

NORTHSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL 20TH ANNIVERSARY

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Mayor Paul Soglin's task force recommends that the city pilot a first planning council on the Northside.

1993 Ron Chance is hired as the first facilitator of the Northside Planning Council.

Mayor Soglin issues a \$750,000 challenge. If NPC can raise the money, the city will build and maintain a new community center.

NESCO offers a lead gift of \$100,000 in exchange for a home-base in the new structure.

Tim Carlisle stays in as lead facilitator for NPC when Ron Chance accepts new job with the county.

Little by little money trickles in from local businesses, individuals and families.

1995 NPC publishes its first edition of the Northside News.

1998 NPC has successfully met the mayor's challenge and then some.

City appoints an Advisory Board, hires an architect and plans for the community center area underway.

1999 NPC breaks ground on community center.

The Warner Park Community Recreation Center opens its doors in 1999.

1993-1999 ... the early years.

Twenty years of success: Creating a Northside identity and a place to celebrate together

By Char Tortorice
Northside News

A 20th birthday is certainly a milestone. It is a time to reflect on lessons learned and set a path for the future. That is exactly what the Northside Planning Council (NPC) is doing. The next several editions of the Northside News will look back on where the Council has been and share with you goals for the future — goals that address the things you have helped identify. Of course, there will also be a party to celebrate NPC's coming of age, so look for more information on that community event in the August issue.

In the beginning

In the early 1990s Madison was experiencing rapid growth and change, which prompted the city to think about the array of services and resources that were available. Mayor Paul Soglin, always an advocate of citizen

input, was interested in finding a way to get such input early in the planning process rather than waiting for public hearings after many decisions had already been made. He was intrigued by the concept of planning councils, a format that was being implemented successfully in a few other cities. He formed a task force to explore whether the concept would work here, and the recommendation was that the city pilot a planning council.

The Northside was chosen for several reasons: there was a significant but not overwhelming number of Northsiders who were experiencing challenges that could be addressed by an appropriate array of services and resources; the Northside had just completed a neighborhood plan and was not already organized into competing organizations and associations; and although the area was modest by economic standards, it was quite stable.

The first steps

In 1993 the city hired the first NPC facilitator, Ron Chance, and invited any organized group to elect a representative to serve on the council. The mission sounded simple: to improve the quality of life on the Northside. But how do you do that?

Organizing residential areas into neighborhood associations or tenants groups was the place to start, and Ron hit the ground running. Organizing depends on relationships, and he was a master.

As the NPC grew, the meeting agendas expanded beyond just monitoring the recommendations contained in the neighborhood plan. They also focused on what the Northside needed to be the best place to live, work, learn and play and who could provide that.

Small grants were available to support Northsiders who wanted to help provide

local services, such as childcare, rides to stores and appointments or entertainment opportunities.

The NPC wanted to learn more so planned a trip to St. Paul, Minn. to meet with the planning councils serving that city. Each was unique, but one of the councils stood out. It was in a modest area of St. Paul that was incredibly vibrant. Two things helped foster that vibrancy: a community newspaper; and a community center with a rich array of programming that truly had something for everyone.

The big leap

Since you are reading this article, you know what happened to the community newspaper idea. The community center, however, was an idea that had been discussed for a while but had not been developed. A major barrier was that the center

was envisioned to be a bit different from most of the community centers in Madison that serve a discrete residential base. This center was to serve the whole Northside, to be a gathering place to help foster a true Northside community identity.

Warner Park was the ideal location, but the Madison Parks Department didn't have a history of overseeing buildings, other than shelters, located in parks. Mayor Soglin and then Northside Alders Dorothy Borchardt and Roberta Kiesow were not deterred and threw out a challenge: if the Northside could raise \$750,000, the city would build the center and the Madison Parks Department would run and maintain it. In an unexpected alignment of plans, the North/Eastside Senior Coalition (NESCO) was looking for new office space and offered \$100,000 as the lead gift for the challenge if their offices

could be housed within the center. NPC accepted the city's challenge.

About that time, Ron Chance left to take a job with Dane County and a new facilitator was hired. Tim Carlisle, a country boy who rarely mentions his advanced degree from Harvard, became the second NPC facilitator. Under his watch, organizing expanded and the Northside News flourished.

NPC members asked everyone they could think of for donations for the center. Meeting with CEOs was a bit overwhelming for some, but little by little the money came in, not just from corporations but from local businesses, individuals and families. By 1998, NPC had raised a hefty \$804,000, enough to break ground and prove that public-private partnerships could work.

Plans for a center needed to be developed. Early on it was decided that recreation would be a major focus of the build-

ing and thus the name became the Warner Park Community Recreation Center (WPCRC). It was also decided that the center would have an advisory board to make sure the community had a strong voice in decision-making affecting the facility.

The city hired both a building architect firm and a landscape architect firm. Working together, they devised an interactive design process. A number of sessions were held that incorporated an open community meeting on a Tuesday night to take design input, followed by a Thursday meeting, just two days later, where plans incorporating the ideas were unveiled for feedback.

Eventually a design was agreed upon, and in 1999 the WPCRC was opened. Although NPC had been hard at work organizing both youth and adults; interfacing with the city, county, school district and United Way regarding emerging issues on the Northside;

and awarding grants to local service providers, the WPCRC was perhaps the first truly visible accomplishment and highlighted the power of strong partnerships.

A center at the heart of a community

For 14 years the WPCRC has been a focal point of the Northside. NESCO has excellent programming for seniors, while Madison School & Community Recreation offers classes for all ages. The exercise room is often filled to capacity, and the gym and game room are favorite haunts of the younger set. The community rooms have a high enough usage rate that booking a wedding or anniversary must be done well in advance, and many a community forum has been held there. Recently the WPCRC has also become a polling site. It is truly a place where the Northside community comes together to work, learn and play.

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ARTS



Photos by Marcia Yapp

Residents at Central Wisconsin Center work together to create a beautiful mosaic.

Life in bloom at Central WI Center

By Kathie Wagner
VSA Wisconsin

With the help of VSA Wisconsin, residents at Central Wisconsin Center (CWC), a state facility for individuals with developmental disabilities, have created a beautiful mosaic mural that has been permanently installed in the gymnasium at Stevens Hall.

Marcia Yapp, a VSA Wisconsin teaching artist, coordinated the 25-hour artist-in-residency, which directly involved 100 CWC community members and staff.

Yapp, a Northside resident, described 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 said mosaic is one of the most accessible art processes because it's not intimidating and doesn't require a lot of knowledge about art technique. Tile placement can be random, so this art medium was perfect for the individuals who live at CWC. With mosaics, everyone gets a chance to create something beautiful.

Under Yapp's guidance, residents and staff were able to contribute to the design and creation of the artwork. Creating a collaborative piece of art is very challenging. The staff helped engage the residents in the design sessions by working with colored paper, string, markers and paints to come up with ideas for the Life in Bloom theme.

Because many of the residents have limited fine motor skills, laying the pieces of tile to create the mosaic mural was largely the responsibility of the staff. Residents were always at the table where the mosaic pieces were being laid. With the design in front of them to view, some residents would hold or feel the tiles, choose colors or share an opinion. One resident, a music lover, brought his boom box and played music for the group while they worked on the mural.

CWC is a facility with a family atmosphere and a strong sense of community. The staff and residents care deeply for



one another. They took great pride in this opportunity to create a beautiful piece of art for their facility.

Generous support for this project was provided in part by Dane Arts, with additional funds from The Evjue Foundation, Inc., the charitable arm of The Capital Times; a separate grant from the Evjue Foundation; the Endres Manufacturing Company Foundation and the Brittingham Madison Trust.

About VSA

VSA Wisconsin uses the arts to expand the capabilities, confidence and quality of life for children and adults with disabilities. By using the arts to enhance education, advance socialization and promote inclusion, residencies like the one at CWC make it possible for individuals with disabilities to contribute to the social, cultural and economic life of their communities.

VSA Wisconsin began in 1985 and conducts multidisciplinary arts programming in more than 30 cities and towns annually. Programs include artist residencies in prekindergarten-12 class-

Northside artists featured at Coffee Gallerie

By David Carpenter

Several Northside artists will be showing their work at the Coffee Gallerie, 1865 Northport Dr., during the months of June and July. Artwork being shown includes paintings, drawings and photographs. Since the show has no specific theme, it allows each artist to feature some of their favorite pieces. Some represent Northside themes, while others have a much broader focus. Most of the art being shown is for sale.

The participating artists are members of the North Side Artists Group (NSAG), a growing organization of about 40 artists who live or work on Madison's Northside. Members represent a wide variety of art forms and are not juried for membership. If you are a Northside artist and are interested in becoming a member of NSAG, please



Redbuds at Olbrich Gardens by David Carpenter

contact David Carpenter by email at dcarpenter3@charter.net or by calling 442-6958.

The Coffee Gallerie has been very supportive and accommodating of Northside artists in recent years. NSAG, as well as individual artists, have had shows there. The Coffee Gallerie is open for breakfast and lunch seven days a week, until 4 pm on weekdays and 1 pm on weekends. The public is invited to view the art at any time during the Coffee Gallerie's normal hours.

rooms and in community settings, community choirs, creative art and music classes and workshops, art sales events,

training and professional development for artists and educators, and disability awareness training.



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SCHOOLS

Classes in Warner Park unite middle schoolers with UW students, nature

By David Tenenbaum

Trish O'Kane had reached a dead end. It was her first day teaching a capstone course in environmental studies at the Nelson Institute, and she was ready to forge ahead with a two-hour college-style lesson plan.

Meanwhile, the students, from Sherman Middle School were rolling sideways down the big hill at Warner Park.

The idea seemed sound: juniors and seniors from the University of Wisconsin-Madison would focus on birds in the natural world during a two-hour indoor class on campus every Wednesday morning. In the afternoon, they would meet students at Sherman and spend two hours at Warner.

Instinctively, O'Kane dropped her structured lesson plan and changed course. The kids had just spent a day in school, and they had energy to burn. She could teach about birds and the environment in a more subtle — and more effective — manner.

"We have to meet them where they are," said O'Kane, a graduate student who lives in the neighborhood and is a prime mover in Wild Warner, an effort to sustain nature and promote nature appreciation in the 200-acre park.

And at that moment, Last Child in the Park: How Kids and Birds Can Save the Planet took flight as a program in cooperative, cross-generational, outdoor learning.

The class has three segments: students from Sherman, environmental studies seniors from UW-Madison and the park itself.

Danny Munguia, 13, who lives in the neighborhood, signed up because he wanted to be outside. "I liked it the first day. I've



Photo by Jeff Miller

University of Wisconsin-Madison students studying environmental studies pair with and mentor Sherman Middle School students as the group gathers under an oak tree to reflect and share personal observations at Warner Park. Trish O'Kane is at the center, wearing hat and vest.

seen how Warner changes, how it looks in the different seasons. My favorite is summer, when I can hear the birds."

The class, he said, "gets you outside instead of being at home and doing nothing. You start to know what's around you."

"The first time through, I did not see what was important," said Tony Abate, a senior in philosophy and environmental studies. "I did not know what I was doing, did not see what a difference I was making." At the concluding class of the last session, he said, "One of 'my' boys could not look at me, could not tell me

goodbye, and I realized it meant a lot more than I thought."

The lessons tend to focus on bird life in the park, but "birds are an avenue, a road into the relationship," said O'Kane's advisor, Jack Kloppenburg, professor of environmental and community sociology. "The college students are establishing a

relationship; the middle-school students have someone who listens, who is there for them, and that's very important."

From observation, understanding and love comes citizenship, O'Kane said. For example, after park staff cut down a large, hollow elm that they adjudged hazardous but was a favorite hiding place, the middle-schoolers wanted to raise the issue about another tree before the Parks Commission. Eleven-year-old Dakari Gilbert told the members, "I am not used to talking to strangers, this is very emotional. On my birthday, my family comes and we have cake under my birthday tree. It's old. Please don't cut it down!"

The park commissioners heard the message, said commission member Bill Barker, an associate dean at UW-Madison. "For them to come forth even though they are scared shows they are learning to advocate for something that's important for them." Coming from an 11-year-old boy, Barker said, "it's very powerful; very effective."

Barker, an associate dean at the UW, notes that Last Child in the Park exposes the diverse group to an educational institution that is seldom on their radar screens. "When these kids grow up, they are more likely to think about UW-Madison," he said. "This kind of program is helpful for UW, for our students, for the kids at Sherman, for the park. Everybody benefits."

Host an international student through the EF Foundation

By Ashley M.P. Kaplewski
EF Foundation

Education First (EF) Foundation for Foreign Study has newly appointed Ashley Kaplewski as the Madison-area International Exchange Coordinator (IEC).

Ashley is actively looking for host families to open their homes to an international high school student from one of 18 countries for the 2013-2014 school year.

EF Foundation host families come in all shapes and sizes, representing the diversity of American culture. Some host families have no children or adult

children who have moved away. Bringing a student to Madison would not only enrich our community, but would introduce your family to new customs and cultures without having to travel the globe.

In her new role as IEC, Ashley helps match students with host families, enrolls students in the local high school, and provides ongoing guidance and support throughout the semester or year-long exchange experience.

To learn more about hosting a student, visit www.effoundation.org/host or contact Ashley at 520-0404.



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SCHOOLS

Sherman Middle School holds Zulu Love Letters art and service fair

“The Zulu Love Letter Art Show was a great way to show off our Zulu Love Letters. Zulu Love letters are beaded artwork that originated from the Zulu people in Africa. Each color has a different meaning. You use the letters to send messages. You use the colors and form them into a design to create a message.

During the fair, I sold Vietnamese eggrolls. I raised \$23.25. Even though that isn't much, the experience was spectacular! Knowing that you are going to make a difference is a very positive, happy feeling.”

By Thuy-Trang Le, in a letter to her chosen charity, the Memory Project



Muhamed Sanneh and Crisiana Herndan discuss the United Way.



Destinee Vela and Cassandra Gavala look at the work of their peers.

By Thandi Brathwaite and Soukeye Ndoye
Seventh Grade

On April 24 the HeNaJo Team from Sherman Middle School organized a fantastic art show and service fair. Over the course of two months, students worked extremely hard on creating art and investigating their charity of choice. Each student was able to complete both of these things, just in time for the event. Every student completed beaded artwork, called Zulu Love Letters, which we will be sending to Haiti attached to backpacks in an effort to show people we care about them and respect the resiliency they showed during the earthquake of 2010.

An estimated 250 guests came to the event. The first thing our guests saw was the Zulu Love Letters that we made. Many of them enjoyed seeing what we were able to make and how creative we were. Our guests

saw the posters we made for the service fair, and everyone was impressed by how creative students were and all the effort we put into our posters. A couple parents even told students that “something small to you can be really grand to someone else.” The main question that was asked was how we came across the charities. Students were pleased to hear positive feedback from the guests, such as, “It looks great,” “I can tell you worked hard,” and “This was really nice. I would give you five stars.”

Three people were interviewed during the art show and service fair: Jack Jorgensen, Sarah and Jenny Crubaugh. They all said they heard about the event from their children. They also said the event was awesome and it was inspirational to see all the different charities students picked. Sarah said it was too hard to pick her favorite poster because they were all really good.



Laurel Daniels and Alexandra Miranda await to share their knowledge with visitors.



Ashley Houston stands ready to present information about the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Jack and Sarah said the students did a good job picking their projects and the students were inspirational that night. As a result of their hard work, people enjoyed a dinner that included fried rice, egg rolls, pizza, tasty snacks and baked goods.

This event was important because students and families got to see how middle schoolers think and present their work. Students got to learn about different chari-

ties through the posters they made. They learned that something small to them can make a big difference in someone else's life. The HeNaJo students were dedicated and consistent with researching information about their charities and making sure the posters were presentable for our guests. Overall the event was a great success and students will leave seventh grade with new knowledge about charities.

Photos by Jessica Henze

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Gompers awarded grant to address achievement gap

By Jason Cuevas
Northside News

Gompers Elementary School has received a grant worth over \$9,000. This grant will allow a teacher from each grade, the school's instructional resource teacher, and the school's principal, Sarah Chaja, the opportunity to travel to Los Angeles to receive training in culturally and linguistically responsive practices.

The school's staff will visit three schools that have had good results in helping minority students achieve success. This is important for Gompers, which has a growing number of students from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Currently, 85 percent of the school's white students tested as proficient or advanced in the area of reading, while 40 percent of African-American students and 48 percent of Hispanic

students did so. This is a significant gap between groups that all attend the same school and interact socially.

Chaja explained that the staff is trying to teach validation and affirmation of students' home languages and cultures, while also trying to merge that into the school environment. The staff wants to be able to bridge those two areas and help students learn school-appropriate behaviors.

Chaja has previous experience with bilingual education, which has been an asset in her first year at the school. It has given her an insight into different cultures and languages that other principals may not have experienced.

“I'm really hopeful we'll be able to use [the training] to inform other schools in the district,” Chaja said. “Taking what we learn and compile it into some form of presentation, and I'd like to share it with other schools.”

Help Sherman students design and construct their own outdoor kitchen

By Tamara M. Baker
Sherman School Garden Coordinator

During the summer, Sherman Middle School students will work with natural builder Whitney Bembenek to add beauty and function to their outdoor garden kitchen by building a 25-foot wall using an earth based, natural building material called "cob." This is a great opportunity for Sherman students to work as a team to design and construct a creative and long-lasting piece of functional artwork within their school and neighborhood community.

The students are hoping the community will help them reach their funding goals by making a donation and promoting their crowd-sourced fundraiser located on the DaneArts Power2Give webpage. DaneArts Community Supporters will make a 50 percent match for all donations received through the website. Please help get the word out to Northside organizations and friends through Facebook, websites, emails, newsletters and word-of-mouth. Share often!

"Cob in the Kitchen" fundraiser can be found at <http://power2give.org/go/p/1820>.

SCHOOLS

Photo provided by Lindy Anderson



Olga Arrufut-Tobon, social worker at the UW Northeast Family Medical Center, reads to Lake View Elementary School students at Read Your Heart Out Day this past March. Arrufut-Tobon also volunteers at Lake View once a week as a "Big Sister" to a student through the Big Brothers/Big Sisters School Friends program.

Lake View Elementary looks forward to Health and Wellness Day

By Lindy Anderson
Madison Metropolitan School District

Lake View Elementary School students will experience an entire day of games and activities focused on health and wellness Monday, June 10. This opportunity is being made possible by the UW Health Northeast Family Medical Center, Lake View's Adopt-a-School partner since June 2012.

The clinic's close proximity to Lake View School prompted Dr. Sarina Schragger to explore the idea of this partnership when she heard about the Adopt-a-School Program during the Foundation for Madison's Public Schools (FMPS) Circle of Friends luncheon.

FMPS Adopt-a-School partnerships exist between schools and businesses all over Madison. Each partnership is unique and is tailored to match the specific needs of the school with the resources of the partnering entity in order to promote academic achievement and the personal growth of students. Participating in the FMPS A Principal Experience program provided Schragger with the opportunity to shadow Lake View Principal Kristi Kloos. The experience sparked ideas for the partnership as Schragger learned about the specific needs and challenges faced by Lake View students and staff.

The Northeast Family Medical Center is run by the UW Department of Family Medicine Residency Program, and

Schrager's suggestion to adopt Lake View School was well received by the clinic's resident physicians, medical students and pharmacy students. The idea caught on and provides mutual benefit, since the resident physicians are required to complete a community project prior to graduation.

The clinic has provided fruit for the school's backpack breakfasts and for PTA Family Nights. Clinic staff read to Lake View students at Read Your Heart Out Day and participate in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters School Friends mentoring program. The clinic also donated snow pants and boots and provided pedometers for every student for fitness and math activities.

"It's true that it takes a village to raise a child, and we are so lucky to have UW Northeast [Family Medical Center] as one of the groups in our village," said Kloos.

Lake View's Health and Wellness Day on June 10 will provide learning opportunities about anatomy, live organs, x-rays, dental hygiene, yoga, safety and more. Volunteers are welcome. Please call Dr. Sarina Schragger at the Northeast Family Medical Center, 241-9020. For information about the FMPS, contact Mary Bartzan at 232-7820 or mbartzen@fmfs.org. For information about the UW Health Northeast Family Medical Center Adopt-a-School partnership, visit www.madison.k12.wi.us/LakeviewUWHealthpartnership.

East High Math Department builds skills and community

By Cynthia Chin
East High Math Department

All East High School students are invited to apply for summer "Makerships" at Sector67. There are free memberships for the summer, which include access to technology and tools, plus money for lessons and supplies. The only application requirement is a brief description of what you'd like to accomplish, be it a new invention, a piece of art, or a computer project you've always wanted to try. For more information contact Chris Meyer at: team@sector67.org or 241-4605. There's more about the Sector67 facility at www.sector67.org/index.php.



Angus Keane Lincoln, a fourth grader at Lake View Elementary School, April 16

Photo by Nyika Campbell

Did you know that IUPUI is a "Jeopardy" question? [What is the college with the longest name? Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis.] Alondra Harris, JJ Hilliard, Tobias Pointer and Josh Spitzer-Resnick spent three days attending academic and pre-professional workshops and visiting both IUPUI and the Motor Speedway in Indianapolis at the end of March. They would be happy to tell you more about

their experience as guests of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and what they learned from their robotics exhibition. East's LEGO robot team (Alondra, Tobias, Josh and Erin Barry, who

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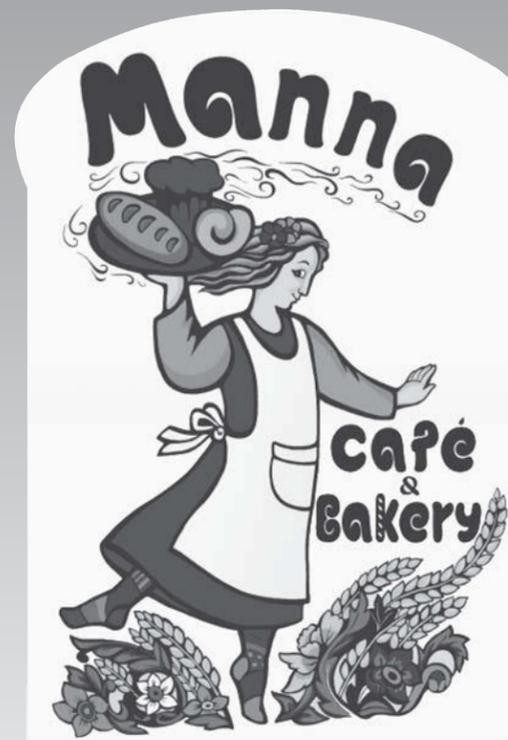
Lake View and Emerson Elementary Schools hosted Family Science Nights in April. East Engineering Club students Emily Barry, Jacob Benford, Nyika Campbell, Kim Chung, Alondra Harris, Ricardo Ruiz and Myles Strong helped students and their adult friends build geodesic domes and model homes designed to resist the elements of heat, wind, rain and snow.

could not attend) placed eighth out of 27 high school groups from around the country. We appreciate all the East families who raided their penny jars at home for the February drive to fund this trip.

Have a great summer. We look forward to seeing everyone again in the fall.

And here's some math to go: www.googolpower.com/content/free-learning-resources/summer-math-keep-up-math-skills-during-summer.

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Lakeview Lutheran Church
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Madison, WI 53704
Phone: 608-244-6181

YOUTH



Kennedy Heights children had fun with the old-fashioned string and cup telephone game during the COMETS Family Science Night at Edgewood College.

COMETS Family Science Night

By Karen Seno
Kennedy Heights Community Center

A busload of families from Kennedy Heights recently spent an evening of learning and fun at Edgewood College. Students learned about sound through experiments with fire and variations on

the old-fashioned “telephone” game. Parents learned about cardiac health by dissecting sheep hearts and examining a cadaver cat.

COMETS (Creating Opportunity in Math, Engineering, Technology and Science) is a partnership between

Edgewood College, the University of Wisconsin, and six community centers, including the Kennedy Heights Community Center. The partnership aims to reduce the achievement gap in science that exists for low-income and minority students.



Youth Council cont. from page 1

was important for me to become a part of something that was going to positively help youth. I feel that if youth do not begin to speak out, these tragedies will happen over and over again.

As a teenager I know there are very few positive, productive things for us to do. I and many teenagers I know are not

into sports, music, or dance. I am a regular teenager who enjoys being with my friends, hanging out and helping people. We need more activities, things to keep us occupied in a positive and enriching way. We need the opportunity to learn in a fun way and to learn things that will be crucial to know once we are on our own.

If there continues to be nothing for young people to do, then some will be-

gin to follow our peers and do the wrong things, like drugs, skipping school and not respecting our elders. I believe that the Northside Youth Council will open many doors for the youth and our future, and I’m very proud to be a part of it.

East High school. My sophomore year I became pregnant with my first child. As a result I dropped out of school and obtained my HSED in 1995 and my Certified Nursing Assistant Certificate.

Life was hard for a very long time. I was hanging with a rough crowd that was unlike the kids I grew up with or was even used to. As a result I made a lot of bad decisions just trying to fit in.

As time went on, I made decent money as a CNA and had another daughter in 1997. I was making ends meet, but my main focus was instilling education into my children and making sure that they understood my life in every aspect. I have shared everything with my girls so they learned what not to do. They were with me every step of the way so they were very familiar with the challenges I faced to raise and provide for them.

Then, one day, when my oldest daughter was a sophomore in high school at East, she asked me, “Mom, why do I have to go to college if you never went?” That was a very good and unexpected question. So, in December 2010 I made the decision to go back to school and obtain a college degree.

I worked full time and attended school full time at the University of Phoenix where I obtained an A.B.A. in business administration. I was scheduled to begin my bachelor’s degree program to continue in business when I realized, through watching many of my daughters’ friends, that my life has been and will be mirrored by so many young girls just like me. As a result I realized that my passion and drive is working with teenagers and sharing my story with them, so I decided to change my major to human services management, and I will graduate with my degree in the spring of 2014. I will then go on to obtain my master’s degree in social work to help give a voice to youth that are so often overlooked because they are not what everyone’s idea of a “good” teenager is.

The best part of raising my children was and is during their teenage years. I have always told my children that it is not my job to make decisions for them but to help them make good decisions for themselves because there will come a point when I have no control over their lives. The teenage years are what makes or breaks a young life, and it is so imperative that they are assisted in making difficult decisions.



By Alexis Cameron, Ninth grade

The major reason why I wanted to join the Northside Youth Council was because I felt like it would be a great opportunity to get involved in the community and be a part of what’s going on with my peers. The community needs strong role models and I felt it would be helpful for me to join this program. Having this opportunity will not only benefit me as a teenager, it will also benefit those involved in it. I feel that as a member of the community I should give back, and the Northside Youth Council has allowed me to do so. Now that this program is running, I feel young people have a safe place to be.



By Felicia Butler, Youth Council adviser

So many teenagers are overlooked and misunderstood by both their parents and their community. This is why the Youth Council is so important to me. I serve as an example to teenagers that, no matter what obstacles a teenager faces, they must realize “through every dark night, there’s a bright day after that, so no matter how hard it get, stick your chest out, keep your head up, and handle it.” (from Tupac’s song, “Me Against the World.”)

I was born and raised on Madison’s Northside, where I went to school at Lindbergh Elementary and later attended

www.edwardjones.com

Will You Get the Most from Your Social Security Benefits?

Deciding when to take your Social Security benefits is one of the most important retirement-related decisions you’ll ever make. It will likely be an essential component of your retirement income strategy, so it’s important to understand what factors will determine your benefit amount. Your informed decisions on timing, spousal benefits and other factors can make a significant difference on the lifetime benefits you receive.

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YOUTH

Boy Scouts gear up for summer

By Wendy Murkve
Troop 23

Boy Scout Troop 23 is busy getting ready for a summer full of community service, camping and fun.

On April 27 we, along with other area Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts, assisted the Friends of Cherokee Marsh in placing erosion control plantings along the edges of the two new retention ponds in Cherokee Marsh along Wheeler Road. We had a sunny morning and wet, muddy work to do. It was the perfect service project for us. A couple scouts found a garter snake, which was affectionately named Mr. Cuddles. After everyone had a chance to admire him, Mr. Cuddles was returned to his home.

We camped at Governor Dodge State Park May 3-5. This was the first outdoor campout for our new scouts, and a little rain didn't deter us. We did some hiking, cooked some great meals (especially the foil hobo meals in the campfire), and helped our new scouts work toward their Tenderfoot rank. We always man-

aged to save a little time for some football or "Capture the Flag."

This summer you'll see us planting trees near the ponds at Cherokee Marsh and helping serve breakfast at St. Peter's Church. In addition, we'll be running a station at the Cub Scout Day Camp at Token Creek County Park in June. We're spending a week at Camp Tesomas near Rhineland in July, and spending three nights at Rock Island State Park in August. We have a Boundary Waters canoe trip planned for the summer of 2014. Closer to home, this summer we'll be working on our Fishing Merit Badge and, doing a little bicycling and hiking.

Scouting is for all boys aged 11 to 17 and their families. If the things we do sound like fun and you're interested in joining the Boy Scouts, please contact Troop 23 Scoutmaster Wendy Murkve via email at bsatrop23scoutmaster@gmail.com or by phone at 513-7815. You can also find us on Facebook as "Scout Troop 23."

Get help teaching your child to ride a bike at Mendota Elementary School

By Nicole Graper
MSCR

Learn easy, hands-on techniques and get your child riding solo on two wheels at the Learn to Ride event hosted by Madison School & Community Recreation (MSCR) and the Madison Department of Transportation. This innovative approach covers adjusting your child's bike helmet, balancing on a bike, pedaling, stopping and steering control. The event includes a free bike helmet, helmet fitting, bike safety, practice time and a goodie bag. The program is for children ages four and older and their parents or guardians.

Participants must wear bike helmets to ride. Children must be accompanied by a companion 16 years old or older. Bring the child's bike to class — a limited number of practice bikes are available.

The Northside event will be held Thursday, June 20, 5:30-7:30 pm at Mendota Elementary School. Please meet in the parking lot. The fee is \$7. The course number is 42341. Register online at www.mscr.org or call 204-3021 for more information. Volunteers are needed; please call 204-4582 to volunteer.



"Access to University" held at Vera Court Neighborhood Center

By Grisel Tapia and Patrick Schrank
Vera Court Neighborhood Center

Accessing accurate information is critical for youth seeking to attend college, especially if they are the first in their family to do so. The Latino Education Council of Dane County, Vera Court Neighborhood Center and Latino Academy of Workforce Development have been hosting a series of conferences around Dane County for parents and students interested in learning more about the University of Wisconsin system.

Through these one-on-one conferences, parents and their children learn of available opportunities within the University of Wisconsin as they plan their future careers. They also receive valuable information about the classes they must take in high school, the grades they should be striving for, and how they can

get accepted into college and succeed once there. Families also get information about scholarships available for children who are the first generation in their families to go to the university.

Both the students and their families have been very motivated to achieve higher education. Each conference includes one-on-one help with applications, federal student aid (FAFSA), scholarship applications, and planning high school classes that are needed to attend college. The Access to University conferences take place the first Saturday of every month from 9 am-3 pm at the Bridge Lake Point Waunona Neighborhood Center, 1917 Lake Point Dr. To schedule a conference, contact Salvador Carranza via the website (www.latino-educ.org) or contact Grisel Tapia at 246-8372.



Photo provided by Wendy Murkve

Mr. Cuddles was admired, especially by the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, and then returned to his home.



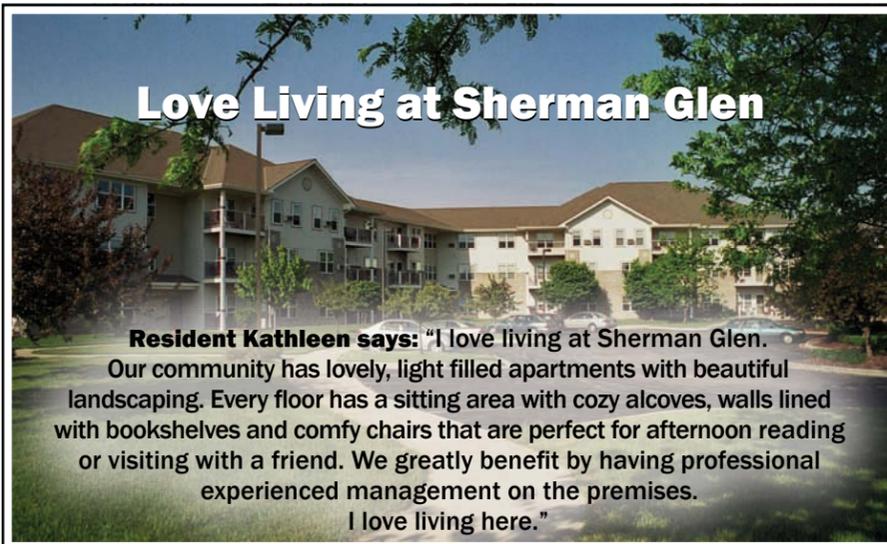
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All shows are Monday evenings at 6 pm and open to the public!

10 JUNE	Hanson Family Jazz Band (Jazz)
17 JUNE	Ladies Must Swing (Swing)
24 JUNE	The Dang-Its (Country)
8 JULY	Primitive Culture (Funk, Blues, Tropical)
15 JULY	Madisalsa (Latin Jazz)
22 JULY	Fuzzy Side Up (50's-70's Rock)

Supported by Alliant Energy Foundation, BMO Harris Bank, Dane Arts (additional funds from Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission), Dennis Tiziani, Door Creek Church and Boomerangs Resale Store, Madison Arts Commission, Madison Mallards, Oak Park Place, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, UW Credit Union, and Westmont Law Offices S.C.

Northside SENIOR Coalition

Transportation available for seniors call 243-5252

LIBRARY

From

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246-4547



LAKEVIEW BRANCH LIBRARIAN

Lakeview Branch Library
246-4547

Hours: Monday-Friday: 10 am–8 pm
Saturday: 9 am–5 pm
Closed July 4

Cr-Afternoons

Wednesdays June 26, July 10 and 24,
Aug. 7 at 2 pm
Join creative librarians for craft fun.
Colorful paper, glitter glue, paints and
more.

Teen Video Game Club

Tuesdays June 18, July 9, Aug. 2 at
3:30 pm
Video games, friendly competition
and snacks. Show your friends and
foes how to compete on the Wii. For
children in grades 6 and up.

Library LEGO Club

Tuesdays June 18, July 16, Aug. 20 at
4 pm
We'll provide a different theme each month,
along with some stories and pictures to
inspire the imagination. Join other LEGO
fans and build your own unique creation.
The whole family is welcome.

Digging Into the Mysteries of Magic

Thursday, June 20 at 2 pm
Expect exciting magic and plenty of
fun with Wayne the Wizard.

Dinner and a Movie

Tuesday, June 25 at 6:30 pm
Bring a picnic dinner for your family to
share while enjoying a marathon of the
classic Mole movies by Zdeněk Miler.
For the whole family.

Wee Folk and Whatnot

Thursday, June 27 at 2 pm
Elves, gnomes and trolls, oh my.
Celebrate these wee mischief makers
with stories, songs, crafts and more.

Mud Pie Madness

Tuesday, July 2 at 2 pm
Using "dirt," "mud" and (gummy)
worms, create a deliciously disgusting
mud pie at the library. Compete for
prizes in the Muckiest Pie competition
and then eat your treat. For children in
grades 6 and up.

Tickle Tales

Tuesday, July 9 at 6:30 pm
This hour of stories for the whole
family will tickle your funny bone.
Loads of audience participation,
puppets, props, music and more.

Digging Up Dinos

Thursday, July 11 at 2 pm
Learn how scientists find dinosaur
fossils and get them out of the ground.
There will be real dinosaur fossils to
examine, as well as some of the
equipment that is used to dig 'em up.
For the whole family.

Super Smash Brothers Brawl 2013
Library's qualifying round: Wednesday,
July 17, 3-5 pm
Think you have what it takes to be
Madison's city-wide Super Smash
Brothers Brawl champion? Children in
grades 6 and up, show us what you've got.

Duck Tape Mania

Thursday, July 18 at 2 pm
Snacks, colored Duck Tape and
loads of fun. Bring your friends and
make wearable art — purses, wallets,
sandals, bracelets, belts and more.
Patterns will be available to get you
started. All ages. Children under 7
must have an adult helper. Registration
begins July 5.

Twinkle Henna

Tuesday, July 23, 2–3 pm
Henna artist Veena Vijayvargiya will
create a beautiful, one-of-a-kind,
temporary henna tattoo on your skin.
For children in grades 6 and up. Please
pick up a required permission slip.



Explore Egypt

Tuesday, July 23 at 6:30 pm
Find out about mummies, treasure and
other secrets buried deep underground.
Make some treasure to take home, too.
For school-aged children.

Wormapalooza

Thursday, July 25 at 2 pm
Squiggly, wiggly, slimy and oh so good
for your garden. Come celebrate worms
at this festival of fish bait.

Underground and All Around

Thursday, July 25 at 6:30 pm
Clare Norelle will share stories and
songs from many lands featuring
people, animals and magical creatures
that live, hide or seek treasures beneath
the earth.

Teddy Bear Picnic

Tuesday, July 30 at 6:30 pm
Bears (and their friends) are
encouraged to join us for a musical
story romp about bears and food.

Drop-in Animation Lab

Wednesday, July 31, 2–4 pm
Play with Madison Public Library's
new stop-motion and hand-drawn
animation stations with the help of
animator Nate Clark and learn more
about the new animation program at
the library. Adults, teens and families
are welcome. No registration required.

Around the Campfire with Yurtfolk

Thursday, Aug. 1 at 2 pm
Enjoy songs and stories around a
"real" campfire with the musicians of
Yurtfolk.

Life Underground

Thursday, Aug. 8 at 2 pm
One of Lakeview's favorites, Dennis

"Dino" Tlachac, brings unique
nocturnal animals to the library. Find
out how these subterranean creatures
dig in the dirt. Includes live animals
and insects.

Preschool Storytime

Tuesdays June 18-Aug. 6 at 10:30 am
For children ages 3–5, with younger
siblings welcome. A happy blend of
stories, fingerplays and songs that help
preschool children develop print and
phonologic awareness, vocabulary,
letter knowledge and narrative skills.
Groups welcome.

Toddler Time

Wednesdays June 19-Aug. 7 at 10:15 am
Stories, songs and rhymes for children
ages 0-35 months. One adult per child
recommended.

Book Baby

Wednesdays June 19–Aug 7 at 11 am
Enjoy stories, songs and activities. One
adult per baby is required. Class length
is 15 minutes with time for play and
conversation after.

Lakeview Chess Club

Second and fourth Mondays at 6 pm.
All ages and skill levels are welcome.

Adult Programs

Computer and e-Book Assistance
Wednesdays, by appointment, 10 am–1 pm
We offer free one-on-one sessions for
help with basic computer and internet
literacy, including e-reader set-up and
assistance, online job searching and
applications, using email, and opening
and using Facebook. Call 246-4547 for
an appointment.

Knitting at the Library

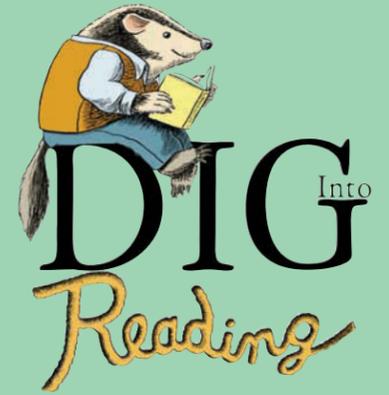
Every Wednesday at 6:30 pm
Drop in knitting. Learn a new craft or
work on that unfinished project with
other neighborhood knitters.

Adult Noon Book Group

Second Thursdays. Discuss books and
eat cookies. It's that much fun.
June 13 Old World Murder
by Kathleen Ernst
July 11 Putting Down Roots
by Marcia Carmichael
Aug. 8 The Dog Stars
by Peter Heller
Copies available at the library.

Scrabble for Adults

Every Wednesday at 10 am
Give the regulars some competition.



**Dig into reading with the
Summer Reading Club**

Come to Lakeview Library
or visit <http://madisonpubliclibrary.org> to join. Every
book or hour read (or read to)
counts. Earn great prizes, in-
cluding free event tickets, free
food and a free book. Prizes
are available starting June 14
but you can sign up now and
start reading. We've got great
programs for the whole family
at the library this summer. See
you there.



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