

NORTHSIDE NEWS

Vol. 17, No. 6, Issue 102

www.NorthsideMadison.org

June / July 2012

Make your voice heard and vote!

By Jan Axelson

On June 5, Northsiders will join with others across the state to choose their Governor and Lieutenant Governor to serve through 2014. Are you ready to cast your ballot?

To vote, you must be a U.S. citizen age 18 or older, and you must have lived in Wisconsin for the 28 days immediately before election day.

You don't need to show a photo ID to vote in the June 5 election. Depending on court rulings, you may need a photo ID for future election.

Only registered voters can vote. To find out if you're registered at your current address, call the City Clerk office (in Madison) or Municipal Clerk (in Maple Bluff).

If you need to register, you can do so in advance or on election day at the polls. You'll need to provide your Wisconsin driver's license number, Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) photo ID number. If you don't have either of these, you can provide the last four digits of your Social Security number.

If you register within 20 days before an election or if you've never registered to vote in Wisconsin, you must also provide proof of residence. Accepted proof is a Wisconsin driver's license, Wisconsin DOT photo ID, or another approved type of document such as a utility bill, lease, or paycheck with your current address.

The polls are open from 7 am-8 pm on election day. The Northside has 11 polling places so your polling place is likely within a few blocks of home. Your city or municipal clerk can tell you where to vote and can answer other questions you may have.

If you can't get to the polls or prefer to vote early, you can vote at the City Clerk's office from three weeks before the election through the Friday before the election. Through the Thursday before an election, you can request a ballot from the City Clerk to return by mail.

Voting Information:

Madison City Clerk
Room 103, City-County Building,
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
266-4601
cityofmadison.com/clerk

Maple Bluff Municipal Clerk
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Steve Stricker designates funds from The Presidents Cup to VSA Wisconsin

By Kathie Wagner



Photo by Brent Nicastro

President's Cup 2011 winner Steve Stricker and his daughter Bobbi admire the ceramic work of Chris, a VSA Art Center participant.

Steve Stricker, an 11-time PGA Tour event winner and Northside resident, recently donated \$15,000 to VSA Wisconsin. This contribution is a portion of the charitable proceeds generated from Stricker's participation in The Presidents Cup 2011 at Royal Melbourne Golf Club in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. The Presidents Cup is a unique golf event in that there is no purse or prize money. Players are not personally paid for their participation; instead, each competitor, captain and captain's assistant allocates their portion of the proceeds to chosen charitable causes. VSA Wisconsin, the state organization on arts and disability, was one of six organizations chosen by Stricker. Steve has a 15-year history with VSA Wisconsin and participates in an annual golf exhibition to help raise funds for visual art and music programs the VSA Art Center on Madison's Northside. The art center serves nearly 600 adults with disabilities annually. For more information on the 15th annual golf exhibition to be held at Cherokee Country Club on June 18 call 608-241-2131 or visit http://vsawis.org/events/stricker_golf_exhibition/event_information/.

So how are things going, really?

By Sue Gleason
Northside News

Find out how the Northside is doing at a presentation and discussion on the State of the Northside on June 11 from 6-8 pm at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center. The presentation will address how we feel and think about the Northside and present some of the facts gleaned from recent research and survey results. In addition, several short discussion segments will explore what all this means as we plan for the future.

As this article and paper goes to press we are wrapping up the 2012 Northside Community Survey, which will tell us how you feel about the Northside. At the same time we are collecting a wealth of information about jobs, income, schools, crime, housing and more. At the State of the Northside event, we will be comparing the most recent information to facts from the year 2000 to see how we are trending. In addition to looking in our 2000 rearview mirror, the June 11 event will compare the Northside to the city as a whole and to Dane County.

A common phrase says, "perception is reality," and this may be true in many cases. But if the facts say different, it is important to know and perhaps adjust our perceptions. For example, many people think the city of Madison is doing just fine. We have a low unemployment rate compared to other areas, average incomes and education levels

are high and we win awards every year for being a great place to live. But in reality, the poverty rate is growing faster in Madison than in comparable cities, as indicated by Thrive in their Advance Now report. In fact, more than 50 percent of kids in Madison schools are now eligible for the

free/reduced meal program. What about jobs? How many jobs are actually located on the Northside and where do those employees come from? What industries are located here and which ones are growing? Where do Northsiders work? Are they able to find jobs close to home? Information will be presented on employment and commuting.

Survey responses indicate that many Northsiders feel less safe here than in the city as a whole. We will learn if that is based on fact or perception.

We hope for some good new data that will tell us that things here are better than we think. But we also need to be prepared if the picture is not as rosy as we'd hoped. We need to know the realities and use information so we can celebrate the successes while planning for our community's future needs.

Northsiders Invited!

State of the Northside Monday, June 11 – 6-8 pm

Held at:
Warner Park Community Recreation Center

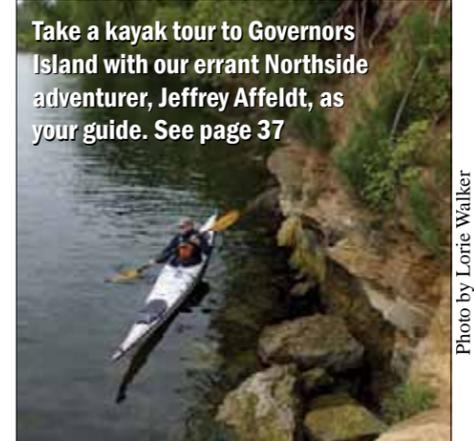


Photo by Lorie Walker

Take a kayak tour to Governors Island with our errant Northside adventurer, Jeffrey Affeldt, as your guide. See page 37

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NORTHSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL

From
CINDY CRANE



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is a privilege to be writing to you as the new executive director of the Northside Planning Council (NPC). I have walked into an organization with an amazing history and current projects that will significantly impact our community. I plan to use my past work experience, including the managing of nonprofits, to help NPC assist our community to move forward.

I discovered the Northside when I first moved to Madison in 2004 and took employment in this area. I say discovered because although I had for several years visited Madison and even lived here a couple of times in my youth, I had never become familiar with the area I now call home. I've since introduced my side of

town to many friends and acquaintances. And now I am excited to be in a position to work with a significant organization and its partners to intentionally make the Northside better known to more individuals, families and enterprises.

Thank you to the NPC board for offering me this position and along with Interim Executive Director Sue Gleason, Northside News Editor Lauri Lee, and Graphics Designer Mary Ambrosavage for warmly welcoming me on board. Also many thanks to Sue Gleason's overlapping her last days as a staff person with my first days. She has been a wonderful teacher. I know that others have seen Sue as a gift to the organization during the six months she has served as an interim, and I'm very pleased she will continue as a board member.

I look forward to learning about the concerns and dreams of residents, business owners, and other community leaders and about how NPC can engage more connectivity. Let's imagine and re-imagine together. If you want to chat, please give me a call.

Northside June/July Calendar of Events

Friday, June 1, Midnight, Margaret's Fund applications due. See Northside-Madison.org for details.

Saturday, June 2, 8 am-12 pm, Kids Fishing Day at Warner Park, by the Yahara Fishing Club. No license needed!

Saturday, June 2, 9 am-3 pm, Lakeview Lutheran Church, car wash, dog wash, and bake sale.

Monday June 4, 5:30 pm, Vera Court Baseball and BBQ Fundraiser at the Mallards. Tickets are \$15.

Tuesday, June 5, 6-8 pm at WPCRC, Wild Warner monthly meeting.

Wed., June 6, at 5 pm and at 7 pm. Paddle a Voyageur Canoe at Cherokee Marsh.

Friday, June 8, 9 am-1 pm The River Food Pantry eCycle for Hope recycling drive.

Saturday, June 9, 10 am-noon, Take a Stake in the Lakes Cleanup at Cherokee Marsh.

Sunday, June 10, noon-2 pm, Lake View Hill Neighborhood Association annual picnic at Sunfield park.

Sunday, June 10, 9 am-1 pm, The River Food Pantry Annual Summertime Benefit Brunch at Northside Farmer's Market

Sunday, June 10, 9:30 Brunch for Neighbor Day at Mandrake Road Church of Christ

Monday Evenings, June 11, 18, and 25, 6-7:30 pm 2012 Summer Concert Series at Warner Park Shelter

Monday, June 11, 6-8 pm at WPCRC, State of the Northside Event by the Northside Planning Council.

Wednesday, June 13, 7:05 pm at Mallards to support FEED Kitchens.

Wednesday, June 13, 5 pm and 7 pm launches, Paddle a Voyageur Canoe at Cherokee Marsh.

Saturday, June 23, 1:30 pm, Bluebird Walk at Warner Park by Audubon Society and Wild Warner.

Tuesday, June 26, 6:30-8 pm, Madison Women's Connection, at Cherokee Country Club

Saturday, June 30, 10 am-noon Butterfly Walk at Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park North Unit.

Saturday, June 30, 8 am, Run to the Rhythm 5 Mile Run and 5k Run/Walk and then Rhythm and Booms at night.

Tuesday, July 3, 6-8 pm at WPCRC, Wild Warner monthly meeting.

Monday Evenings, July 9, 16, 23, 6-7:30 pm 2012 Summer Concert Series at Warner Park Shelter

Sunday, July 22, 1:30 pm, Bluebird Walk at Warner Park by Audubon Society and Wild Warner.



NPC MISSION

COMMUNITY-PEOPLE-BUSINESS

The Northside Planning Council reaffirms its mission to improve the quality of life for all residents of the Northside and to enhance opportunities for businesses. NPC's priorities for 2012 are:

- COMMUNITY** — Communication and Connections within the Northside
 - Support and enhance communication on the Northside
 - Serve as a key convener of Northside events
 - Engage with the community to understand the overall needs of Northside
- PEOPLE** - Individuals and Families
 - Facilitate awareness of and access to services
 - Partner with others to identify service needs
 - Foster development of additional support services for individuals and families in need
- BUSINESS** - Economic Success and Growth for The Northside
 - Promote the Northside as a great place to live, work, play, start or grow a business
 - Support existing businesses
 - Encourage and support new investments

Northside Planning Council

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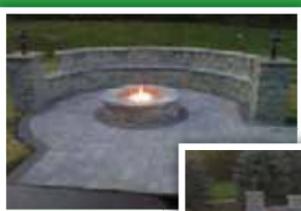
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NORTHSIDE NEWS

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www.northsidenews.org

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August/September Northside News
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Distribution Dates: July 27-31

ADVERTISING RATES

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1/8 Page (vertical)	\$120	Add \$35	2.375" W x 8" H
1/8 Page (square)	\$120	Add \$35	4.917" W x 4" H
1/4 Page	\$240	Add \$55	4.917" W x 8" H
1/2 Page	\$480	Add \$100	10" W x 8" H
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From

LAURI LEE

Editor@NorthsideNews.org
661-0060 Ext. 3



EDITOR

**Holding hands,
sticking together**

In his well-known, short essay, “All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten,” Robert Fulghum (www.robertfulghum.com) lists some simple words and phrases that sum up many of life’s most important lessons. Words like, “play fair” and “say you’re sorry when you hurt somebody” are among them. The first item on the list is “share everything.” The last sentence reads: “And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out in the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.”

That’s something that we, on the Northside, seem particularly good at: holding hands and sticking together. Another way to say it is that we cooperate, we work well together. For instance, an article in this issue (page 27) tells about

how Vera Court Neighborhood Center’s Fund Development and Program Assistant Patrick Schrank recognized the need for high school students to learn job skills in order to apply for summer employment. Schrank took that need to the business community and some places responded by providing part-time jobs for which kids can apply. That’s working together.

Working together is just one of the things the Northside can be proud of. The business community supports our non-profit organizations. Volunteers from all walks of life give generously of their time to projects and programs both large and small. People of all kinds and colors come together to show their Northside Pride through planning participation in large-scale events like the Ride the Drive Northside in August. And, when there is a tragedy, we all band together.

In his essay, Fulghum also reminds us to “remember the Dick-and-Jane books and the first word you learned — the biggest word of all — Look.” As you look around you today, keep your eyes open to all the positive things you will see — things that make the Northside a great place to live and work.

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BUSINESS

Northside Business Association Member Profile

Mallards build on strong relationship with Madison community

Northside News

The Madison Mallards pride themselves on their work in the community working with the general public and non-profits in the Madison Area. From their Charter Community Connection Nights for non-profits, to fundraisers for local little leagues to donations of all varieties, the Mallards are a leader in community support in Dane County.

Each home game, the Mallards feature a different non-profit organization in their Charter Community Connection Nights. The featured non-profit gets promotional opportunities such as video board commercials, PA announcements, ESPN Radio reads, a booth at the Mallards front entrance, an ad in the game day insert, and a website mention on Mallardsbaseball.com on the day of the game. The non-profits also have the opportunity to have a representative throw out a first pitch and sell tickets for their given game. The Mallards donate \$2 from each ticket sold by the non-profit back to the organization. Two of the non-profits that the Mallards worked with in 2011 were the Susan G. Komen For the Cure Foundation and the Badger Honor Flight. The Susan G. Komen foundation was able to raise \$4,000 from the online ticket sales, and the auc-



The brand new Meriter and Physicians Plus Backyard will be an \$8 ticket and the Mallards will donate \$1 to the Madison Parks Foundation, YMCA of Dane County and Boys & Girls Club of Dane County.

tioning of players' jerseys after the game (Mallards players wore pink jerseys). Badger Honor Flight raised over \$2,000 with the help of the Charter Community Connection night as part of Military Appreciation Day on July 3, 2011.

The Mallards are great supporters of little leagues and youth organizations in the area and give them a lift by helping them conduct fundraisers with Mallards tickets. Through fundraisers, and with the help of the Mallards, little leagues,

churches, schools, and recreation departments were able to raise over \$10,000 in 2011. The Mallards are continuing that trend this season as fundraisers for groups all over Madison are coordinated for home games. The Mallards donate \$2 of each ticket that particular group sells back to them. It is a great way for fans to see a Mallards game, and still give back to the community at the same time.

The Mallards also gave away over 600 bobbleheads in 2011 for donation to silent auctions across Madison. This continued generosity makes it possible for organizations to have quality items in silent auctions to raise funds.

New for 2012 is the Meriter and Physicians Plus Backyard, a 6,000-square-

foot grass berm located over the left field fence. The Mallards, along with Meriter & Physicians Plus will donate \$1 of every ticket purchased to the Backyard in 2012 to the Madison Parks Foundation, the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County and the YMCA of Dane County.

The Mallards are looking forward to a great 2012, where they can continue to help the Madison community through these charitable functions.

The Madison Mallards are part of the 16-team Northwoods League. The Northwoods League has more teams, plays more games, and draws more fans than any other Summer Collegiate Baseball League in North America.

Business updates

Milestone Business Anniversaries

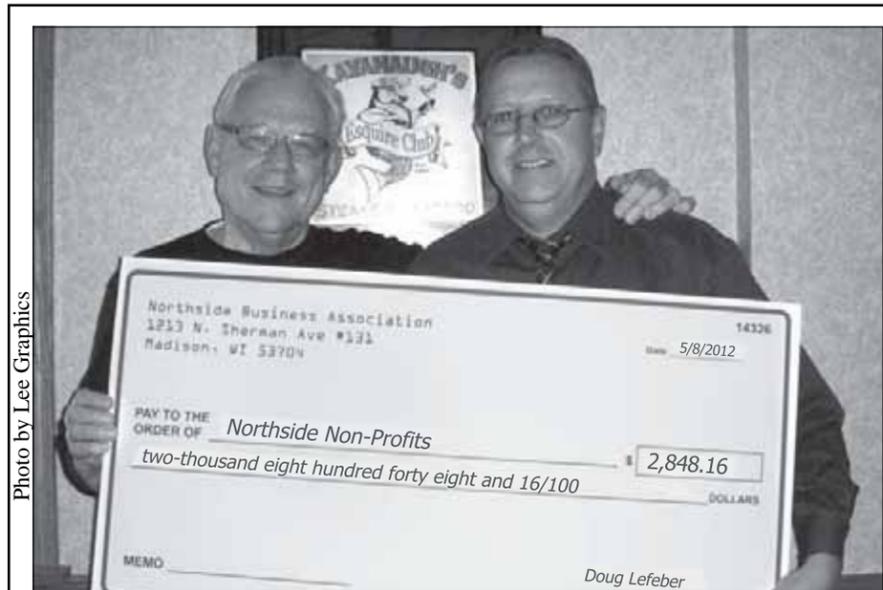
Serenity Salon, 1857 Northport Dr., is celebrating their 10th anniversary.

Smart Dental, 2317 International Ln., Ste. 101, is celebrating their 5th anniversary.

Welcome to New Businesses

Welcome to **Mr. Rudd's Barbershop** at 2504 Commercial Ave..

Welcome to **NewFitU** at 237 North St.



The April Breakfast with the Bunny event sponsored by the Northside Business Association (NBA) provided a \$2848.16 donation to Northside nonprofit organizations. NBA president Doug Lefeber (R) presented the check to Pastor Gerry Kunhke (L) at the organization's May 10 monthly meeting.

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BUSINESS

Northside business landscape is progressing

By Sue Gleason
Northside News

The business landscape is changing on the Northside with several developments planned, proposed or in the works. Here are some short updates:

Advanced Autoparts has been approved to demolish the vacant Popeye's Restaurant at 1902 Northport Dr. and is now pursuing their required building permits to construct a 6,900 square foot retail building on the property. They hope to be open by the end of 2012.

Ale Asylum construction on Packers Avenue/Pankratz Street is well underway and is scheduled to open in late summer/early fall. The former Ale Asylum location on Stoughton Road/Kinsman Boulevard is available for lease.

Capital Petroleum has begun demolition and building the new facility at 1001 Sherman Ave., which will house a convenience store, gas station and restaurant, rumored to be a new Gyros place.

Lakeland College will be building a brand new signature campus facility on Pankratz Street. Thanks to Lakeland for staying on the Northside and kudos to Marty Rifken for all the new activity on Pankratz Street/Packers Avenue. The proposal is to construct a 14,637 square foot campus facility located on a 1.92 acre site, located at the 1600 block of Pankratz Street, in the Corben Business Campus. Lakeland is currently at the corner of Stoughton Road and Anderson Street.

UW Credit Union is closing in on the final hurdles with the City Plan Commission on July 9 for the former Pizza Hut/Brennan's property on Northport Drive. The back portion of the property will be



Rendering of Lakeland College's new campus facility in the works for Pankratz Street.

available for an office building. There are still a few sticky issues to be resolved, so if you want to see this approved and built, be sure to tell the powers that be.

Val-U-Store is a mini-warehouse storage facility proposed by Chet Hermansen at 1321 Everett St. Two new mini-warehouses are being proposed as an expansion of current storage facilities. A request for demolition and a zoning change was submitted to the City's Plan Commission for their July 9 meeting.

A new pedestrian actuated flashing beacon is being installed on North Sherman Avenue near NorthGate Shopping Center to warn motorists that a pedestrian is waiting to cross the street and that motorists should stop to yield to the pedestrian. There will be a button to press on the pole for pedestrians to activate the flashing beacon. Curb ramps will also be installed at the crossing so that the crossing is usable by people of all abilities, and they will paint a crosswalk across North Sherman Avenue. Poles for the flashing beacon and traffic signs are already in place; curb ramps and the flashing beacon will be installed in the next few weeks. Once all the equipment

is installed they will mark the crosswalk and place everything in service.

Skuldt Street is a new street being constructed to provide better access to Pankratz Street with construction anticipated to begin this summer. The Dane County Regional Airport is building this road to provide increased access to current and future businesses in the area between Pankratz Street and Packers Avenue. A new right-turn-only access off International Lane will limit traffic issues at the intersection. The road will be named Skuldt Street in honor of former Dane County Regional Airport Director Robert Skuldt. The Airport will also be relocating Grim Street to facilitate traffic movement in the area. Grim Street will be altered to enter Anderson Street at the same point Pankratz Street meets Anderson Street. Traffic signals will be installed at the intersection to improve traffic flow and provide safer and easier entry and exit to Anderson Street from the side streets. Signalization is expected to be in place by the end of August.

Completion of these projects will provide support for the economic development of the area and the Northside community.



Brentwood children interact with Officer Katie Adler.

Neighbors take to the streets for Brentwood

By Northside News

About 100 neighbors and community leaders came together May 16 to walk the Brentwood neighborhood. After a recent disturbance that led to a shooting, Brentwood has been working hard to gain back a sense of normalcy. While the daily routine has gone on for kids and families, there is a lingering sense of uncertainty and fear among many.

The walk, organized by the Brentwood Village Association, was a simple way to show support for the neighborhood and the great May weather made for a pleasant evening stroll among neighbors. Families, kids, strollers and dogs were guided on the route by members of the North Police District on their bikes. Madison's mounted police had visited the neighborhood earlier in the week to the delight of many kids.

The core group of neighborhood leaders and supporters were joined by local

Brentwood continued on page 12

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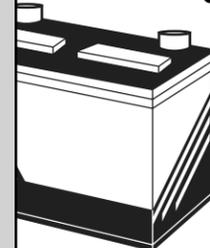
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COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Run to the Rhythm traffic alert for June 30 event

By Jerry Kempfer

The Run To The Rhythm Five Mile Run and 5K Run/Walk will take place at 8 am on Saturday, June 30. The two runs and walk will use a five mile course that circles around the Warner Park neighborhood. Residents should be aware of the course in advance so there are no safety issues with the participants and motorists can easily navigate the narrow lanes along the course.

There will be orange safety cones throughout the course that will section off the road and clearly mark the lanes used for runners and walkers, that should allow motorists to safely use the road as well. There will be signs along the course urging participants to stay inside the coned off area to avoid accidents. There will also be several Madison police officers helping to direct traffic.

The course will affect traffic from 7:45-9:15 am. Residents are asked to please not park on the street if avoidable during this time. The event could bring as many as 1,500 runners and walkers to the community. The roads affected will be Northport Drive (by Warner Park), Troy Drive, Forster Drive, Marcy Road, Harper Road, Woodward Drive, Sheridan Drive, Pleasure Drive, Almo Avenue, MacPherson Street and Sherman Avenue.

For more information about the event, please visit www.runtotherhythm.com.

Plug in to help hungry and recycle small appliances

By Betsy Ezell

Northsiders can plug in to help the hungry during a recycling drive by eCycle For Hope to be held at The River Food Pantry on Friday, June 8, 9 am-1 pm. For a cash donation or five non-perishable food items or personal care items, eCycle will accept office and household items less than 50 pounds that plug in (computers, micro-waves, printers, coffee pots, etc.) as well as cell phones, batteries, ink, toner, CDs (televisions are an additional \$15). All donations will go to The River Food Pantry. Questions? Contact Marianne Gariti, owner of eCycle For Hope at 608-395-1821 or ecycleforhope@yahoo.com.

Neighbor Day – June 10

Mandrake Road Church of Christ at 4301 Mandrake Rd. is having a neighbor day on Sunday, June 10. Brunch will be held at 9:30 am, followed by singing, fellowship and a worship service at 10:30 am. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Northside neighborhood leaders meet

Megan Maguire

Northside News

The Northside Planning Council (NPC) recently hosted a meeting of Northside neighborhood associations at Warner Park Community Recreation Center (WPCRC). In attendance were current and former chairs from Brentwood, Lakeview Hill, Sherman, Sheridan Triangle, Cherokee Park/Cherokee Garden Condominiums, Mendota Hills, East Bluff Condominiums, and Troy Garden Community Co-Housing. Also attending were Northside alders Satya Rhodes-Conway and Anita Weier, NPC Executive Director Cindy Crane and NPC Board member Sue Gleason.

There was plenty of discussion about timely issues affecting the Northside.

Anne Whisner from Madison Parks presented information about the Ride the Drive Northside happening in August. She was very helpful in answering questions about how the route would impact traffic, and suggested alternative parking and driving strategies. She also talked about event activities in detail, as well as pre- and post-event efforts. More importantly, she encouraged neighborhood associations to get involved in the event,

and show the rest of the city the true meaning of "Northside Pride."

Another topic discussed was recent shootings on the Northside, and how neighborhoods react to acts of violence. No one wants violence in their neighborhood, and even one shooting can have long-lasting effects. What can emerge, however, are renewed efforts to be neighborly. In this respect, neighborhood associations provide a platform to organize and demonstrate that violence will not be tolerated.

Finally, there was great conversation about how neighborhood associations connect with members of their neighborhood. Some groups rely on email and old-fashioned face-to-face contact to discuss current issues. Others have a spectrum of social media options, from listservs to Facebook pages. Associations also have different levels of engagement with the neighborhood, whether it is one annual event, or several smaller gatherings. What emerged is that each neighborhood has unique needs and wants, and the neighborhood associations have adapted to meet these.

To find your neighborhood association, visit northsidemadison.org/northside-neighborhoods.



Bruns joins Maple Bluff Board

Dave Bruns is sworn in as a new Village of Maple Bluff Board Trustee. Bruns will serve a two-year term that started on May 1.

Bruns' initial responsibilities will include chairing the Maple Bluff Country Club and the personnel committees. He will also sit on the finance, police and fire committees.

Bruns hopes to utilize his experience with the Northside Economic Development Coalition to understand and benefit Maple Bluff as the community plans for future growth and development.

Ride the Drive Northside gearing up for August 12

By Sue Gleason

Northside News

The Northside is getting in on the action and gearing up for the City of Madison and Madison Parks Ride the Drive-Northside. This Aug. 12 event will draw bikers from across the city to ride on selected Northside streets (see map at www.Northside-Madison.org) that will be closed to cars and opened to bikers, walkers, roller bladders, neighbors and those out to share in the experience and fun festival atmosphere. A great way to showcase the Northside to people from other parts of the city, the free event is anticipated to draw thousands of people to ride, walk and skate on the route, enjoy live music, food and participate in fun activities planned by Northside businesses, nonprofit organizations and neighborhoods.

Bikers and those who come to the event just to have fun with their neighbors and friends will find plenty of activities as they ride or stroll along the route. There will be four activity villages along the route that will offer refreshment and fun activities for those who want a break in the action. Here are some highlights of things to come in August:

The Warner Park village at the Duck Pond area at Warner Park will offer music and other fun for families. The next village will

be located at Community GroundWorks on Troy Drive and will showcase the gardens, provide music and dancing and offer a great break in the action for bikers on the west end of the route. Moving along the route, Warner Park beach will be the third village and will include bluegrass music supported by Wild Warner. The fourth village will be on Sherman Avenue and include bike safety and activities for kids, as well as a stop at St. Paul's Lutheran Church that will feature a free community picnic under a big tent and huge inflatables for kids to play in. This stop will also showcase businesses from the Northside Business Association at curbside booths.

The Northside Business Association, Northside Planning Council and the Northside Farmers Market have teamed up to bring the Capitol Pedaler to the event. For eco-friendly fun catch a ride on this large, unique bicycle that holds up to 14 passengers with a Capitol Pedaler driver in the front. Look for the "big red bike" to be cruising Sherman Avenue.

To be able to make this an event for everyone, some local groups have banded together to help kids that don't own a bike, one in good repair or are in need of riding safety skills to help them be ready by August to join in the fun. Community

organizations in cooperation with local bike shops and the Madison Department of Transportation have come forward with a number of resources to reach this goal.

A bike can be earned by doing community service through Wheels for Winners. Kids that need to learn to ride a two-wheel bike or would like to learn how to ride safely can find this help through special bike clinics offered in conjunction with this event. To ensure that Northside kids have bikes in safe riding condition, local bike shops are donating their time to fix up bikes before August. Bike riding safety clinics will be offered at the community centers and some neighborhoods will be organizing short bike rides to help kids learn good riding skills. To participate in any of these free bike programs, please contact your neighborhood center or contact Steve Meiers, Safety Educator, Madison Department of Transportation at 267-1102.

Don't miss the fun. Look for online links at www.NorthsideMadison.org or go directly to www.cityofmadison.com/ridethedrive for a map, or how to volunteer, become a sponsor or to attend the next planning/update meeting. A complete Ride the Drive event supplement will appear in the August/September Northside News.

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COMMUNITY

The River Food Pantry's Second Annual Breakfast Fundraiser

By Betsy Ezell

The River Food Pantry will host its Second Annual Summertime Benefit Brunch on Sunday, June 10 with all proceeds going to feed hungry families in Dane County. The fundraiser will be held at the Northside Farmers Market at the Northside TownCenter (on the corner of Northport Drive and North Sherman Avenue) from 9 am–1 pm.

There will be delicious food and fun for everyone. Meet Maynard G. Mallard, the Madison Mallards' mascot, from 9–10 am. Guests can enter to win a Family-4-Pack of Mallards tickets. Wisconsin folksinger Skip Jones and friends will perform and balloonist, Mike Farnham, will make balloon creations.

Get all-you-can-eat pancakes, eggs, sausage and juice and coffee for only \$8. All breakfast-goers will have the opportunity to win cash tokens good for purchasing the fresh, locally grown produce, organics, meats and eggs available from the vendors at the Northside Farmers Market.

With every \$10 the event raises, The River Food Pantry will be able to provide \$100 worth of food to its clients. In 2011, The River gave away 1.3 million pounds of food, making a difference for 74,000 individuals.

Funds raised by the Summertime Benefit Brunch will help The River with its greatest challenge: getting enough food to distribute to the growing numbers of people seeking food assistance. In 2011, The River's pantry usage increased 10 percent, while food costs increased 60 percent. The skyrocketing cost of food,



Photo submitted by The River Food Pantry

Howard and Carol Willson are enjoying the The River Food Pantry Summertime Benefit Brunch in 2011.

the scarcity of low-cost and free food from partner food banks and increased demand have contributed to a spike in the cost of providing food assistance to those in need. The River has met this challenge by buying food wholesale, costly but necessary to meet the demand.

Last year, the Summertime Benefit Brunch raised \$2,000 which provided \$20,000 worth of food to needy families.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at The River Food Pantry (2201 Darwin Rd., Madison). In case of bad weather, the event will be held at The River Food Pantry. Contact Betsy Ezell at betsyezell@riverfoodpantry.org with questions.

About The River Food Pantry

The River Food Pantry was created in 2006 to serve the low income neighborhoods concentrated along Northport Drive and the Northeast side of Madison, but the pantry is open to all Dane County residents. They are located in an 11,000 square foot warehouse at the end of Northport Drive, at 2201 Darwin Rd., Madison, WI. The River provides pantry assistance, hot nutritious meals, clothing and household goods and furniture. Serving over 2,500 families per month, The River is Dane County's busiest food pantry. For more information visit www.riverfoodpantry.org.

A fun event in June to connect Northside women

By Jennifer Olson

Madison Women's Connection (MWC) is a fun, relaxing, informative event for women — by women. North and eastside women of all ages are invited to Madison Women's Connection on Tuesday, June 26 from 6:30-8 pm at the Cherokee Country Club at 5000 N. Sherman Ave. The event is free and open to all women from the Greater Madison area. Everyone is welcome to bring a friend. There will be a cash bar during the social time which will be followed by featured topic bursts: "Women and Golf" (former golf pro Katie Connelly), "Scent'sational Culinary Herbs" (Lauri Lee, Herb 'n Gardener) and "Demystifying Investments" (Jennifer Olson, Edward Jones).

The intention of Madison Women's Connection is simply to provide women an opportunity to reach beyond themselves to build connections and friendships through positive relationships with other women in their community. The event is a time to come together to socialize, learn and meet other women. Please RSVP for this free event to Judy by June 22 at [Judith.gjertson@edwardjones.com](mailto:judith.gjertson@edwardjones.com) or call 249-0622. See you there!

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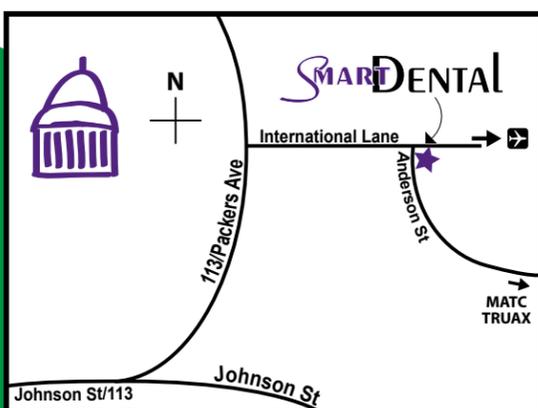
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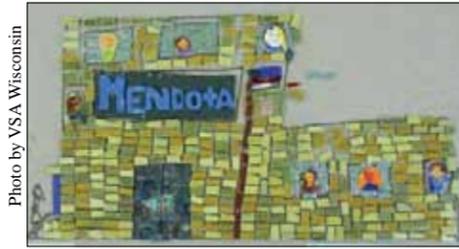
By Kathie Wagner

The arts can make a school come alive and this is especially true at Mendota Elementary School this spring. VSA Wisconsin, the state organization on arts and disability, recently conducted an in-depth arts education project at Mendota Elementary School that resulted in a beautiful 18 foot long mosaic mural. Titled "We Have What It Takes," the mural reflects the diversity of people, places, things and events that are found on Madison's unique Northside.

VSA Wisconsin teaching artist Marcia Yapp collaborated with art teacher Nate Kirley to design, coordinate and conduct the 30 hour program involving the entire student body as well as most of the school staff. The collaboration went seamlessly and the finished piece is very engaging.

Yapp, a Northside resident whose son attended Mendota Elementary School, describes the mosaic process as "an art form that takes broken pieces of various materials and lays them side by side in the creation of a new image or picture." She believes that mosaic is one of the most accessible art processes because it's not intimidating and anyone can jump right in without having to know a lot about art techniques. She stated that with mosaic, "everyone gets a chance to create something beautiful."

The concept for the mural was initiated by Kirley, who felt that part of his role was to facilitate school-wide art projects.



With this particular project, he wanted to do something "big, somewhere accessible." With more than 360 students participating in the project, he certainly achieved his goal. With the support and guidance of Yapp and Kirley, students in all grade levels were able to contribute to the design and creation of the artwork. Students started the process by brainstorming what makes the Northside and their school unique. On the list were Troy Gardens, Rhythm and Booms, Jim's Meat Market, McDonalds, birds at Warner Park and the Dane County Regional Airport. The students then drew images of the people, places and things on the list and the drawings were then integrated into the overall mural design.

Not only did the students learn the process of mosaic and how to design and create a beautiful work of art for their school, they also learned other important skills. "Art lets kids explore and express themselves creatively. Art rounds out students' entire educational experience. There are so many different answers within the arts and art teaches teamwork and problem-solving skills.



Latino Academy of Workforce Development 2012 Winter Semester Graduation

By Grisel Tapia

On the night of Saturday, Apr. 28 at St. Peter's Church on North Sherman Avenue, over 160 Madisonians got together to celebrate the Latino Academy of Workforce Development's Winter 2012 Graduation. There was food from different countries, music, dancing and lots of fun.

The graduates were the Latino adults who had participated in the Latino Academy's computer, forklift, ServSafe, English and GED classes as well as business seminars this winter.

It's a pleasure to have a good number of dedicated adult students as well as volunteers that make the Latino Academy possible. Without them the Latino Academy would not be able to offer nearly 40 trainings each year.

The Academy graduates now have improved in their computer skills and obtained their professional food management certification, and forklift operation licensing to continue working and improve their position in the workforce of the city of Madison. To all of them, congratulations.

When a student makes a mistake, he can look at it closer and fix it, change it and resolve the issue creatively," stated Kirley. "Each piece of public art at Mendota creates a better sense of the community of the school. There will always be a sense of ownership and the mural will always be there."

In the weeks ahead, the mosaic mural will be grouted and installed on the wall across from the school's main office. A public unveiling and celebration will be held on June 7 in conjunction with the school's annual barbeque. For more details about the unveiling visit www.vsawis.org or call 608-241-2131.



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