm. These sessions are suitable for any student enrolled in first-year algebra or beyond. EHS students have already enjoyed talks on topology, fourth-dimensional geometry, GPS systems and data fraud this semester. Visit www.math.wisc.edu/wiki/index.php/Madison_Math_Circle.

Photo by Devin Porter

Photo by Ian Falu

Purgolder Plan for Athletic Excellence

By Pat Richter and Steve Underwood

Pat Richter and Steve Underwood have been Eastside childhood friends, co-football captains at East High School Class of 1959 and co-football captains at the University of Wisconsin, both playing in the famous 1963 Rose Bowl. Now they are helping their alma mater by serving as co-chairs of the Purgolder Plan for Athletic Excellence, an alumni-filled committee raising needed funds for East’s athletic programs.

As you may know, some important aspects of the athletic program at East are in bad shape. Some critical facilities are run down to the point of near collapse, and the Madison Metropolitan School District has little or no capital budget funds to disperse to any requests for repair or replacement of these facilities.

East needs your help. With help from many generous donors, we have already replaced several key athletic needs at East — new pool touch pad electronic

system, spectator gym sound system, wrestling mat and basketball shooting machine — but more needs to be done. A remodeled weight room, tennis court resurfacing, scoreboards, scoring table and chairs, and field renovations are just a few of the many things on our list.

Please help with your dollars. We all deeply love our alma mater. We want it to be the best it can be and its students to be able to maximize their potential. Please view our Purgolder Pride video at <https://vimeo.com/87717734>.

We have detailed information about the funding opportunities available to you. Gifts to the East athletic fundraising campaign can be made through the Foundation for Madison’s Public Schools, 101 Nob Hill Rd., Suite 300, Madison, WI 53713. Online gifts can be made at www.fmps.org. Please designate your gifts to the East High School Athletics Fund. For more information, contact the foundation at fmps@fmps.org or 232-7820.

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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Being a principal is quite an experience, even for a day.

By Rob Stefan

Great Lake Higher Education

As a student, being called to the principal's office usually meant one thing: you were in trouble. But as an adult working for a company supporting The Foundation for Madison's Public Schools, it can be a unique and rewarding opportunity. Since 2004 the Foundation has called many business and community leaders to the principal's office to participate in "The Principal Experience," a special day when they are matched with principals at Madison public schools to learn firsthand the joys and challenges principals encounter daily.

This year's Principal Experience was held Tuesday, Oct. 13. Principal partners from our Northside neighborhood, Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation and Vogel Bros. Building Co., got "the call" and spent time at Gompers Elementary School and Black Hawk Middle School. Associate Creative Director Rob Steffen was paired with Black Hawk Principal Kenya Walker, while Gompers' Principal Sarah Chaja hosted Great Lakes' Chief Operating Officer Jill Leidl, along with fellow Northside business executive Peter Vogel from Vogel Bros.

The day proved to be eye-opening for all the principal partners. Both principals have their hands full from before the school day begins until well past the final bell. A brief list of their tasks includes managing students and teachers, getting parents engaged, dealing with building issues and interactions with their district and the school system as a whole. What came through, even during the brief time the three visitors spent in the schools, is what a massive juggling act the principals have handling all the unique situations that come up during a typical day. From disciplinary issues to understanding the different cultures their



(L) Pete Vogel reading to Gompers students. (R) Principal Sarah Chaja and Jill Leidl at Gompers Elementary School.

students come from, their job rivals that of the busiest corporate executive.

Jill, Rob and Pete agreed that the highlight of the day was when they had the chance to interact with students. For Jill that involved reading to a class of second graders. "I really enjoyed the fact that they were so excited to hear the story, and could tell they were very engaged as I read to them," she said. "They were eager to learn and liked the attention." Rob had the opportunity to be interviewed by a panel of students selected from the seventh-grade AVID class. Questions ranged from "who was a great inspiration to you?" to "what's your favorite restaurant?" and the number of follow-up questions based on his answers showed that the students were definitely interested and attentive.

Summing up their day, "insightful," "inspirational" and "incredible" were just a few of the words Jill and Rob used to

describe their Principal Experience, and both would urge anyone who gets the call in the future to take advantage of this tremendous opportunity to get an inside look at Madison schools and the great work being done on a daily basis.

A few days later, both Jill and Pete received an envelope from Gompers El-



Photos by Katie Wing

ementary School. Inside were thank you notes written by the students thanking them for the contributions Great Lakes and Vogel Bros. made last May to help build the new playground for the two schools. It was extremely gratifying to receive them, and a perfect way to wrap up The Principal Experience.



Photo by Hannah Wentie

At the Oct. 22 Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch at Gompers Elementary School, students crunched into 10,000 apples to celebrate REAP's Farm to School program. From left: Emily Latham (REAP Farm to School Coordinator), Steve Youngbauer (Director of Food and Nutrition for the Madison Metropolitan School District), Emily Blustein (REAP AmeriCorps member).

Madison Country Day School collects cans for those who can't

By Kimberly Hazen

Madison County Day School

On Nov. 6, Madison Country Day School (MCDS) started collecting nonperishable food items and nonfood donations to benefit the Community Action Coalition (CAC) of South Central Wisconsin. The goal of the food drive is to sustain the needs of families through the winter months and beyond. The collection will continue through Dec. 3.

Last year, the CAC and Second Harvest Foodbank provided 12.2 million meals to those facing hunger. In 2014 the Share Your Holidays School Food Drive raised 56,450 meals. Madison Country Day families contributed 2,187 meals toward that total, helping many disadvantaged families in our community and placing us on the Share Your Holidays Honor Roll.

Benjamin Hebebrand, head of the school, explained that the food drive

event is a popular cause with the MCDS community. "It's a nice representation of our character education program here at MCDS," he said. "Our strong participation each year is a wonderful reflection of our caring and supportive community."

Donations are being collected in bins at MCDS. Cash donations payable to Second Harvest Foodbank are also being accepted.

MCDS is Dane County's only independent pre-k-grade 12 school, offering a challenging and comprehensive college-preparatory education, including the Madison area's only International Baccalaureate Programme. In an environment where each community member is truly known, MCDS students develop a deep knowledge base and life-long critical and creative thinking skills.

For interviews or additional information, contact MCDS at 850-6375.

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Madison East High School

Margaret Williams Theater

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Contact Silvia at 204-1624 for tickets

Funds raised will be split and put towards the Latino Student Union Scholarship Fund and a fund for El Ballet Folklorico de Maria Diaz to help pay for costumes.

If you would like to send a donation, please make checks payable to East High School-LSU. Your support is truly appreciated!

Thanks to Cuco's Mexican Restaurant for their sponsorship of this event.



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