

GARDEN & LANDSCAPE



Landscaping can add to outdoor living enjoyment

By Jennifer Fetterly

Northside News

Want to fall in love with your home all over again? Then try a little landscaping.

As the growing season revs up, local experts are ready to give advice on creating more curb appeal or utilizing yards for maximum beauty and outdoor living enjoyment. They say the key is to start with a good plan.

“The most appropriate question to ask homeowners is what they want to do with their space and how they will use it,” said Casey Davenport, co-owner of Best Buds, LLC., a Madison-based commercial and residential landscape contracting and lawn maintenance company.

There are a lot of options for creating beautiful landscapes or backyard spaces for entertaining or relaxing that can add value to your home, and it doesn't have to cost an arm and a leg.

Davenport said prices can range from a few hundred dollars for something like replacing overgrown hedges or to tens of thousands for major landscaping projects.

Trends for 2011 call for an emphasis on ecoscaping that move away from grand lawn expanses into more sustainable landscaping that requires less water and minimal chemical treatment.

The green movement is also very present in the landscaping industry.

More people are showing interest in rain barrels as new, aesthetically pleasing models are available. Davenport also says homeowners are choosing to use organic fertilizers for their lawns to help protect area lakes and waters from harmful runoff.

If homeowners don't want to hire a landscaper and prefer to do it themselves, Davenport says they can get tips and suggestions from local nurseries. He says Best Buds nursery staff offers experience advice and specializes in bigger perennials and annuals that make a landscape project look finished.

But whatever homeowners decide, Davenport says the time and money spent on landscaping is worthwhile.

“Landscaping provides curb appeal and enhances the value of the entire house, and people will definitely like what they see when they look out their window or drive up their driveway,” he said.

Best Buds, LLC, is located at 4320 Hoepker Road, phone (608) 576-4814 www.bestbudslc.com.



A plot of your own

No space for gardening? No problem. Community gardens provide options for people who want to stake out a plot.

The Community Action Coalition (CAC) of South Central Wisconsin provides numerous plots in Madison, including the north and east side. Fees are determined on a sliding scale, \$10 to \$65. It's an economical way to get fresh produce and save money. According to CAC 2007 statistics a family can grow 150 pounds of produce on a 400 square foot plot, for a savings of \$389 in grocery bills. For more information visit www.cacsw.org or call (608) 246-4730.

Don't feel like getting your hands dirty? Why not try a Community Supported Agricultural (CSA) membership. Members join for a fee



and receive fresh organic produce each week from June to October. Members can pick up their produce and talk to the farmers at the Troy Community Farm. For more information visit www.troygardens.org or call (608) 240-0405.

Photo: Community GroundWorks



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TROY GARDENS

Northside History: The seeds of Troy

Three gardeners remember roots of Troy Gardens

Marge Pitts
Northside News

Troy Community Gardens have existed since the 1980's. Community GroundWorks, formerly the Friends of Troy Gardens, has run them (mostly through volunteers) since 2001, making this year their tenth anniversary — an excellent time to check in with some “old timers” and see how their gardens have grown over the years.

Originally, the gardens were located where Troy Co-Housing is now. In the late 1990's, additional plots were added to the west. When housing construction began in 2006, “Troy East” gardeners moved to new plots in “Troy West.” Today almost four acres at Troy Gardens contain 329 plots where people grow their own food. No further expansion is planned.

Twenty-two years ago Sia Xiong was among 20-30 families, mostly Southeast Asian, who gardened at Troy. Each year the season began and ended with a tractor plowing the entire garden. “Plants died sooner then,” Sia observed, as climate change has delayed the first frost. Plowing by tractor brings an end to the season too soon for experienced gardeners. Much of Troy Community Gardens is now designated “no-till,” which means gardeners can leave plants, fences and such in place year-round. “We like to save things to eat so we can keep going back to the garden,” Sia said. No-till gardening preserves the structure and fertility of the soil, too. Sia knows the soil at Troy intimately. It was best at Troy East, in her opinion. The soil in the front of the gardens today is more fertile than up the slope, but the front is tilled by tractor. That soil doesn't absorb rainwater as well and tends to flood. While no-till is an improvement, other developments have brought negative consequences to Troy. “More and more people bring more and more problems,” Sia noted, especially theft of food from the gardens. Still, Sia is a loyal volunteer who offers important help organiz-



Troy Gardens has continued through the years to be a popular gardening spot.

ing and translating for the Hmong gardeners at Troy.

Over the past 10-plus years, Katherine Herrin has changed plots several times. Currently she keeps two — one in the no-till section and one tilled plot. The no-till plot is home to her beloved rhubarb and late season crops. But the tilled plot has its advantages — she can use certain pesticides (not permitted in the no-till sections) when she notices problems, and since she retired she appreciates the ease of starting the season in a tilled plot. Having two plots in different areas allows Katherine to rotate crops and give her soil a rest. Katherine finds that while Troy Community Gardens has grown bigger, “the people are still nice,” noting the cooperation evident on work days at the gardens.

Sonci Clair-Thomas has “no idea” when she started gardening at Troy, but estimates prior to 2002, when she lived on Vera Court. “My mother found the garden when she moved in with me from Chicago, and she said, ‘Looky what I found!’” Sonci's mom, Melanie Thomas, is a life-long gardener who

engaged her children in their first community garden on vacant land at their church in Chicago. Nowadays, Melanie is physically unable to get into the garden much. Sonci, her siblings and their kids work the plot while Melanie keeps track from her computer.

The family takes digital pictures when they visit the plot so Melanie can identify weeds and direct what needs to be done. She makes plans on the computer and sets the family to work. They grow enough for all of them to share. “As long as she's breathing, we'll still be working her plot,” Sonci says. “Essentially, Granny's in the garden every day.”

Troy Garden Events

Saturday, Apr. 23, 9 am-noon
Troy natural areas activities

Join Steve Ziegler of ZDA to learn about the new Troy Gardens Natural Areas Management Plan. We'll hike around the land and identify specific points of the plan, which will guide our stewardship efforts for the next several years. This will be a great workshop for new and veteran stewards.

Learn about invasive species management from longtime steward Steve Lendved, and help pull garlic mustard from our woods. We'll look for beautiful spring ephemerals like trillium, jack-in-the-pulpit, and Solomon's seal. Meet at the yellow shed on the front of the Troy Gardens property for both events. RSVP to Christie at christie@troygardens.org or (608) 240-0409 if you plan to attend either one. All are welcome!

Eat Good! Troy CSA shares available now

It's time now to purchase a share of Troy Community Farm for 2011. You'll receive a weekly assortment of certified organic vegetables and flowers from June through October. Free-range eggs, custom-order crops for canning, freezing, end-of-season storage and honey are also available. Visit communitygroundworks.org or contact Claire Strader at (608) 442-6760 for more information.



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NORTHSIDE FARMERS MARKET

The Northside Farmers Market 2011 season starts May 1

By Anne Pryor & Dale Matthews

One of the Northside's favorite places to gather will soon be available again. The Seventh Annual Northside Farmers Market opens for the 2011 season on Sunday, May 1 at 8:30 am. Think of it as our own Northside crossroads, a place where neighbors can gather, shop for fresh local foods and say 'Hi' to friendly faces. Lindsay Christians of The Capital Times wrote "browsing the Northside Farmers Market, ... is a bit like stepping up to the bar on an episode of 'Cheers' 'everybody knows everybody else, and they're always glad you came.'" (but without the alcohol.)

The core of the market is the wonderful foodstuffs provided by the vendors. The Market is filled to capacity with past vendors and an addition to the ends of the market space will help accommodate even more vendors. Even with this expansion there is still a waiting list. Having many vendors means a variety of choices for our shoppers. Items for sale will include fresh, healthy and tasty fruits,



"Think of it as our own Northside crossroads, a place where neighbors can gather, shop for fresh local foods and say 'Hi' to friendly faces."

vegetables, meats, eggs, bakery, cheeses and other dairy items. You can also enjoy Tui's fresh squeezed juices, smoothies and other "grab and munch" goodies. The food carts section will be expanded to include a hot breakfast of pancakes, bacon, eggs, more eggrolls, curry and Laotian foods. Free coffee is always available at the information tent to warm you up on cool May mornings. Heck, there may be

some popcorn to munch.

The spice of the market is the weekly events — there's always something interesting planned! Sometimes it's folks from one of the Northside community centers selling prepared hot foods like eggrolls or chili, or it might be a musical group, or music from our own local kids. The great line-ups continue for the 2011 season. Here are the offerings for May:

On opening day, enjoy freshly-prepared Mexican tacos and taste a variety of Mexican finger foods as a way to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Kids at the market can take a swing at the candy-and coin-filled piñata. May 8 is Mother's Day and all children who visit the market can take home a free plant or flower for Mom.

Consider becoming a part of the corp of volunteers. Volunteers are needed to set up and take down, work the information booth and help organize many of the events. Most volunteer positions require only two or three hours each month. Make yourself known at the information table or contact nfmvolunteer@charter.net, or (608) 695-0946. More information is available at www.northsidefarmermarket.org.

The Northside Farmer's Market happens every Sunday morning from 8:30 am-12:30 pm from May to October at the Northside TownCenter, 2817 N. Sherman Ave. in Pierce's Northside Market parking lot, across from Warner Park. The market is easily accessible, and family and pet friendly.

Beautiful landscaping soothes the soul and increases property value

By Lauri Lee
Northside News

Great satisfaction can be derived from a well-planned and well-maintained lawn or garden. Research has shown that living surrounded by plants, trees or bushes has important health benefits. Psychologically, stress and anxiety levels have been

shown to be reduced, and levels of satisfaction and well-being have increased.

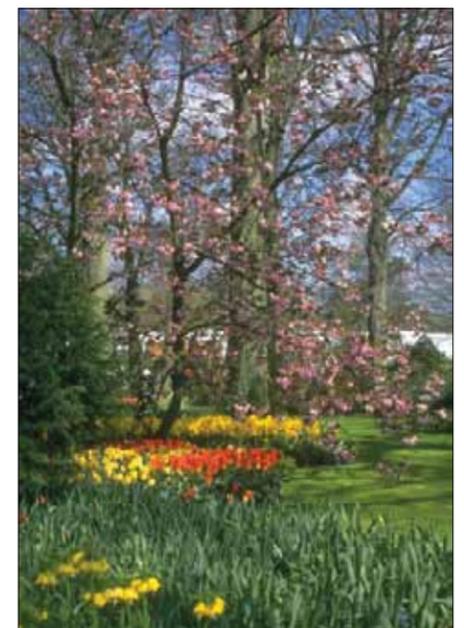
Greater visual appeal is not the only advantage homeowners can receive from a beautiful landscape. According to experts, a well-maintained landscape can increase a home's value by as much as 100-200 percent.

The reasons that homeowners seek pro-

fessional help with the garden, landscape or lawn varies from one situation to the next. Neil Anderson at Harmony Lawn Care offers a senior discount to benefit homeowners who are prevented from doing yardwork due to age or health reasons.

Bill Jolin from Help in the Garden helps maintain beautiful flower beds and landscapes that require extra care and attention, many that feature designer flowers. Proper lawn care, advises Ryan Trost from O'Ryans Lawn Care, prevents lawn problems. In the spring, well-maintained lawns may need aeration to combat compaction, or fertilization and over seeding.

This spring and summer, invest in yourself and your home. Reap the benefits for your personal mental health and the increased curb appeal of your property. This can be an investment that pays for itself many times over.



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ENVIRONMENT

Want better soil in your garden? Make it yourself

By Dan Tortorice
Northside News

With vegetable prices soaring, this might be a good year to start a home garden project.

Well after you've picked out a nice sunny spot in your Northside yard, you might be a little discouraged by the stiff and sticky clay you find just below the surface. The glaciers that gave us our beautiful setting on the north end of Lake Mendota also left us with some really finely ground rock that developed into clay soils.

Home composting gives us a way to improve that soil without spending a lot of money. It also results in savings for the city and county, since they will be collecting and land filling less, or maybe none, of your yard waste and kitchen scraps.

The U.S. EPA estimates yard clipping and food residues make up 26 percent of our national waste stream. All those tons of waste have to be hauled to landfills by truck where it contributes greenhouse gases to further heat our planet.

Northside homes tend to have larger yards with mature trees. This makes for lots of leaves in the fall. So a leaf pile is a great place to start a home composting project. The general "rule" of composting is three parts of "brown stuff" such as leaves that are high in carbon mixed with one part "green stuff" such as grass clippings or kitchen scraps that are high in nitrogen. Pick a spot in your

yard that is away from direct sunlight and won't bother your neighbors.

You don't need any fancy "starters" or containers, just try to get a mix of "brown" and "green," mix it up with a shovel every couple weeks in the summer and let nature do the rest. You'll need to leave a shovel there during the winter months in order to knock away the snow to bury your kitchen waste. The waste should always be buried at least one foot into the pile.

At our house we empty the pile each fall to make room for new leaves. We spade the rotted material into our gardens or spread it around as mulch. We always leave some in the pile to give a start to next year's batch. As a result we've gotten nice loose and rich soils for growing flowers and vegetables.

If you're willing to spend a little money to get a neater and more compact composting system, the city of Madison is willing to assist you. They are holding a compost bin sale on Saturday, May 7. The sale will take place at Alliant Energy Center (Olin Avenue entrance) from 9 am-4 pm.

You can purchase "The Earth Machine" compost bin with a free handout on how to use it. They will also have kitchen containers for storing your scraps on the counter. Over two million Earth Machines are currently being used around the country. They are regularly sold for about \$100, so the sale price of \$45 on May 7 is a real bargain.



Photo by Brad Weisinger

A sandhill crane visits Warner Park Community Recreation Center.

It's Spring! Sandhill cranes are back

by Marlene Hardick
Northside News

Sandhill cranes were heard in Cherokee Marsh on the morning of Friday, Feb. 25. They are arriving from their winter home in Florida. They will now begin mating and will be easy to hear and see around the Marsh. They will remain with us until late November. A friendly pair of cranes has lived in Warner Park for many years and have raised many chicks. They are often seen outside the windows of Warner Park Community Recreation Center, where they consider the seniors and manager Brad Weisinger to be special friends. (Ask Brad to see his photo album.)

The sandhill crane is a tall gray bird with a wingspan of six to seven feet. Adults have yellow eyes, black bills, legs and feet, with a bright red patch on the crest of their head. Males and females look nearly alike.

When they are three to seven years old, cranes select a mate and may remain with that mate for 30 years. Their noisy mating dance and calls can often be heard two miles away in the spring.

They lay one to two eggs in a nest on the ground. The nest is a heap of grass, spreading five feet across, high enough so water won't seep through, and built near water. Both parents incubate the eggs for 30 days, then raise the chicks together. Chicks begin to fly in July and are ready to migrate with parents by November.

Cranes feed on tubers, worms, grasshoppers, snails, frogs, seeds, eggs of other birds, and sometimes snakes, small birds and mice.

North America has two crane species — sandhill cranes and whooping cranes, a large white bird. There are six sub-species of sandhill cranes. There are 15 species of cranes in the world. Eleven of them are endangered. The sandhill crane was near extinction in the 1800s, but has made a dramatic comeback.



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OUTDOOR

Exploring the Northside by canoe or kayak

By Jeffrey Lee Affeldt

Northside News

There are many ways to enjoy a quiet outing on the natural Northside: a walk in the woods, a glide along a snowy ski trail or a bike ride through a neighborhood park. But one of my favorite modes of silent transport is kayak or canoe.

Whether for relaxation or fitness, bird-watching or photography, the seat of a kayak or canoe can offer a whole new perspective on your world. And, being bounded on three sides by water, Madison's Northside is prime paddling territory.

A boat for everyone

When contemplating a canoe or kayak, one of the first points to consider is what you intend to use it for, and where you want it to take you. From a casual sunset paddle on Cherokee Marsh to a weekend cruise down the nearby Wisconsin River to a weeklong camping trip on the Great Lakes, the best boat will be one suited to its purpose.

Another primary consideration is your budget, since the material from which a boat is constructed will have a great impact on its price, as will its size and other features. As a rule, less expensive materials like polyethylene or Royalex plastics make for a heavier boat, while more expensive construction like fiberglass or carbon-fiber composites deliver a very lightweight paddle craft. A lighter boat will be easier to carry and lift atop your vehicle for transport.

If you don't want to find yourself up Token Creek without a paddle, save some room in your budget for such ad-



Photo by Jeffrey Affeldt

A casual paddle through the water offers great satisfaction.

ditional paddling necessities as lifejackets, roof rack, seat cushions, paddles and any other gear to make your time on the water safe and more enjoyable.

Speaking of safety, be sure that everyone aboard your personal watercraft has a properly sized lifejacket (besides common sense, it's also Wisconsin and US law); children under age 13 must wear their lifejackets while underway. In case of a capsize, all passengers should know how to swim, or at least tread water, and be able to help get the boat upright and back to shore.

Kayak or canoe?

Generally speaking, the slender kayak requires much less paddling effort

than the wider canoe, and can really get up and go. Kayaks are also less influenced by wind and waves than a canoe.

But a canoe can be paddled either solo or by two paddlers, and can carry quite a load of gear or passengers. The extra room of a canoe is also handy if you enjoy fishing or photography.

Whether canoe or kayak, you'll want to look at several different models before purchasing, and Madison is fortunate to have one of the best places around to do that: Rutabaga Paddlesports is located on the south side at 220 West Broadway, Monona. Situated on the Yahara River, Rutabaga offers test-paddling during the season. You can even rent a few boats to compare their features and see what you like before buying. Learn more at www.rutabaga.com.

Spring events at Cherokee Marsh

By Jan Axelson

On Friday, Apr. 22, join the Friends of Cherokee Marsh and Madison Audubon to view the spectacular evening sky dance of the American woodcock. We'll also have a good chance of spotting sandhill cranes, snipe and other early signs of spring.

Meet at 6:30 pm in the main parking lot, Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park North Unit, 6098 N. Sherman Ave. Waterproof footwear is recommended.

Here are two more spring tours at Cherokee Marsh:

Saturday, May 7, Cherokee Marsh Paddle

Wednesday, May 11, Warbler Walk

For details, go to Cherokee Marsh.org or call 241-5828.

Where to paddle?

The Northside has no shortage of places to toss a boat in for an outing:

Cherokee Park, at 1000 Burning Wood Way, and Cherokee Marsh-South (head up the driveway at the corner of Wheeler and School Roads) offers easy access to Cherokee Marsh as well as the Upper Yahara River and Token Creek.

Lake Mendota is easily accessed at Governors Island, Warner Park Beach and boat landing, and Burrows Park.

Other near-Northside waters are found at Governor Nelson State Park, Token Creek County Park, Stark-weather Creek, the lower Yahara River and more.

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OUTDOOR

Fish expert draws crowd to annual meeting

Submitted by
Friends of Cherokee Marsh

What do fishermen and women want?

Either lots of fish or lots of big fish, fisheries biologist Kurt Welke told an audience of 55 at the annual meeting of the Friends of Cherokee Marsh on Jan. 29.

To that end, the long-time state Department of Natural Resources employee described in detail how fisheries workers capture, mark and release fish to record their health, species and population levels.

Mesh traps and stun boats are used to enable biologist to weigh, measure, sex and mark the fish. The tip of the tail is clipped off so they know which ones have already been counted.

“We take a large sample to get a spread of sizes and find out whether they are thriving or emaciated,” he said.

Fish in Cherokee Marsh were tested in the spring of 2009 and 2010.

What did they find? “A healthy warm-water fishery with pan fish and seasonal northern pike,” as well as catfish and carp, he said.

“Catfish are eating panfish, but bluegills are prolific,” he said.

Carp are a nuisance and are not helping the health of the Yahara River Estuary, also known as Cherokee Lake and Cherokee Marsh, Welke commented.

“Plants need light, not harassment,” he said, and carp root around and cloud the waters. “The water would be clear



Photo: Friends of Cherokee Marsh
Kurt Welke shares an interesting point with Jack Hurst.

if the carp are gone.”

Chemical treatment or a fish weir may be needed to limit carp, he said.

Last year, as part of a study to find out where the carp go in winter, Kurt and others radio-tagged and monitored the locations of 20 carp. Some theorized the carp would head downstream to Lake Mendota. Others thought they might head upstream to Token Creek.

But to the surprise of many, a check in late December located every one of the tagged carp in the waters of Cherokee Lake. This information can help when planning efforts to limit the carp populations.

Another major problem for local fisheries is agriculture, he said. “We’ve got animal waste issues. Manure leads to phosphorus, which leads to algae.”

Cherokee Marsh and Cherokee Lake dictate how beautiful the Madison lakes below them can be, he added.

Wild Warner provides environmental education walk schedule

By **Marlene Hardick**
Northside News

The Wild Warner group invites the public to join in the upcoming education walks. For more details on these events and to check times and meeting places, please go to www.wild-warnerpark.org.

Saturday, Apr. 30 9–11 am
Warner Park Shelter

Bluebird talk and walk given by Audubon bluebird expert Paul Noeldner. Noeldner is a major local force in bringing bluebirds back. He builds bluebird houses and installs bluebird trails. There will be a talk on bluebirds, a bluebird house-building demonstration and then a walk down to the bluebird houses.

Sunday, May 15 1-3 pm

Bird and plant walk led by UW Environmental Studies student Christa Seidl. Seidl is a botany and ornithology student with considerable field experience studying both birds and plants.

Saturday, June 4 8 am

Audubon Bird Walk by UW Environmental Studies Ph.D. student Trish O’Kane. O’Kane is conducting geolocation research on catbirds in Warner Park to find out their migration routes. Catbirds raise their families in Warner Park and then fly to Central America and the Caribbean for the winter. During this walk we will see many migratory birds.

Goose management public informational/listening sessions

By **Laura Whitmore**

The City of Madison Parks Division is hosting a final public informational/listening session concerning goose management in public parks. Staff is gathering information in order to put forth a goose management plan for the Madison Parks Commission’s consideration in May. The plan will report the public input gathered at this and the previous

meetings held in the fall of 2010, various research findings, as well as a number of options and techniques for controlling goose populations.

The next public input session scheduled for Apr. 20 from 6:30-8 pm will focus on goose populations in general parklands. The session will be held at the Goodman maintenance facility, 1402 Wingra Creek Pkwy.

ONE DAY ONLY COMPOST BIN SALE

Hosted By
THE CITY OF MADISON & DANE COUNTY

Saturday, May 7, 2010
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

A \$100.00 VALUE FOR ONLY
\$45.00
Tax Included

COMPOST BINS WILL BE AVAILABLE
IN THE PARKING LOT AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATION:

Alliant Energy Center
1919 Alliant Energy Center Way
Olin Avenue Entrance
Madison, WI

Compost Turners (\$15) and Kitchen Scrap Pails (\$7)
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For more information on this event, please call 608-267-2626.
Dane County and The City of Madison would like to thank
The Alliant Energy Center for their support of this event.



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OUTDOOR

Bird Buddies get a red-tailed valentine

By Trish O'Kane

On Valentine's Day, Sherman Middle School Bird Buddies hustled into the computer lab peeling off brightly-colored jackets. It was the warmest day of the winter at 40 degrees and the sun was blazing. Today we were walking to Warner Park to practice binocular skills. I had just spent an hour in Wild Warner taping up tiny pictures of birds, dogs, chocolate cakes and other weird stuff for students to practice focusing on.

Bird Buddies is a birding-mentoring program that meets weekly. The mentors are 15 UW-Madison students. The mentees are 14 Sherman middle schoolers.

The college students had made construction paper valentines for their bird buddies, with macaroni hearts pasted alongside photos of cardinals. UW Professor Jack Kloppenburg passed out chocolate birds to everyone. As we munched on the chocolate, I showed students a photo of a red-tailed hawk taken in the park, just 24 hours earlier. I told them to watch out for him.

We walked around the park playing the binocular game. I'd taped a photo of two tiny lobsters to a bluebird house. I placed the students about 25 feet away and asked them to identify the birds. They could see something red. They raised their binoculars.

"That's not a bird," Mark Kidd said with the disdain that only an eighth grader can muster.

"It's ... it's ..., a lobster?" another student asked, incredulous.

"Two lobsters," I told him.

Time for some real birds. We walked towards the shelter and whoosh, right



A red-tailed hawk sits on her perch in Warner Park

over our heads, the hawk flew towards the ice rink. Then he headed for the big woods and perched in a large tree. A student pointed: "Hey, there's another one sitting by him, a bigger one."

In this species, the female is at least one-third bigger than the male.

Ms. Red-Tail flew towards Mallard Stadium and perched on a huge light fixture. Mr. Red-Tail joined her. We stood watching but some kids were restless. Behind me, two teenage boys were deep into a conversation about females of the human variety. I was annoyed but I reminded myself that in middle school all I cared about was David Cassidy.

And then, it happened. Mr. Red-Tail hopped on her and gave his mate a three-second hawk valentine. A few kids started shouting. Some college students did not believe the hawks were mating.

"That's it?" one said.

"Yes, that's it," answered a student who raises chickens.

I strolled over to the two teenage boys and said: "Did you just see those

hawks mating?"

"MATING?"

For the first time that day, I had their full attention.

"You mean like they made out?" one asked.

"They were mating? It isn't even night!" the other boy said, raising his eyebrows.

"You two need to pay attention and use those binoculars. You might see something really interesting in this park," I said.

After the big event, the hawks perched together, preening themselves. Typical post-coital behavior, I told the college students.

Sixth-grader Megan McHugh said "That was the perfect ending to Valentine's Day."

Photo by Jim Carrier

Earth Day at Warner Park

On Earth Day, Apr. 22, Wild Warner and Brentwood Neighborhood Association invite all Northsiders to a trash pick-up and invasive weed pull in Warner Park woods. On Saturday, Apr. 23, join the groups at 10:30 am at the Warner Park shelter. Follow the trail from the tennis courts into the woods. Please bring a trash bag and wear old shoes and gloves.

Garlic mustard will be pulled in the woods. In spring it is easy to pull, even for a child. Pulling will not cause a rash. It is an invasive herb and makes a tasty salad. It also spreads rapidly and crowds out native wildflowers. Once it is pulled, wildflowers will reclaim the area.

As a bonus, bring your favorite salad dressing, bowl and fork so that you can learn how to eat garlic mustard. It is delicious!

Spring comes again in Lake View Hill Park

By Sue Gleason

We survived another Wisconsin winter and Lake View Hill Park is starting to bud and bloom with early native flowers. Join us on April 16th from 10am to 12 noon, the Saturday before Earth Day, for the first volunteer workday of the 2011 season.

We will have the annual Earth Day spring clean-up activities as well as fun favorites like garlic mustard pulling.

You can also find spring flowers like Dutchman's Breeches, May Apples, Jack in the Pulpit, and yes, even a few shy Trillium. Just as a friendly reminder though, it is illegal to remove native plants from the conservancy park. We are working hard to restore the park so that these plants can thrive in their native environment.

For more information on Lake View Hill Park or to get involved, join the Yahoo group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FriendsofLakeViewHillPark>. Join our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Lake-View-Hill-Park or contact Sue Gleason at 249-9449.

Weed Warrior:
Volunteer work day
at Cherokee Marsh

Weed Warriors host volunteer work parties each spring to remove garlic mustard, dames rocket, other invasive plants and trash from Cherokee Marsh and other conservation parks in Madison.

Come on **Saturday, Apr. 2 from noon-3 pm** to help at Cherokee Marsh, 6098 N. Sherman Ave. Go through the gate to the parking lot by the bathrooms at the end of North Sherman Avenue. Please call 257-1329 if you have any questions.

Help plant shrubs & seeds at Cherokee Marsh

Saturday, Apr. 23 9-11 am

Celebrate Earth Day by planting an area with native shrubs and scattering seed in a restoration of an oak opening.

Meet at:
Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park North Unit, 6098 N. Sherman Ave.

Follow North Sherman Avenue north to the parking lot at the end of the road. Call Jan at 241-5828 if you have questions.



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From

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246-4547



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**Lakeview Branch Library
246-4547**

Hours: Monday–Friday: 10 am–8 pm
Saturdays: 9 am–5 pm
Closed May 30 for Memorial Day

Video Game Club

Friday, Apr. 1 and May 6, 3:30 pm
Wii and Pizza; For grades 6–12;

Drop-in crafts

Wednesday Apr. 6 and 20, 4–5:30 pm
Grades K–5 kids make a work of art to take home. Here's your chance to work with an artist.

Compost happens!

Saturday, Apr. 9, 10:30 am–noon
Madison recycling coordinator George Dreckmann presents home compost basics including what to compost, where to put your bin and when to turn your compost pile. Plans for building your own compost bin included.

Coupon clipping 101

Saturday, Apr. 16 from 1–3 pm
Want to save 60–80 percent on your groceries every time you shop? Dannelle Gay will teach you about obtaining and organizing coupons, and the right way to use them.

Make your money talk: Personal money management series

Monday, Apr. 18–May 23, 5:30–7:45 pm
Offered in partnership with the Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative. This series, designed as a guide to personal money management, covers creating a personal budget, developing a savings plan and dealing with credit. All Dane County participants who complete the series receive a \$50 savings bond for your savings plan!
Register with WWBIC by calling 257-5450.

Remnants of the rainforest

Saturday, Apr. 23 from 2:30–3:45 pm
Dino Tlachac of Nature's Niche educates and entertains with live rainforest amphibians, birds, mammals, lizards, turtles and snakes.

Preschool yoga

Monday Apr. 25–June 6, 10:30 am
Yoga teacher Nikki Cook is back with a 45-minute parent and child yoga series for ages 18 months to five years. Bring a mat or towel for you and your child. One child per caregiver, please. Register for the series by calling 246-4547.

Birds of prey

Saturday, May 21 at 11 am
Learn about the importance of different raptor species from falconer and eagle handler Dianne Moller, with the help of a live eagle, hawk, falcon and owl.

Preschool storytime

Tuesdays through Apr. 19 at 10:30 am
Stories, songs and fingerplays for ages 3-5. Younger siblings are always welcome.

Storytime for the very young

Tuesdays through Apr. 19 at 10:30 am
Stories, songs and rhymes for ages 0-35 months. One adult per child please.

Lakeview chess club

Second and fourth Mondays at 6 pm
Players any age with skill levels from beginner to advanced are welcome. Beginners will be taught how to play.



Adult noon book group

The second Thursday of each month.
Discuss books and have treats with your neighbors. What could be more fun?
April 14: The Ghost Mountain Boys by James Campbell
May 12: The Scent of God by Beryl Bissell
Copies are always available at Lakeview.

Knitting at the Library

Every Wednesday at 6:30 pm
Stuck with a project? Neighborhood knitters provide expertise and fun. Beginners always welcome.

Scrabble for adults

Every Wednesday at 10 am
Keep your brain sharp and give the regulars some competition.

**Shred-Fest to take place at Lakeview Branch Library
Wednesday, May 4, 10 am–2 pm**

Bring your confidential documents (up to five bags or boxes) and watch them be destroyed by a shredding truck in the Lakeview Branch Library (2845 Sherman Ave.) parking lot, courtesy of Access Information Management.
Inside the library, staff from the Wisconsin Office of Privacy Protection will be on hand to answer questions and provide information about how consumers and businesses can protect privacy and reduce the risk of identity theft. Drop in any time during this four-hour visit.
Identity theft continues to be the fastest growing crime in the country. More than 11 million people in the U.S. become victims each year. Estimates are that one in six people will become an identity theft victim at some point in their lives. Businesses are also harmed by identity theft, costing them not only money — but sometimes their reputation as well. In addition, businesses lose money, both in real dollars and in productivity, every time one of their customers becomes the victim of identity theft.
The Office of Privacy Protection works with Wisconsinites to educate them on how to protect their identities. Since 2006, the Office of Privacy Protection has taught more than 50,000 consumers, businesses, and law enforcement agencies about identity theft and fraud prevention. It also has provided victim assistance to those harmed by identity theft, and helped local law enforcement agencies to investigate this crime.
Access Information Management is a leading records and information management solutions provider and trusted partner to clients spanning multiple industries and locations. See <http://accesscorp.com/> for more information.

FRIENDS NEEDED

VOLUNTEER

Assist with a craft project, serve a meal or just engage in conversation with the young at heart whose health is frail. Or be an escort on van trips into the community.

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WARNER PARK COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER

From
BRAD WEISINGER
245-3690



FACILITY MANAGER

Madison will be reconstructing the existing parking lot at Warner Park. This plan does not include the WPCRC parking lot. The Parks Division worked with the City of Madison Engineering and Traffic Engineering divisions on the new design following the criteria listed below:

1. The new design should consider and incorporate the parking lot design guidelines/features in the approved Northside Neighborhood Plan where applicable.
2. The new design will efficiently and economically break down into multiple phases to lessen the impact on the capital budget.
3. The new design will meet all City of Madison parking lot requirements.
4. Every attempt should be made to keep the same asphalt footprint yet minimize loss of parking stalls or if possible, increase the number of parking stalls.
5. The new design will attempt to lessen the impact of storm water runoff on the existing wetlands in Warner Park.
6. The new design will keep people from using the park as a cut-through from Sherman Avenue to Northport Drive.
7. The new design will incorporate better pedestrian access from each parking bay to facilities that are serviced by the parking lot.

8. The new design will incorporate pedestrian and bike access through and/or adjacent to the parking lot and connecting to the existing pedestrian/bike path systems throughout the park.
9. The new design will attempt to lessen the large parking lot "feel" by breaking up the large lot into smaller lots and incorporating residential street design standards to the entrance road.

State and zip), phone number with area code and your email address.

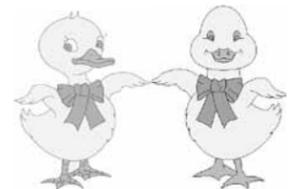
Circle of Friends

As many of you may know the WPCRC has a Circle of Friends, a 501.C3, which is actively fund raising for a Northside Pool, adjacent to the Warner Park Community Recreation Center (go to www.friendsofwarner.com for more information.).

Waves swim team

A great new activity at the Goodman Pool for 2011 is the Waves swim team. This is a community partnership between the Shelley Glover Sports Education Foundation, the Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Foundation and Madison Parks. This team is for ages 8-17 years and children in fourth, fifth and sixth grade are encouraged to register. This team will travel via bus to meets. Scholarships are available.

Registering for the Goodman Pool Waves swim team is easy and convenient. Go online to www.cityofmadison.com/parks/pool and follow the link to online registration. The course number to register is 19900-1. You may also register by completing and mailing the form at the back of the Goodman Pool 2001 Catalog. Please register by June 1. If you have questions call Brad Weisinger at 245-3691.



Greeting Northsiders — summer fun

Early Out and Into Fun

Warner Park Community Recreation Center (WPCRC) encourages students to partake in safe activities at WPCRC on early release days. Wow offer FREE open gym and game room use for middle and high school students on Wednesdays from 3:45-5:30 pm. No ID card or admission fee is required for open gym (basketballs are provided). We ask only that you wear proper gym shoes.

The game room provides space for youth to do homework (free wi-fi), play Wii or X-Box or play a game of pool or foosball. Plus, there are board games and puzzles upon request. Please call 245-3690 Ext. 0 for more info. Current weekly Wednesday visitors have been between 40-50 youth.

Blood Drives at WPCRC

Keep your eye on the northsidediscuss list serv and www.wpcrc.com as WPCRC will soon be hosting a second Northside Blood Drive in the community rooms. The first drive was very successful. Thanks Northsiders!

Warner Park parking lot

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