

COMMUNITY

Mid-morning meal makes money for food pantry

By Amy Lord
The River Food Pantry

The River Food Pantry will hold its Fifth Annual Summertime Benefit Brunch at the Northside Farmers Market Sunday, June 7, from 9 am–12 pm. Enjoy a classic breakfast of pancakes, eggs, bacon, juice and coffee. Breakfast-goers will enjoy music from local folk artist, Skip Jones. All proceeds will help The River provide food for hungry families in Dane County.

In addition to breakfast and live music, market-goers can shop for fresh, locally grown produce, organic food, meat and eggs available from the many vendors at

the Northside Farmers Market.

The River Food Pantry's food costs are up by 50 percent over last year. Funds raised at the Summertime Benefit Brunch will help The River with its greatest challenge: getting enough food to distribute to the growing numbers of people seeking assistance. The increasing cost of food, the scarcity of low-cost and free food from partner food banks, and increased demand have made assistance more costly to provide. The River has met this challenge by buying food wholesale.

With every \$10 the event raises, The River will be able to provide \$100 worth

of food to its client families. The River is Dane County's busiest food pantry, offering free groceries, meals, and clothing to individuals and families in Dane County. The River serves 600 families each week, distributing more than 37,000 pounds of food. In 2014 29,000 households were served, 26,000 meals were provided, and \$2.9 million worth of food was distributed.

The Northside Farmers Market is located at the Northside TownCenter (on the corner of Northport Drive and North Sherman Avenue). In case of bad weather, the brunch will be held at The River Food Pantry, 2201 Darwin Rd., Madison.



Photo by The River Food Pantry

Volunteers help serve at the Summertime Benefit Brunch at the Northside Farmers Market.

Community finds roots at Northside Farmers Market

By Fiona Stoner
Northside Farmers Market

In our fast-paced world full of digital distractions, it's vital to seek out the places where we continue to develop and experience community on a person-to-person level. The Northside Farmers Market is a great place to experience community on many levels: talking to vendors, asking questions about how they produce the food you are about to purchase, trying a new item you didn't know you could eat (such as the flowers from squash plants, which make a colorful sauté) and experiencing a sense of place by investing your time and money in local products.

We provide a covered dining area so you can enjoy savory tamales, delicious baked goods or a refreshing fruit smoothie. The atmosphere is relaxed and unhurried; you

can enjoy music and conversation while the children have fun with the sidewalk chalk.

Supporting the market means you are supporting food security for your neighbors. From June through October 2014, vendors at the Northside Farmers Market donated 7,781.5 pounds of produce to The River Food Pantry. Additional produce was donated to Lakeview Pantry. None of this would be possible if we didn't have dedicated customers investing in the local food network each week.

You have an opportunity to show your continued support by joining us Sunday, June 7, for the Fifth Annual River Food Pantry benefit breakfast from 9 am–12 pm. Read about this delicious event in the article above.

More excitement is in store at the Northside Market. On June 14 we wel-

come Them Travelin' Birds from Oakland, Calif. Cassandra and Tracy play a "neo jug/punkgrass" style of music that will get you dancing. They are touring the country visiting markets as they go. Get a preview of their music on their website (www.themtravelinbirds.com).

Make Music Madison comes to the Northside Farmers Market June 21. We will start Father's Day and the Summer Solstice with Gleewud String Quartet from 10–11:00 am, and then welcome the Shabazz High School Fiddle Class from 11:30 am–12:30 pm. Dads, stop by the information booth for your Father's Day appreciation gift (while supplies last).

Your market needs you. Volunteers play a vital role in keeping the market going each week. We need a crew of two

to four people to set up the tents, tables and chairs that create our weekly community space; we need people to sign up for shifts at the information booth; and we need a crew for clean up at the end of the day. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Nahrissa Rush at nahrissarush@gmail.com or 446-5929.

The Northside Farmers Market happens every Sunday, 8:30 am–12:30 pm, from May 3 through October at the Northside TownCenter, across from Warner Park. Our location makes it easy to get to by walking, bus, bicycle or car, with plenty of parking available.

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



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ENVIRONMENT

Songs of spring through Northside trails and tales

By Paul Noeldner

What's that racket out the window? With April showers, bright May flowers bloom into the warm days of June, and the Northside is alive with nature's spring symphony.

An Eastern Meadowlark whistles a lilting tune in the Warner Park meadow, the first seen here in at least 30 years. Red-headed woodpeckers are back drumming the rhythm of nature in Cherokee Marsh. Aptly named Chorus frogs strum in the Hartmeyer wetland pond by North Sherman Avenue, accompanied by the sleepy twittering of bluebirds nesting in a box under the big oaks behind Oscar Meyer. And in every Northside neighborhood and yard the rollicking songs of robins, the pure fluting of bright black and orange orioles, and the cooing of mourning doves in love welcome the earlier sunrise each day and say good night to the lingering dusk. Even ancient sturgeons in Lake Mendota sing like birds when they are on their spawning grounds, according to a UW professor specializing in natural acoustics. This is the music of the spheres — the harmony of nature —

close to home. See <http://enature.com> for online bird and frog calls.

By leaving ample natural areas and keeping large trees in our parks and neighborhoods, we not only provide habitat for these wonderful songsters, we create sheltered soundscapes that bring these musicians to our doorsteps. Lots of trees and bushes also help reduce the stressful decibel levels and constant background noise of traffic (70 decibels) and gas lawn mowers (90 decibels) that we've come to take for granted.

The decibel scale is logarithmic, meaning each increase of 10 decibels approximately doubles the loudness. If you know someone with a smartphone, ask them to load a sound level app such as Sound Meter. Then take a walk and watch the decibel levels drop from the 70s and 80s on a busy street to 50s and 40s in neighborhoods and sheltered nooks with lots of trees, bushes and birds. This combination of a quiet place and beautiful bird songs has been documented to affect our sense of well-being and our health, as well as neighborhood character and livability. We all help create the world we live in.

Groups working on plans for parks and the UW campus are talking about the importance of natural landscapes and nature nooks for sound as well as other nature recreation and education values. If you want to help create a quieter place with more bird song, help plant more native flowers, bushes and trees and encourage use of a push or electric mower (which at 50 decibels is 16 times quieter than a gas mower). Urban nature has many values. The music of the spheres is an important one.

Get involved in nature recreation and education on the Northside. See the calendar of events in the Northside News.

Earth-inspired reflections bloom

Earth Day

By Eliana Monat

On Earth Day Mr. Vang nominated Mantas and me to walk in front of the whole school and hold up a big banner that said, "Lake View for Earth Day." It was a short walk to Warner Park. I saw my dad and mom parking their car when we were walking into the park.

Mantas and I stood next to the Global Youth Service teens, who were holding up a banner of their own, and talked about the importance of youth changing the world. Then we had some speakers, including recycling king, George Dreckmann, Rep. Melissa Sargent, and Mayor Soglin's assistant, Katie Crawley. Then we had heard from some poets. I was one of them. Elyse and I were last; we read our rhyming poem about recycling that I had written. Then the Green Team helped the first graders plant a tree.

Next we ate lunch on a spot right next to the pond. After lunch we got a recycling bag and biodegradable garbage bag and gloves. We split into groups and started to pick up trash. We found a lot of cigarettes in the area we were assigned. We got a short break and then got back to work. Once we were done picking up trash, we crossed a little stream and threw our bags in the colossal trash bin. We set the bag with recycling next to the bin. Most of what we collected could be recycled. Earth Day this year was amazing!

Earth Day Reflection

By Mantas

I was chosen, along with Eliana, to carry the Lake View banner/sign at the front of the school line as we started our walk to Warner Park. The police helped us cross Northport.

We got to Warner Park and did the ceremony with the special guests, then we ate lunch. Then we walked to our class cleanup site and broke into groups and started picking up trash. We found everything from cigar packages to Cheetos bags. We got back to our meeting place and headed back to our school.

We all started the walk back to school. This time Eliana and I got to be at the back of the line with our peers.

We got to school and had Popsicles. We also helped the man from Easter Seals load up his truck with our bags of clothes from our Earth Day clothing drive. We held a clothing drive to raise money to plant a fifth-grade legacy burr oak tree at school.



Photos by Susan Hobart

Poem for Earth Day

By Jaylen, Grade 1

Lake View Elementary School

Each day clean the world
All don't make a mess
Recycle old stuff to make new stuff
Teach the garbage a lesson by throwing it away
Hug a tree

Poem for Earth Day

By Xanthe, Grade 1

Lake View Elementary School

You can feel the bright green grass
You can see the butterflies
You can smell the beautiful flowers
You can hear the birds chirping
Spring!
I love the Earth.

Winter Is Over

By Oumar, Grade 5

Lake View Elementary School

The tree is growing up and making leaves
Summer is coming
Bees are making honey
And the cows
Are making milk
And winter is over
No more snow and
No more ice-skating
I do not like snow anymore
Too cold
I feel great!

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ENVIRONMENT

Be smart when staying cool

By Dan Tortorice

In Wisconsin we live in a continental and temperate climate. In other words, it's really cold in winter and hot in summer. That adds up to two seasons where we must take action in order to stay comfortable in our homes.

The summer cooling season involves some of the same decisions as winter, with a few more choices. We can simply choose to not use air conditioning or use it as little as possible to save energy and money. A typical mid-efficiency central air unit will cost about \$150 in operating expense per season. By comparison, a whole house fan, which removes hot air from the house without cooling or removing humidity, costs about \$25 per season.

There are some good reasons to use air conditioning — it helps us get a good night's sleep and can protect us from pollen and other allergens — but we need to use it responsibly. Those really hot summer days put the greatest strain on electrical supply systems.

When choosing a central air system, it's important to look for the Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating (SEER). A higher rating means less energy usage. The current minimum SEER rating is 13, with Energy Star models having a rating of at least 14. As with all appliances, Energy Star models are the best choice. It's also important to get the proper size unit for your home. If the unit is too large, it will cost more to operate and will cool your house without removing humidity. A central cooling

system should have air returns mounted near the ceiling. During the summer months, the air returns mounted near the floor should be sealed off using magnetic covers. When switching back to heat for the winter, the position of the magnetic covers is reversed.

With a room air conditioner, you should measure the square footage of the area you want to cool and purchase the properly-sized model for that area. Square footage is figured by multiplying the length of a room by its width. It's also important to seal the gaps around your unit to keep hot air from entering.

MGE recommends setting a central air system at 78 degrees when the house is occupied and 85 degrees when not at home. A programmable thermostat is really valuable when using central air. You can have the unit come on shortly before returning home. The next generation of thermostats will connect to your smartphone so you can control it from anywhere.

As usual there are a number of common sense ideas to save energy during the summer months. Keep windows covered and closed during the hottest part of the day. Use exhaust fans to remove steamy air from the bathroom and kitchen. Try to cook outside on the grill or use the microwave oven to generate less heat inside. Wash laundry in cold water and hang clothes outside to dry. Turn off lights and the TV when not in use. Replace old light bulbs with LED models.

For more information, visit www.mge.com/saving-energy.

Happenings on the Hill

By Nelson Eisman

Friends of Lake View Hill Park

A lot has been happening and is about to happen at the park. The old water tower, which is still standing, was supposed to come down in April, but the State Historical Society wanted additional documentation due to the tower's historical significance. The demolition of the nurses' dormitory is still in engineering. Care will be taken to preserve some of the original materials. The brick is the same as that used on the main building and it is no longer available, so some brick will be saved for future repairs on the main building.

The tunnel between the main building and the dorm will be repurposed as an artificial bat cave. The immediate future for bats looks grim due to white nose syndrome. The tunnels can be easily cleaned and may hold out hope for future bats. We appreciate that Dane County is willing to develop this environment for bats.

For its annual Love Madison event, 36 members of Blackhawk Church spread wildflower seeds in

the park. These seeds are collected by school children at county parks, supervised by County Naturalist Wayne Pauly. Every year our park receives several thousand dollars worth of native wildflower seeds from this county program.

Teenagers from the Dane County Neighborhood Intervention Program have been busy pulling garlic mustard in the park. Throughout the year these volunteers are busy helping us stack brush, collect seeds, chip the trails and remove invasive plants. Their help is much appreciated.

We look forward to working again with the Operation Fresh Start Conservation Corps. Last year this county program provided funding for corps members to remove buckthorn in the park. This year they will be removing some of the downed trees to make room for flowers.

Coming soon we will have pet waste bags and receptacles at the kiosks.

Anyone interested in volunteering can visit our Facebook page or website. We also have brochures in the kiosks at the park.

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COMMUNITY GROUNDWORKS

Troy Kids Garden plants trees of tomorrow

By Jennica Skoug & Ginny Hughes

Students visiting Troy Gardens this summer will find themselves among fragrant blossoming fruit trees, as they return to the dozens of saplings they planted last year as part of the Schoolyard Orchard Project. The project — which resulted in the planting of 50 fruit and nut trees in Community GroundWorks Troy Kids Garden — was made possible by an anonymous donor through the Madison Community Foundation.

These trees will produce delicious fruit for years to come. The fruit will be eaten eagerly by the children who participate in Community GroundWorks youth programs. And like the rest of the edible landscape at Troy Gardens found in the open areas outside the community gardens and farm, the fruit and nuts from these trees will be free for any visitor

to sample. The trees themselves will provide a living laboratory for hands-on lessons in science, agriculture, history, shared resource management and other subjects.

The Schoolyard Orchard Project was so successful that an additional donation through the Madison Community Foundation has come forward. This donation will enable Community GroundWorks to plant 50 more fruit and nut trees at Troy



A staff member helps students plant an espaliered apple tree.

Photo by CGW staff

our new fruit trees, and all of our youth programs, Aug. 8 at the Goodman Youth Farm's Community Day, 5017 Sudbury Way, Madison. This event will take place from 3–6 pm and is open to students, parents, teachers, neighbors and anyone in between. Take a tour, learn to identify fruit trees by name, snack on farm-fresh veggies, meet our bees or ride our bike blender. We'll have outdoor games and farm activities for all ages. Newcomers will have a chance to learn about our programs, while returning students and volunteers will get to celebrate and show off their hard work. To sign up, visit www.communitygroundworks.org/what-we-do/youth-grow-local/east-high-youth-farm#Community_Day or contact Jennica Skoug at jennica@community-groundworks.org.

Gardens this spring, and even more at its Goodman Youth Farm near Kennedy Elementary School.

We hope you'll join us in celebrating



Photo by CGW staff

A Gentle Festival Returns – Savor the Summer at Troy Gardens

By Marge Pitts
Community GroundWorks

Community GroundWorks is bringing back Savor the Summer to Troy Gardens on Saturday, June 27 from noon-4pm.

This is a free, family festival, open to everyone. Enjoy a healthful cup of chilled gazpacho, with a giant soft Essen Haus pretzel toasted in our new outdoor pizza oven in Troy Kids' Garden.

After that, line up for a Chocolate Shoppe ice cream cone and settle in for some good fun. All food is free, while it lasts.

We'll have an assortment of kids' activities, including an arts table sponsored by Arterro, plus family yoga and other games to get you and the kids moving. The group Mami Wata performs West African drum music at 1:45, followed by a community conversation at 2:30, when we'll talk about exciting

environmental projects we're working on at CGW and Troy Gardens. After looking to the future, at 3:00 we'll cast a fond look to our past, honoring one of the founding mothers of so many positive Northside projects, Pat Woicck, who passed away last winter. Another short set of joyful music, and maybe another pass through the ice cream line if there's any left, and that's how we Savor the Summer at Troy Gardens!

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Scout projects transform Northside

Photo by Melissa Sargent



Devin Sargent led the construction of a walkway at Lake View Elementary as part of his Eagle Scout project.

By Wally Meyer

On the weekend of April 18–19, two young men organized and led groups of volunteers in performing projects that benefited our Northside community. Both are scouts from Troop 127, and they coordinated service projects that will help them earn Eagle Scout awards. In addition to the camping and merit badges, scouts are required to organize and lead a service project benefiting an organization other than the Boy Scouts.

Andre Hermes led a group of volunteers who enlarged the community garden at Blackhawk Middle School. Andre's project created eight additional garden spots spanning 26 by 84 feet. See story to the left for more details.

Devin Sargent led his group in creating a walkway up the steep hill next to Lakeview

Elementary School. The 120-foot walkway eliminated the muddy trail formerly used by students to explore the woods near the school. See page 19 for more details.

The Eagle service project is an important element on the trail toward Eagle Scout. It demands planning, acquiring needed materials and coordinating volunteers. The projects average 30–100 hours of service to the community. It is estimated that only 4 percent of the young men who join the Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout award.

Some recent projects performed by our scouts include: creating Aldo Leopold benches for Governor Nelson State Park (Aaron Miller); display stands for the Red-dan Soccer Park (John Martin); collection boxes for old and torn U.S. flags (Kalven Butcher); collecting worn U.S. flags and burning them at the VFW (Branden Kruse); handicapped-accessible garden tables at Lindbergh Elementary School (Bryce Meyer) and the Packers Avenue mobile home park (Bryce Kinney); building and installing benches at the Blackhawk Community Garden (Gage Krueger); creating and installing compost bins and a water collection system for Lindbergh Elementary School (Tanner Weinman); creating benches and a compost system for FEED Kitchens (Ian Murkve); and rebuilding an observation deck at the Aldo Leopold Center (John Sullivan).

If your son would like to go camping and hiking and help with service projects that benefit the community, why not join the Boy Scout program? Contact Scoutmaster Paul Hughes at psusparks@gmail.com. Maybe your son is the next Eagle Scout.

Scout serves school and gardeners

By Sue Simon

With the popularity of community gardening on the rise, Black Hawk-Gompers Community Garden was anxious to expand the number of plots in order to shorten its waiting list. The majority of gardeners are retirees, so manual labor required was formidable. Justin Sargent, a gardener and a scoutmaster, had an idea. He offered the project to an Eagle Scout candidate as his service work, and the wish became a reality in a few short months.

Andre Hermes was the Boy Scout who volunteered his services for this project last November. Andre is a freshman at West High School and a member of Troop 127, sponsored by St. Peter Catholic Church. Andre planned the layout of the plots, estimated the materials and manpower needed, and campaigned for business discounts.

Jerry Tollefson, a former school principal, and his wife Nancy, a teacher at Gompers in 2010 when the garden was established, now own Quality Garden Tilling. They provided a generous discount on plowing the area. Marling Lumber discounted landscape timbers, and Keleny Top Soil of Verona donated all the topsoil.



Photo by Wendy Murkve

Andre Hermes oversees the expansion of Blackhawk-Gompers Community Garden for his Eagle Scout project.

The City of Madison delivered free wood chips, and Plumber's Union #75 installed underground water works for the cost of materials. The donations cut the estimated cost of the project in half. The amazing generosity of these area businesses is heartwarming.

Equally amazing was the workforce of 30 Boy Scouts, leaders, parents, family members and friends that Andre recruited and supervised. In one short week, a grassy area was converted to eight new garden plots — with wood dividers, mulched paths and fences — ready for the eager new gardeners who have already rented them.

Andre gave gifts that keep on giving: the joy of gardening, the financial savings and health benefits of homegrown organic foods, and the pleasure of sharing the gardening experience with other adults and school children.

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Scouting adventures abound this summer

By Justin Sargent & Wendy Murkve

Boys entering first through fifth grades learn by doing in Cub Scouts. They are taught to tie knots, cook meals on campfires and backpacking stoves, participate in conservation projects, construct boats and rockets, sleep in a submarine, build birdhouses, and go nature hiking and camping. An annual favorite is building and racing Pinewood Derby cars. They even learn to safely shoot a bow and arrow.

Scouts of Cub Scout Pack 127 just celebrated the end of the school year with a family picnic and handmade boat race at Tenney Park. It was a remarkable opportunity to see the happiness, excitement, character development, new skills and growing confidence that the scout program is helping the boys achieve.

During the summer, we don't meet weekly. Instead, we concentrate on additional events and opportunities for our scouts, their siblings and families. It's a perfect time for families considering the scouting adventure to join the fun.

In June, our oldest scouts will camp with Boy Scout Troop 127 at Yellowstone Lake State Park. The entire pack plans to attend Scout Night at the Mallards and visit the zoo. And look for us at the Northside's second annual Independence Day Parade June 27.



Photo by Wendy Murkve

The Northside's own bird and nature educator, Paul Noeldner, gave a presentation and shared 'Coyote in a Box' at April's Pack Party.

In July, we'll see Madison from the water on a pontoon boat ride on Lakes Monona and Mendota. And perhaps we'll attend another Mallards game.

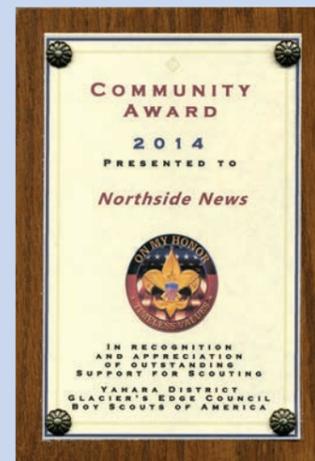
In August, we'll spend an afternoon at the new splash pad at Reindahl Park and enjoy our annual ice cream party.

We'll also camp on the lawn of the Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church. Feel free to stop and say hello and learn more about all the fun things we do.

This fall we will officially kick-off our school year program. We will meet Monday nights for fun and adventure.

Many of our neighbors across the Northside were involved with scouting in their youth. While the Cub Scout program retains those elements that are both fun and crucial to youth development, it is also undergoing some exciting updates. Perhaps the most exciting program change is a strengthening of the focus of Cub Scout participation in activities.

Pack 127 is inclusive and strongly believes in the value of scouting and that the Cub Scout program should be available to all boys entering first through fifth grade. If you know a boy who wants adventure, contact Cubmaster Justin Sargent at 220-2342 or Committee Chair Wendy Murkve at 513-7815. You can also check us out on Facebook at Cub Scout Pack 127 and see photos of our adventures and fun activities.



NSN receives Good Turn Award

The Northside News was honored to receive the Good Turn Award from the Boy Scouts of America Yahara District. Wally Meyer nominated us, saying "It's refreshing to see and read about good deeds [by young people] that would normally go unrecognized. Thank you again for publishing our stories." The Northside News is proud to support our scouts.



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ARTS



Photo by Ron Baeseman

The Great St. Bernard Pass by Ron Baeseman.

Do you want art in your coffee?

By David Carpenter
Northside Artists Group

From June 1–July 31, more than a dozen artists from the Northside Artists Group (NSAG) will present their artwork at the Coffee Gallerie, located at 1865 Northport Dr. in the Northside TownCenter. The show will feature drawings, paintings, photographs and more. Most of the art is for sale from the artists. Prices vary.

NSAG is a growing association of near-

ly 50 artists who live, work or volunteer on Madison's Northside. NSAG presents two to four shows each year in locations on the Northside. Shows are generally introduced in the Northside News.

NSAG wishes to express its appreciation to the Coffee Gallerie for annually sponsoring a show of our art. It is a friendly, neighborhood meeting place with tasty food, great coffee and comfortable surroundings. Come for a visit and help us celebrate our own Northside.

Yard art is just around the corner in Sherman neighborhood

By Megan Maguire

Who says Madison Northside residents aren't creative and original? Not Alexis London, and not the Sherman Neighborhood. And soon, anyone in the city can see for themselves. A recent grant from the City of Madison Neighborhood Grant Program, spearheaded by Alexis, will allow Sherman Neighborhood residents, and a few outside the neighborhood, to express their creativity for all to see.

The Sherman Neighborhood Association intends to use art making to develop and enhance connectedness among the residents of the neighborhood. Through the creation of outdoor artworks, neighbors will come together for conversation, inspiration and collaboration. Joining together to participate in a fun, accessible creative project that beautifies the neighborhood will increase neighborhood participation, pride and investment in the streets and sidewalks neighborhood residents share.

Sherman Neighborhood residents have the opportunity to participate in free, professional, artist-led, art making workshops. The resulting art pieces will be installed in the makers' front yards. The workshops

will take place this summer. Up to three two-part workshops will be offered, with 8–10 households participating in each workshop. The result could be 25 highly-visible and publicly enjoyed works of art installed by the end of the summer.

Sherman Neighborhood is bounded by Northport Drive, North Sherman Avenue, Fordem Avenue and Packers Avenue. (Visit www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/profile/81.html for a map of neighborhood boundaries.) All residents within the Sherman Neighborhood are welcome to apply for one of the workshops. To apply, contact Alexis London (lexirue@gmail.com). Registration begins in early June. Space is limited.

If you cannot participate but want to see the art that's created, never fear. In late summer, we'll host a neighborhood-wide party that includes a walking tour of the art pieces. More information will be posted on the Sherman Neighborhood Association website (www.shermanneighborhood.org) as well as other city information sites. Residents will decide how long the installations remain in place.

If you live in the Sherman Neighborhood, think about letting your arty side out this summer.

VSA engages the entire Northside community

By Kathie Wagner
VSA Wisconsin

Explore the creative arts: register for VSA Wisconsin Art Center classes

Adults ages 16 and up, with and without disabilities, can explore the creative arts through classes and workshops in visual art, movement and dance, drama and music. The one hour classes run from 6–7 pm and are taught by professional teaching artists. Join us for ceramics, photography, drumming, dancing and more. Pick a night and sign up. The summer session begins July 6 and runs through Aug 27. Online registration begins June 8. Visit http://vsawis.org/programs/vsa_art_center/program_information.

Exploring art at Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center

VSA Wisconsin has formed a new partnership with Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center (MJTC) to use the visual arts to help develop better communication, collaboration and teamwork between students and staff. MJTC is a secure correctional facility located on the grounds of the Mendota Mental Health Institute and serves the mental health needs of male adolescents transferred from Division of Juvenile Corrections institutions.

VSA Wisconsin teaching artist Leslie Iwai is leading the 30-hour artist residency, which will result in a mural that will be installed at the facility. During the residency workshops, students will use familiar objects, materials and tools in new ways to create a collaborative mural to enhance the facility. Paint, air dry clay, various writing instruments and a typewriter are among the materials to be used. In addition to creating a work of art that will instill pride and ownership in their surroundings, the students will celebrate their individuality while building confidence and respect for one another.



David Groesbeck poses with a coiled pot he made in a ceramics class



Teaching artist Edie Baran hands Pam Slaughter another hand instrument to play in a music class.



Donna Tosh works on her 3-D painting.



Mike Krewson explores different ways to work with clay.

Photos by VSA Wisconsin staff

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SCHOOLS & YOUTH



Photo by Kate Howard

G4E participants enjoy the enriched soil and early plantings in their garden plot.

Spring brings Brentwood Gardens

By Kate Howard

The Brentwood Gardens for Empowerment (G4E) is off to a great start this spring. You can see in these pictures how rich our soil is looking after we were able to purchase 13 cubic yards of purple cow compost and rototill it into the soil. Thank you to Doug Van Horn, with the Madison Optimist Club, for volunteering your time and equipment to do this for us.

One improvement this spring is having youth involved from the start by getting the soil ready for planting. They are putting in community service hours during the spring in order to be part of the employment program, which starts in mid-June. The first weekend in May they helped plant early crops, including

lettuce and snap peas.

Brentwood G4E is part of the 2015 Kid's Garden Network. The horticulture vocational training courses of Oakhill Correctional Institution offer an incredible selection of edible and ornamental seedlings to support community groups that have youth as their primary stakeholders. Oakhill supports gardens and programs that create opportunities for Dane County neighborhood youth to grow in connection and relationship to their communities and the earth. We picked up our plants the week of May 11 and had a planting day May 16.

If you have questions or would like more information about Brentwood G4E, contact Kate Howard at 443-9509.



Fund continues McPike's Legacy

By Steven Potter

A group of Madison East alumni recently created the Milton McPike Memorial Scholarship Fund to honor the legacy of the high school principal who worked tirelessly for more than two decades to create an atmosphere where every student felt connected and supported. Their goal is to not only provide scholarship awards for East graduates heading off to college but to also mentor the students to ensure they succeed, in order to build on McPike's sense of the greater community that benefits not only the students but the entire City of Madison.

"Our hope is to continue Milt's legacy by mentoring graduates and providing the same sense of community that we enjoyed during our years at East," said Craig Karlen, one of the scholarship fund volunteer organizers. "We'll be working with the East High Scholarship Committee to support promising graduates who can benefit from financial support and a mentor. Mentoring is one of the most critical factors that can affect a college student's success, and our alumni are committed to helping these students make it to the finish line of college graduation."

The Milton McPike Memorial Scholarship Fund will begin offering renewable scholarships in 2016 for East High graduates headed to two- and four-year

colleges in Wisconsin. To make this happen, scholarship organizers aim to first reach the financial milestone of raising \$10,000 in order to make the fund permanently endowed through the Foundation for Madison's Public Schools.

"So far, we've raised over \$6,000, but we need more support," said Erin Peschel, another volunteer organizer. "Our long-term goal is to raise \$100,000 by the end of 2018. And if we do that, we'll be able to offer a new, renewable \$1,000 scholarship every year, in perpetuity."

To kick their efforts into high gear, the scholarship organizers are hosting an official launch event Sunday, July 12, 11 am at The Edgewater. The Kick-Off Brunch will include great music, food and company as we celebrate McPike and all he did for East High School. The event will include speakers whose lives were impacted by McPike, including current Board of Education Member Michael Flores and others. Advance tickets are required for this brunch.

For more information, to buy brunch tickets and to donate, visit the group's website at www.mcpikescholarship.org. And if you would like to get involved, you can send an email to mcpikescholarship@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mcpikescholarship.

MMSD summer food program offers free meals for children

The Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) Summer Food Program provides free meals during summer vacation. During the school year, MMSD serves children who qualify for free or reduced price meals due to low household income. The summer program offers children nutritious meals when school is not in session. Children can eat free, Monday–Friday, June 22–Aug. 14. MMSD offers breakfast, lunch and snack; meals vary by location. There is no meal service Friday, July 3.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds the Summer Food Program and the State of Wisconsin administers the school meal service. All children 18 years of age and under can receive up to two free meals per site. Sites qualify if the school in the attendance area has more than 50 percent free and reduced lunch enrollment, or if more than 50 percent of the children participating at the site qualify for free or reduced price meals.

Parents/guardians do not need to apply. Meals and serving times vary by

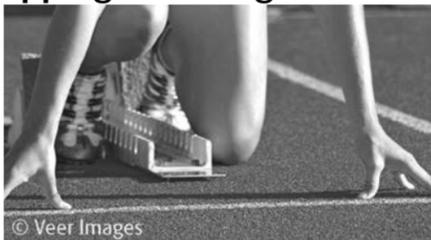
site and are subject to change. On the Northside, the Summer Food Program is available at these sites:

- Summer school sites (breakfast and lunch) — Lake View Elementary, Gompers Elementary, Black Hawk Middle School and East High School
- Community summer school sites (breakfast and lunch) — Lindbergh Elementary
- MSCR Safe Haven Child Care (lunch and snack) — Emerson Elementary
- MSCR Middle School Program (lunch and snack) — Sherman Middle School
- MSCR camps and parks (meals vary per site) — Warner Park Kids Kamp
- Apartments/Community Centers (meals vary per site) — East Madison Community Center, Kennedy Heights Community Center, Lighthouse, Northport Apartments, Packers Apartments and Vera Ct Apartments

Contact Iris Tirado at itirado@madison.k12.wi.us or 204-4007 or Steve Youngbauer at syoungbauer@madison.k12.wi.us or 204-4000 for more information.

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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

MSCR sponsors summer fun for all

By Nicole Graper
MSCR

Pontoon Boat Rides

Drop-in rides take place June 2–Sept. 30. The cost is \$5 per person. Rides depart from the Tenney Boat Pier, 1615 Sherman Ave. on Tuesdays (Monona only) and Thursdays. Trips run 5:30–7 pm and 7:15–8:45 pm during June, July and August. In September, only the 5:30–7 pm trip runs. Additional pontoon rides are available, go to www.msqr.org or call 204-4581.

Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act with a free pontoon boat ride June 14, July 19 or Aug 16. All ages are welcome. Rides depart from the Tenney Boat Pier, 1615 Sherman Ave. Trips run 1–2:30 pm and 3–4:30 pm. Arrive 45 minutes prior to departure to reserve spots for your group. All members of your group must be present 15 minutes prior to departure time.

Art Cart

This is a free traveling art program for families that takes place June 18–Aug. 13. The Art Cart makes several stops on the Northside. Visit www.msqr.org for a complete list.

Fore Friends Golf Outing

Friends of MSCR 11th Annual Fore Friends Golf Outing will be held Tuesday, July 14, at Cherokee Country Club. This annual event is the primary

fundraiser enabling Friends to provide financial support to Madison School & Community Recreation (MSCR). Box lunches will be available at 10:30 am, tee off at noon. The Silent Auction will again be available for bids online. Get the competitive edge and check out the variety of items in June 2015. Be part of the fun. Register now. Visit www.msqr.org/get-involved/friends-of-msqr/fore-friends-golf-outing.

Throwback Thursday Paddle

To celebrate National Parks and Recreation Month, MSCR will offer Throwback Thursday Paddle July 16 from 6–8 pm. Paddle using canoes or kayaks at the Tenney Park Lagoon. Staff will be on hand to help participants get in and out of boats. This is a free event offered to those ages 8 and older. Please note that personal flotation devices (PFDs) are available only for those 50 pounds and over.

Happy Hour Fitness

This awesome evening includes non-alcoholic cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, door prizes, costume contests and fun fitness with an 80s theme. Children ages 8 and older may attend with a participating adult. The event will be held Friday, July 24, 5:30–8:30 pm, at Warner Park Community Recreation Center. The cost is \$5 per person. Use course #50126 to register at www.msqr.org.

For more information about any of these activities, go to www.msqr.org or call 204-3000.



Photo by provided by Melissa McGraw

Volunteers made quick work of assembling the components of the Growing Together playground.

Northside volunteers gave a day so kids can play

By Melissa McGraw
Great Lakes Higher Education
Guaranty Corporation

The revitalized outdoor space first envisioned in 2010 by Gompers Elementary and Black Hawk Middle School parents is finally a reality. A new playground is now located on the grounds behind both schools and can be enjoyed by all Northside children.

A one-day build May 9 drew nearly 200 volunteers who worked so hard that the entire playground was built before they stopped to eat lunch. The new equipment is a top-of-the-line design by Gerber Leisure Products Inc. It replaced an outdated playground that was removed by Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD).

The neighborhood improvement project was made possible with a \$68,000 donation from Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation & Affiliates in November 2014 — the final amount needed to purchase the equipment. Employees had given generously to their annual United Way campaign, and the big check was a company match to benefit Great Lakes' adopted schools.

"The new playground provides a positive outlet for play so students can return to the classroom with a renewed focus on learning," said Amy Kerwin, Vice President of Community Investments at Great Lakes. "We are pleased to join forces with other donors and volunteers to support our neighborhood schools."

Vogel Bros. Building Co. contributed nearly \$20,000 through an in-kind donation of equipment and labor to prepare the grounds. MMSD provided landscaping. Other donors included Green Bay Packers Foundation, North City Baptist Church in Sun Prairie, Northside Fund and Foundation for Madison's Public Schools. A ribbon cutting ceremony May 15 officially opened the new playground.

The Parent Teacher Organizations of Gompers and Black Hawk founded the Growing Together Initiative to enhance the outdoor environment through a five-phase improvement plan. To date, more than \$150,000 has been raised. A school and community garden was installed in 2011, a small playground was built in front of Gompers in 2012, and now the large back playground is complete. The remaining phases include construction of a fitness track and upgrades to the athletic fields.

"Growing Together is inspired by our partnerships with Great Lakes and other like-minded organizations in the pursuit of enhancing outdoor play space and creating community connections," said Co-Chair Renae Huffman. "We are so grateful for their generosity and commitment to supporting our schools."

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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Science and math make for happy spring memories

By Cynthia Chin
East High Math Department

Thank you to our Northside community for making some happy spring memories with East High students and staff. The 16th Annual Pi-Mile Run/Walk brought fans of fitness, pastry and mathematics to the starting line in Warner Park May 23. We raised money for the East High School Graphing Calculator Fund — and there was pie. Well done, Math Club.

Family science nights

Events at Lakeview, Mendota and Gompers Elementary Schools in April included interactive presentations by Engineering Club members (Emily Barry, Eliette Soler, Zach Killian, Sam Sage and Teddy Lee) on color blending and optical illusions. Thank you to parents and guardians who brought students to these events and others at area elementary schools.

Middle school pre-engineering workshops

East-area middle school students will be able to participate in workshops focused on concepts and career opportunities in biomedical engineering as part of a 2015-16 “Way to B-M-E” project funded by a grant from By Youth For Youth of Dane County. We are grateful to the United Way of Dane County for this support and to Electronic Theater Controls for additional monies to be spent on joint high school/middle school activities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Our high school student leaders look forward to educating themselves and preparing their afterschool lessons for future Purgolders in grades 7 and 8.

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Spring has sprung at Lake View School

Earth events mark the season

By Susan Hobart

Earth day is a way of life on Madison’s Northside.

On April 19 Devin Sargent and his crew of 60 volunteers worked in our newly created Lake View School Forest. We had been meeting with Devin over the winter to plan his Eagle Scout project. His goal was to improve the accessibility of our path and create new sitting areas from repurposed oak planks. He measured the slope, drew up plans, wrote specifications and acquired the supplies. With his scout leaders, fellow scouts, family and friends, he terraced the hill with new stairs, added a guide rope for stability and created eight new benches that can be used as natural balance beams for students. Funds to pay for materials were provided by a grant from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board, but Devin and his crew provided all the labor.

We celebrated Global Youth Service Day, Arbor Day and Earth Day with United Way, the City of Madison and Representative Melissa Sargent on April 24. (See student articles on page 11.) It signified our 20th Warner Park Cleanup. Over the past two decades, Lake View students have planted more than two dozen trees along the creek and shelter. This year George Dreckmann taught our students how to separate and recycle the garbage we had collected, and Willy Street Coop donated biodegradable bags.

Parents, students and an Edgewood nursing student cleared out the pollinator beds and dressed up the budding orchard at the front of the school on April 26. On May Day, third graders, assisted by UW Badger volunteers, planted nine bright orange Anne berry bushes and six pricklerless Joanna bushes to complete the “Very Berry Welcome” at the edge of the school’s parking lot. Jung Garden Center on Northport Drive donated the berry bushes.

Another group helped us on May 3 to expand our school forest and create an entrance along Sherman Avenue. Blackhawk Church selected Lake View as a Love Madison site and sent dozens of volunteers to work in the woods. They removed buckthorn, vines, honeysuckle and garlic mustard. They planted a dozen baby pine trees in the fourth-graders’ evergreen nursery. They created an archway that helps define the entrance from Sherman Avenue into the school forest.



Photos by Susan Hobart

Lake View Elementary students care for the earth year-round.

And this year, Lake View is the site of a Northside summer school enrichment program that will use the outdoors as a focus for learning. Throughout the Madison School District, summer schools have adopted an outdoor learning philosophy as a focus for literacy. This is a dynamic academic step that will enable children to grow their reading skills while growing vegetables in the gardens.





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