

NORTHSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL 20TH ANNIVERSARY



Equity and the PTO Coalition



NPC began to turn its attention to Northside schools, which had some of the highest concentrations of poverty in the city. Through conversations with parents, principals and teachers, it became apparent that gaps in student achievement needed to be addressed. NPC began working to increase parental involvement, especially among underrepresented populations, a factor that had been shown to significantly improve achievement in other cities. These efforts led to the formation of the Northside PTO Coalition, a network of parent leaders representing each school on the Northside. The group served in an information-sharing and advocacy role, particularly focused on the school district's process of resource allocation, shedding light on the hidden disparities faced by schools in low-income neighborhoods versus schools in more affluent neighborhoods. Soon after, the Northside PTO Coalition expanded to become the East Attendance Area PTO Co-

alition, which included all schools that feed into East High School. The group continues its work today as a watchdog for our schools.

Food Security

In 2003, when Roundy's Corporation closed the Kohl's grocery store in Sherman Plaza (now Northside TownCenter), the Northside rallied to bring a grocery store back to the neighborhood. A market-based survey proved that the Northside was a food desert, and residents did not have adequate access to healthy, nutritious food. This especially hurt people who could not drive to another grocery store.

The Northside Community Co-op (NCC) was formed, with leadership development and organizational support provided by NPC, in hopes of bringing a cooperative grocery store to the Northside. The NCC first developed the Northside Farmers Market, which opened in May 2005, becoming the Sunday morning place to be on the Northside. Every Sunday from May through October, Northsiders have access to fresh produce, meats, cheeses and more. The Northside Farmers Market also worked to accept QUEST cards from the FoodShare Wisconsin program so that people of all in-

come levels can purchase fresh food at the market in their own neighborhood.

In the meantime, NPC led a rally on the steps of city hall to get city officials involved in lobbying Roundy's to permit another grocery store to open at Sherman Plaza. Sue Hill, former representative from Mendota Hills and NPC co-chair from 2004-05, remembers: "Mayor Dave Cieslewicz had just come out of his meeting with the CEO of Roundy's. We were ready with our signs, and the media was there. We put the mayor on the spot, asking, 'What have you done to reinforce your commitment to the Northside, and how are you going to help us make sure that we get a grocery store back?' That was a pivotal moment that seemed to tip the scales, and things started moving in the direction of a new store."



NPC then facilitated a meeting between potential grocers, the Northside TownCenter and other stakeholders. Soon, Pierce's Supermarkets, based in Baraboo, signed on to become the Northside grocer. Pierce's Northside Market opened to much fanfare in March 2006, and residents breathed a sigh of relief. NPC also worked with city officials to pass an ordinance prohibiting corporations from using exclusive leases to prevent competing grocery stores from moving into a neighborhood.

Dane County TimeBank

In 2005, NPC was invited to collaborate in the development of Wisconsin's first TimeBank network. Time banking is a form of service exchange, where neighbors earn one hour of credit for every hour of service they provide to someone else. They can then spend that credit on

one hour of service offered by any other TimeBank member. NPC worked closely with Dane County TimeBank founder Stephanie Rearick and volunteers like Terrie Anderson and Jeff Shokler to get the model up and running as an example for other parts of town. The Dane County TimeBank is now a network of more than 2,000 individuals and organizations who exchange time in order to build community and capacity.

Addressing arising issues

During this period, NPC was also engaged with a variety of other situations, including challenges in the Woodlands and Woodland Park neighborhoods, public outcry against the proposed Mendota Sailing Center, advocacy to bring a city pool to the Northside and weighing in on development along Cherokee Marsh.

Adapting to needs

As 2009 came to a close, NPC was hearing more and more from the community that it needed to turn its attention to economic development and improving the Northside business climate. Stay tuned for our final installment of the NPC 20th Anniversary retrospective series in the December 2013/January 2014 issue, which will outline the most recent developments on the Northside.

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CHURCH

Northside youth transformed by camp experience

By Peter Kouang
Age 21

Going to Camp Allen in Greenville, MO, was an amazing experience. The theme for camp was “Dare You to Move.” Before going, I had no idea what it would be like, and I didn’t know what I was getting myself into.

The day before we left for camp, the youth group spent the night at church, so we could all be on time to catch the coach bus arriving at 6 am. During the night, the other band members and I practiced the songs we would be performing at camp, and we ended up practicing until the bus came. We were excited to hop on the bus and head to Camp Allen. Other youth groups from Minnesota and Wausau churches were already on board, so the bus driver was ready to head to Missouri.

After an eight-hour bus ride, we arrived at Camp Allen. The setting was beautiful, and as we unloaded our luggage, it was raining a little. We went inside to greet others, find out which cabin we were staying in, and receive a shirt, encouragement bag and a wristband. Each room had a cabin leader and a mix of people from different churches. After putting my stuff in the room, I went to the chapel to meet with my band members. We got the music equipment unpacked and then headed downstairs to meet new people.

During the six days we were at camp, we met with our encouragement leader every morning after breakfast. An encouragement leader is a young adult who guides younger people and helps them become closer to God. Then everyone



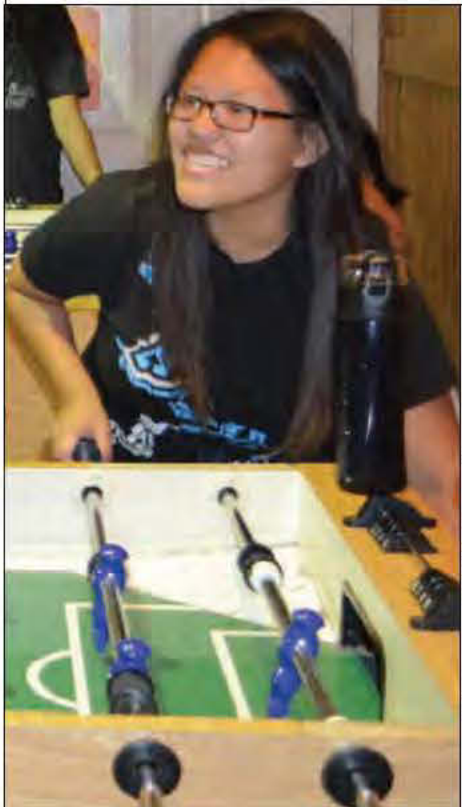
Madison Youth attend Camp Allen through Sherman Avenue Methodist Church

met at the chapel for announcements and morning praise and worship before going to our workshops.

After lunch we sometimes played games with campers from other cabins, and one day everybody helped paint patios and benches. We completed each day with three hours of free time, dinner and a worship service, where past VaShua Greg Vang preached and a band played. Our band performed twice.

Camp Allen was a great experience and a great place to meet people from other churches. I had lots of fun learning new faces and names, and I met many caring people with strong faith in Christ. I found the pastor’s preaching very moving. I was baptized, along with other youth members from Madison, and it was a life-changing event for me.

The night before camp ended, we had a bonfire and some people did testimony. Their testimonies were touching, and I was glad to see that God had amazing plans for people. I can’t wait to return next year.



Photos provided by Peter Kouang

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Mornings
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Individual or small group tours include seeing classrooms in action and students during passing time. Families who wish to have individual appointments for specific admissions questions are encouraged to contact the Admissions Office for a one-on-one meeting.

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beginning in October

Have your 8th grader spend the day paired with a freshman to get a feel for the supportive academic climate and welcoming social atmosphere that define Edgewood.

YOUTH

Youth connect with future careers

By Patrick Schrank
Vera Court Neighborhood Center

When you think of summer camp, it usually includes swimming and fieldtrips, not extracting DNA in a college classroom. But this summer a group of middle school students spent an evening making fruit smoothies, extracting and then analyzing the smoothies' DNA with assistance from a college professor. Youth in Vera Court Neighborhood Center's summer camps visited Madison College's Biotechnology Department and met with Dr. Tom Tubon, who not only showed them the campus' state-of-the-art labs but also led them through hands-on science activities.

Connecting youth with staff at Madison College's Biotechnology Department is part of a larger effort to connect teens with professionals across Madison and expose them to potential careers. This summer middle school students in Vera Court's programs also took a tour of Epic's creative headquarters, spent time on the UW campus and took lessons from professional artists.

This fall there are plans to connect with more businesses and professionals through Vera Court's Rise and Youth Leadership programs, both of which work with middle school students to ensure they are successful in school and the community. Staff hopes to bring in professionals to share stories of their college and career paths, and to give tours



Photo by Patrick Schrank

Youth at Vera Court Neighborhood Center explored numerous careers this summer.

of their workplaces with the intention of inspiring youth toward their future goals and demystifying the college process.

Youth are also getting into the workplace themselves. Several high school students in Vera Court's Rise program got their first job with the Madison Mallards and Rutabaga Paddlesports this summer. Still more students gained experience and built their resume by volunteering at the neighborhood center and reading to younger students two mornings per week.

Many adults remember their first job or first volunteer position fondly, and for some of us it helped clarify the direction of our careers. The Vera Court Neighborhood Center staff is striving to ensure youth have the opportunity for similar experiences that inspire their future studies and careers.



Photo provided by Wendy Murkve

Troop 23 visits
Rock Island State Park

By Wendy Murkve
Boy Scout Troop 23

Four Troop 23 families spent four days and three nights exploring Rock Island State Park in mid-August. Scoutmaster Wendy Murkve and her family have been camping there for many years and wanted to lead a trip there, hoping the scout families would love it as much as the Murkve family does.

We started out early in the morning and stopped to have lunch at Cave Point County Park on the wild side of Door County. Most of the scouts had eaten their sack lunches on the trip up, so we had plenty of time to explore the park. We saw and heard the waves crashing into the caves and spent some time playing on a ledge made accessible by the lower water levels of Lake Michigan.

Getting to Rock Island is a two-ferry trip. The second ferry is for passengers and gear only, and that's when the anticipation really starts to build. As you load all your gear onto the ferry, you realize that you brought way too much stuff. That realization is reinforced when you have to carry everything to the campsite.

Once we set up camp, we were free to wander and explore the island. Rock Island was at one time owned by Icelandic inventor Chester Thordarson, who built an estate there. Some of the buildings are still standing, including the magnificent stone Viking Hall, with its boathouse underneath. The DNR uses the building as a

museum, but there are tables, chairs and games set up as well.

We took the one-mile hike to the northern point of the island. We toured the Potawatomi Lighthouse and learned how the lighthouse keepers and their families lived in the early 20th century.

We spent lots of time at the beach, swimming and skipping rocks. The lower water levels allowed us to find the land bridge that connects Rock Island to Washington Island. That would be a tough walk, but it was fun to find. Two of our scouts ran the 6.5 mile trail around the island, and one family took a more leisurely hike there.

When we weren't exploring, we spent time in camp, talking around the campfire and finding beetles, snakes and caterpillars. We cooked great meals over the campfire, including a dessert of thimbleberries we picked and made into pudgie pies with Nutella, peanut butter and marshmallows.

Was it a successful trip? We think so. Some families are already making plans to go back next year. In the summer of 2014, our older scouts will be canoeing the Boundary Waters.

Would your son like to join us on our next adventure? Scouting is for boys aged 11-17. Troop 23 welcomes all boys and their families. If you would like more information, please contact Scoutmaster Wendy Murkve at 513-7815 or bsatroop-23scoutmaster@gmail.com. You can also find us on Facebook as Scout Troop 23.

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SCHOOLS

Madison schools start the academic year with new initiatives

School Improvement Plan

By mid-October, every school in the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) will have developed a school improvement plan (SIP). Each SIP will be unique to each school and tailored to meet its students' needs. It will also tell each school community where its school's work will be focused so that families can be engaged in that work throughout the year.

Each SIP will outline targeted work for the year to raise achievement for its

students and will be aimed at measurable goals. MMSD leadership will monitor each school's SIP throughout the year. Please join your neighborhood school to learn more and provide your feedback about your school's improvement plan.

Sherman Middle School and Lapham Elementary School are selected to "dig in" through GROW

Lapham Elementary School and Sherman Middle School were among the five Dane County schools recently selected for the 2013-2014 Growing Outdoor Classrooms Program led by the Grass Roots/Outdoor Wonder (GROW) Coalition. This program promotes sustainability and uses the outdoors as a learning lab for core academics. It aims to incorporate garden-based learning into K-8 curricula in Dane County schools.

GROW is a coalition of organizations, groups, parents, teachers and youth, with a steering committee led by Community GroundWorks, MMSD, Sustain Dane,



Community Action Coalition, Health Forward Consulting and UW-Extension. Formed in 2011, the GROW Coalition promotes outdoor learning opportunities by sharing ideas and resources, encouraging participation by diverse groups of youth and families, and building on rich assets that already exist in the greater Madison area. Visit www.growmadison.net.

With major, multi-year funding from the Madison Community Foundation,

the selected schools each receive \$8,000 to build or expand an outdoor classroom or school garden. The GROW Coalition provides program support and expert resources for the design and development of the outdoor learning experience, and Sustain Dane facilitates complementary sustainability workshops and school-based projects. The Environmental Protection Agency provides additional funding through a Climate Showcase Communities grant.

Outdoor classrooms — whether a vegetable garden, a rain garden, a woodland or a prairie — support and engage students, especially those facing academic challenges. Last year, which was the first year of the program, nearly 2,000 students at five schools in the Madison school district participated in this program, including Lake View Elementary School.

For more information, please contact Danielle Russell at Danielle@sustaindane.org, www.sustaindane.org or 819-0689.

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SCHOOLS

High school students should start preparing for college now

By Patty Klecker
Great Lakes Higher Education

It's easy for busy high school students who want to attend college to become overwhelmed by the long list of things they need to do. The trick is taking it one step at a time, and there are steps students can take right now to get ready.

Searching for scholarships

The most common question on students' minds is how to pay for college. Scholarships are a great place to start because they do not need to be repaid and are available for every kind of student. Students can start their search as early as fall semester.

Start the search at school. School counselors have a list of scholarships and deadlines. College financial aid offices will also have scholarship information. Community and civic organizations (including churches, utility providers, employers and even Target stores) are another resource for scholarships. Students can also do an online search for national scholarships. Sites like zinch.com or cappex.com are good places to start. Students can gather information now and, when the time is right, narrow down their list and begin the application process.

Seniors can apply for state and federal financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after Jan. 1.

Visiting college campuses

When comparing colleges, the best way to find a good fit is to visit the campus. College visits offer students an opportunity to experience what it's like to be enrolled on that campus, and fall can be a great time to go because classes are in session. It's beneficial to do preliminary research on each campus and make a list of questions to ask. Students should gather as much information as possible from each visit so they can make an informed decision.

Virtual tours on college websites such as eCampusTours.com or CampusTours.com may be a good option for students who cannot visit a college in person. The more colleges toured, the more confident students can be when making their final decision on where to apply.

Applying for admission

As students narrow down the list of colleges to which they'll apply, they should familiarize themselves with admission application deadlines. Now is the time to fill out applications and begin completing admissions essays. Whether applying to a particular program or for general admission, it is important to know the deadline for each application — missed deadlines are missed opportunities. College websites are a good place to look for deadlines.

Preparing for college can be an exciting yet confusing time. There are many resources available to help with the college planning process, and it never hurts to be ahead of schedule.



Photo provided by Patty Klecker

Great Lakes Higher Education holds school supply drive for Black Hawk Middle School

(L-R) DeeDee Hessling, Kristi Looze and Nannette Neal deliver boxes filled with more than 1,300 new school supplies to Black Hawk Middle School. Supplies were donated by employees of Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation & Affiliates and organized by Great Lakes Gives, an employee-driven program designed to advance education in the community. Great Lakes, a nonprofit organization with more than 800 employees in its offices on Madison's Northside, has helped millions of people pursue higher education since 1967. In the coming months, Great Lakes and its employees will continue to partner with Black Hawk Middle School to help students succeed in school.

Mendota distributes school supplies

By Cynthia Moore
Mendota Elementary School

On Aug. 27 and 28, Mendota Elementary School hosted its annual school supply distribution. Families were able to come to the school and gather the supplies needed for the upcoming school year. More than 80 families received supplies as a result of this event.

It is through the generous donations of local community agencies and churches that this event is possible. Mendota

Elementary staff and students want to thank the following organizations and individuals that have donated supplies to our school: Lakeview Neighborhood Association, Jeanne Witte, Betty Sunnicht, Jaime Lindgren, PL\$ Store, Cathy Becker, Foundation for Madison Public Schools, St. Peter Catholic Church, Black Hawk Church, Sharon Brickl, UW Colleges and Extension, Vogel Brothers, Madison Urban Ministry and several anonymous donors.

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East High School Math Department

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East High School is located at 2222 E. Washington Ave., between Fourth and Fifth Streets, approximately 20 minutes

The Engineering Club thanks Mickle's Northside True Value for the donation of materials used in a car wash fundraiser. Monies collected will support science and technology after-school sessions at middle schools that feed into East High.

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One World, One Sound Drum Circle
Saturday, Oct. 5 at 10:30 am
Find your groove in this drumming circle with Elmore Lawson. This is for the whole family.

Button Making
Monday, Oct. 7 at 3 pm
Children in grades 6–12 can make their own buttons. All supplies provided. This is fun!

I Love to Dance
Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 6:30 pm
Stories, songs, crafts, refreshments and plenty of dancing for the whole family.

Garbology 101 with Archeologist Rachel Klabacka
Saturday, Oct. 19 at 10 am
Join a practicing archaeologist for a gloves-on investigation of how scientists study human culture through trash. Participants will learn about the tools and techniques used to study how people lived. Then they will use modern day (clean) trash to put together their own puzzle and tell a story. The program leader will answer questions about her experiences. Ages 7 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Call 246-4547 to register.

Party in Your PJs
Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 6:30 pm
An evening of games and puzzles for the whole family. Learn how to have fun weaving math into your daily routine.

Monster Mash
Friday, Oct. 25 at 10:30 am
Hear spooky stories, make creepy crafts and eat ghoulish grub. This is for the whole family.

Snakes Alive
Saturday, Nov. 2 at 10:30 am
Herpetologist Tom Kessenich is back with his slithery friends. The whole family can learn about, see and touch live snakes.

I Love Trains
Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 6:30 pm
All aboard for this storytime celebration of trains.

Teen Video Game Club
Mondays, Oct. 14 and Nov. 18 at 2:30 pm
Video games, friendly competition and snacks. Show your friends and foes how to compete on the Wii.

Cr-Afternoons
Thursdays, Oct. 3–24 at 4 pm
Join creative librarians for craft fun. Colorful paper, glitter glue, paints and more provided.

Library LEGO Club
Tuesdays, Oct. 15 and Nov. 19 at 4 pm
We 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.

Preschool Storytime
Tuesdays at 10:30 am (There will be no storytime on Oct. 29 or Nov. 5.)
For ages 3–5, 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 are welcome.

Toddler Time
Wednesdays at 10:15 am (There will be no Toddler Time on Oct. 30 or Nov. 6.)
Stories, songs and rhymes for children ages 0–35 months. One adult per child is recommended.

Book Baby
Wednesdays at 11 am (There will be no Book Baby on Oct. 30 or Nov. 6.)
Enjoy stories, songs and activities. One adult per baby is required. Class length is 15 minutes with time after for play and conversation.

Costume Toddler Dance
Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 10:30 am
Break out the costumes early and dance. Pretzels and apple juice provided by the Friends of the Lakeview Library. For ages 2 and up.

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

Check out the valuable series of programs on privacy protection. Details in sidebar on this page.

Feeding Wild Birds in Winter with Patrick Ready
Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 6:30 pm
This program will cover the various methods of feeding winter birds in our backyards. Types of feeders, pole systems and dealing with squirrels will be covered. Pat is a backyard nature specialist at Wild Birds Unlimited in Middleton and will share pictures of birds who have visited his Stoughton backyard through the years.

A Gentle Talk on Alzheimer's
Saturday, Nov. 16 at 1 pm
Michael Hecht, program coordinator for Skaalen Center, discusses topics such as implementing dining assistance, community trips, leisure activities and more for adults with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's.

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

One-on-One Job and Writing Assistance
Fridays, by appointment, 2–5 pm
Free one-hour sessions for help with resumes, cover letters, online job searches and applications and any writing project. Funded through a grant and staffed by UW Writing Assistance staff. Call 246-4547 to sign up.

Adult Noon Book Group
Second Thursdays
Discuss books and eat cookies. Could you have more fun? Oct. 10, "The Big Burn" by Timothy Egan; Nov. 14 (and Nov. 7 at 6:30 pm), "Tale for the Time Being" by Ruth Ozeki. This is the UW-Madison Go Big Read pick for 2013. Copies are available at the library.

Scrabble for Adults
Every Wednesday at 10 am
Give the regulars some competition.

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.

**Lakeview Branch Library
Upcoming Workshops****Social networking
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**Tuesday, Oct. 29
6–7:45 pm**

Social networking sites are a place for Internet users to come together, often in groups sharing common interests. These websites may require a minimum amount of personal information in order to join. Because you must divulge some level of personal information to use and fully benefit from social networking sites, the risk of identity theft exists for people who use them.

Personnel from Wisconsin's Department of Consumer Protection will talk about what social networking identity theft is, how you may be putting yourself at risk and how to minimize your chances of becoming a victim.

**Identity theft protection:
Creating strong passwords**

**Thursday, Nov. 7
1:00 pm**

Although there's no foolproof way to prevent identity theft, you can take steps to minimize your risk. During this interactive program, Shawn Diaz from Wisconsin's Department of Consumer Protection gives attendees special insight into the growing threat of identity theft from the perspective of the Office of Privacy Protection. Not only will you learn what identity theft is and how to protect yourself from it, you will learn valuable techniques for creating stronger passwords from someone with real-life experience in the field of investigation and prevention of identity theft issues.

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