

COMMUNITY

Northsider loses son to gambling addiction, works to raise awareness

The secret toll of youth gambling

In schools, correctional facilities and community centers across the state, Robert McGuigan is lecturing on how problem gambling is a gateway addiction. According to a recent Oregon survey, teenage gamblers are more likely to participate in risky behaviors like drugs, sex and alcohol.

Teenage gamblers start social gambling (playing for fun) at around 10 years of age; but they quickly advance to serious gambling (playing for money). Unlike drugs and alcohol, gambling is a hidden addiction — one cannot see it or smell it and it can be done at anytime, anywhere.

Current treatment programs for gambling problems range from a behavioral approach to a self-help approach. There is no consensus on the best treatment path. Few prevention programs are aimed at school age children, and they vary from show and tell to scared straight tactics, with little in the way of true prevention efforts.

At the 2010 National Center for Responsible Gambling Conference in Las Vegas, a panel discussion included a casino executive, a lawyer, and a tribal representative, and everyone's very first words were, "We are not responsible for problem gambling." That conference lasted Wednesday through Friday. On Friday the American Gambling Association's conference began.

Change is coming. In the last four months, the American Psychiatric Association recognized gambling as an addiction. The next Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders will be published in 2015 and will contain a section on gambling. The gambling industry has also learned from the tobacco and alcohol industries — one has been bombarded with lawsuits and the other is incredibly strong.

According to Robert McGuigan (see adjacent story), it is simply a matter of slipping gambling awareness programs in with already-existing programs. Students need to know the flipside of gambling, as do parents and teachers.



Ella Wiese Moore
Age 22

The date is June 26, 2003, and it is turning into the worst day of Robert McGuigan's life. He has been trying for hours to find out what has happened to his son, Jason. He has called the local hospitals, clinics and TV stations. All he has been told is that one person is confirmed dead at his son's home in Verona. He calls the Verona Police Department. They ask questions; he hangs up. Five minutes later the Dane County Sheriff's Department calls with more questions. He drops the phone, leaves out of his apartment and starts walking. Two blocks later, the tears start coming. He walks home. The sheriff's have arrived. They go inside and he is finally told what has happened. His son is dead. The details unfold: Jason, 28, and his two roommates, Dustin Wilson, 17, and Dan Swanson, 25, were murdered over a gambling debt.

The events that led to Jason's murder started, not with his life, but with his father's. Growing up in Blanchardville, Robert started gambling for money when he was 8 years old. "When I was a kid, all I had was a deck of cards and a pair of dice. Heaven help me if I wanted to play bingo; I had to genuflect, bless myself and go to church with mom and dad." His dad did not approve of gambling; his mom did — it kept the kids indoors and out of trouble.

Everything changed when his older brother introduced him to poker. Soon Robert was the card shark of the family, so much so that his older brother rarely played with him. In high school Robert and his friends would frequently skip school to play poker (330 days over four years). After high school, Robert joined the United States Navy and quickly set up a gambling den to rake in the money.

By the time he received his discharge papers in 1975, Robert had quite a slush fund. He married soon after and they worked the card circuit in Milwaukee. The card playing stopped when his son, Jason, was born. In Robert's words, "a light bulb clicked; being a father was a responsibility." He took it seriously. Weekends were spent camping and trout fishing, with dice filling the time in between.

After a messy divorce when Jason was eight years old, Robert moved to Madison. Jason joined him here five years later. As Jason entered high school, he was slowly



Robert McGuigan with photos of the three young men killed. From left to right: Dan Swanson, age 25; Jason McGuigan, Robert's son, age 28; and Dustin Wilson, age 17.

becoming addicted to gambling. Having his own computer made it an even quicker road.

After Jason graduated from high school and moved to Verona, Robert received worrying phone calls from Jason's best friend. Jason was gambling big time and was planning to go to the casino. Robert went to see

his son in Verona. Jason was leaving the house at the time. It was the last time Robert saw his son alive.

Ten years later Robert is spreading the word about the addictiveness of gambling. Why? "Hopefully, I can make a difference and that's what I'm out to do," he said.

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COMMUNITY



By Seth Campbell
Age 16

A Northsider responds to a Supreme Court ruling which changed democracy

“Corporations are people” and “money is speech.” These have become common household phrases. They refer to the 2010 United States Supreme Court decision in the case Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, commonly known as Citizens United. This ruling gives corporations the same rights as citizens and defines spending money as an act of free speech. Naturally, this ruling has caused some controversy.

Many organizations have formed in response to this ruling, one of which is the South Central Wisconsin Move to Amend, a member of the nationwide organization Move to Amend. Their aim, as suggested by the name of the organization, is to amend the U.S. Constitution to not only remove the rights of corporations as people, but also to state that money is not considered free speech. Northsider Lynette Jandl, the head of South Central Wisconsin Move to Amend, says the purpose of the organization is to “help voters understand what the problems are with

politics because of Citizens United.”

One of the problems that has arisen because of Citizens United is the ability of a corporation to create a super political action committee, or Super-PAC. These Super-PACs are able to virtually ignore campaign finance laws, giving them the ability to spend enormous amounts of money to benefit a candidate or hurt another. This means that a large amount of bias and influence can be bought for a candidate through television, newspaper and radio ads. Move to Amend sees this as a danger to democracy.

Move to Amend has a plan to combat this danger. As previously stated, they are looking for an amendment to the Constitution to overrule the Supreme Court’s decision in Citizens United. However, in order to accomplish this, Move to Amend needs the support of the people. This has prompted a large education effort, with meetings and presentations to inform the people of Madison and the nation of the issues. After this, Jandl says, they want

people to “vote based on the information given” and for “Wisconsin voters to decide if corporations are people.”

One other effect that Move to Amend hopes to have is to remove bias from news sources. They believe that money can sway opinion and that news sources should be unbiased so the American people can form their own opinions, unaffected by the opinions of big businesses. This fits perfectly with the goal of an educated populace, leading to a demand of the people to overturn the Citizens United ruling via constitutional amendment.

One of the first steps in achieving this goal is holding meetings, and Move to Amend is very focused on the Northside. Anyone with an interest in government and the problems facing our democracy should make sure to attend their open meeting Sept. 28, as it promises to be one of the more exciting political discussions held in Madison. (See sidebar for information on the time and location of the meeting.)

Too much money in politics?

Was Citizens United a good thing for “We the People” or should we object?

When polled, about 80 percent of us say yes, we should object. This Supreme Court ruling gave corporations the same rights as people and allowed unlimited money to be spent on our elections and our politicians.

Come to a presentation and public discussion.

Saturday, Sept. 28, 1–3:30 pm
James Reeb Community Room
2146 E. Johnson St.

Presentation by South Central Wisconsin Move to Amend, an affiliate of the national Move to Amend (scwmta.org and movetoamend.org).

Bring your curiosity, questions and friends. This is the issue most of us agree on, so let’s talk.

Rhythm & Booms leaves Northside

By Northside News staff

“The Mallards can give us the booms, and we can add the rhythm.” — a post-Rhythm & Booms meeting attendee.

Madison Mayor Paul Soglin shocked the Northside community this week with his announcement that Madison Festivals, Inc. was moving Rhythm & Booms from Warner Park to the downtown starting in 2014. The biggest fireworks show in the Midwest will now be shot off from barges floating in Lake Monona, offering a 360-degree panorama to viewers around the lake.

What does this mean for the Northside? We are fortunate to have generous community members in the Madison Mallards. Mallards President Vern Stenman attended a meeting held by Alders Anita Weier and Larry Palm on July 18 and offered a proposal for a mid-sized fireworks display at the Mallards stadium following their traditional home game on the Fourth of July.

There was standing room only at the July 18 meeting, and those in attendance had plenty to say about the decision to move Rhythm & Booms. But attendees also had a lot of good ideas about how



Photo by Karen Bassler

There was standing room only at the July 18 Rhythm & Booms citizen input meeting hosted by Alders Larry Palm and Anita Weier.

the Northside can create its own Independence Day event, such as a bike parade, performances by youth groups, and food served by local restaurants and food carts. At the end of the meeting, Alder Weier gathered the names of people interested in working on a committee to build on those ideas and work with the Mallards on their fireworks show proposal.

If you would like to participate on the Fourth of July planning committee, contact Alder Weier at district18@cityofmadison.com.

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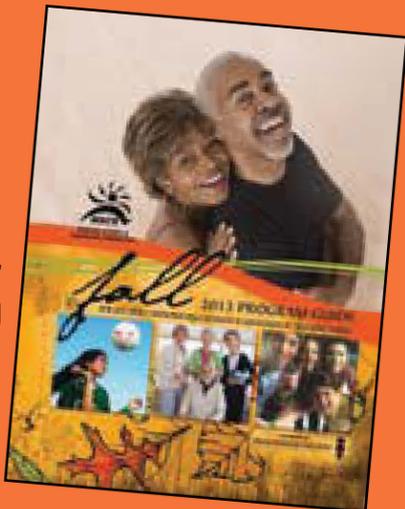
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COMMUNITY

An easygoing Sunday morning at the Northside Farmers Market

By Fiona Stoner

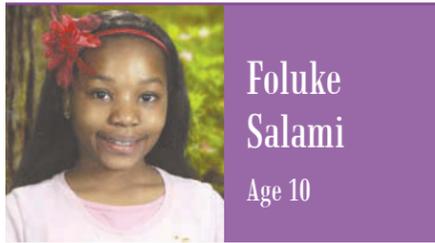
The Northside Farmers Market is a great place to go on a Sunday morning to sit in on lively conversation under the community tent. After you have purchased your honey, salad fixings, fish, beef or lamb, cheese, jam or kettle corn, you can pause for a while under the tent as you indulge in baked goods, eat a tamale or an eggroll, or sip a smoothie and shoot the breeze with one of the market regulars. There are always good stories at the information and community tents. And don't forget the free coffee, donated by Just Coffee Cooperative.

The TimeBank Pet Palooza will be Sept. 15, so mark your calendar. Sign up for the weekly newsletter to get more information as the event gets closer. There are always wonderful recipes to try and information on our vendors. We add more events as the season progresses and sometimes dates change.

The One-Pot Cook-Off is scheduled for Oct. 6. Entrants must contact the event coordinator in advance to sign up; we would love to have more dishes to sample. The key lesson from last year was to cook with a bigger dish so you don't run out of food.

The market's magic takes place each week with the help of volunteers. If you are looking for a way to support healthy, sustainable, locally grown food, please consider signing up to answer questions and process Quest purchases at the information booth, help set up the market, or help put it all away for the next week. If you are interested in volunteering or playing acoustic music at the market, please contact us at NFMMManager@Yahoo.com.

The Northside Farmers 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. Our location makes it easy to get to by walking, bus, bicycle or car, with plenty of parking available.



Foluke Salami
Age 10

On July 1, I met an amazing man by the name of Alvin A. Joel. Mr. Joel was born on Jan. 22, 1924, in a log cabin right here in Madison. But Mr. Joel isn't your average Wisconsinite — he's also a three-time war veteran of World War II, the Korean War and the war in Vietnam.

On May 4 Mr. Joel and his niece, Sharon Gonnerin, and other World War II vets from Madison were able to go to Washington, D.C. on an Honor Flight. Honor Flight is a nonprofit organization that tries to fly as many veterans as they can to Washington D.C. to see the memorials of the respective wars.

Coincidentally, during Mr. Joel's Honor Flight, I was there in D.C on a safety patrol trip with other safety patrol groups from Madison and Milwaukee. I got to shake Mr. Joel's hand and thank him for his service at the World War II memorial.

Mr. Joel was in the U.S. Merchant Marines, a division of the U.S. Coast Guard. He was also captain of his ship. Mr. Joel talked about how he would go down to dinner a little later than everyone else, and when he got there, he would give a little signaling cough and everyone would stop eating. They couldn't eat until he got to his seat and coughed again. This was a naval tradition followed on many ships.

At the end of the interview I was shown Mr. Joel's three captain hats. Two of them are white with a blue rim and golden leaf-like designs. On the crown it says "American President Lines" with a red eagle above the words. The third hat was all blue with a ship's wheel on the crown.

Mr. Joel told me many stories, including the time his ship visited Pearl Harbor a year after it was bombed. Mr. Joel told us they could still see the sunken ships; no one could clean them up because they were still fighting. He told us that, when they were leaving, some people jumped off the ship

Fifth-grader and Honor Flight vet meet at WWII memorial



Photo by Sharon Gonnerin

Veteran Alvin A. Joel in front of the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C.

because they thought they were going back to fight. Sadly, they couldn't save them, which was very unfortunate because those people didn't get to go home to their families. Mr. Joel also told me about how they eventually brought up the sunken ships by filling the helms with balloons.

At the end of the interview, I asked Mr. Joel if he thought the U.S. did enough for its veterans. He and his nieces, Sharon and Shirley, all strongly said, "No." Sharon said, "I don't like how they bring back the veterans so secretly. We don't even get to celebrate the soldiers that serve our country. It's not fair." Mr. Joel did not want to say much, but his nieces had many powerful and emotional things to say about the subject. To me that was shocking news. Maybe because I'm still very young or maybe because I'm not so connected to our country's veterans, but I was kind of disgusted because our veterans deserve so much more than I was told they were given. I believe that we as a na-

tion and a people should do everything we can to make sure our veterans receive the honor and respect that is long overdue.

Even if it's donating to places like Honor Flight (www.honorflight.com) or Disabled American Veterans (www.dav.org) or thanking the veterans you might meet shopping at the grocery store, please just do what you can to help our veterans. You know what they say: one person can make a difference. So please be that one person and help in a big and very overdue cause. To learn more about Honor Flight and to donate go to www.honorflight.org.

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Feeling off?

COMMUNITY

Thieves vandalize The River Food Pantry

By Betsy Ezell
The River Food Pantry

On June 6 copper thieves vandalized The River Food Pantry's industrial air conditioning system, stealing copper piping and condensers. With the air conditioning disabled and summer temperatures in the 80s, food safety became a major concern for River staff.

"Climate control is very important for storing food in our warehouse. We need to keep safe temps to keep the food fresher and better tasting," said River Director Jenny Czerkas. "Not to mention that it's important to keep it at a safe temperature for our elderly clients or people that are more

frail or not as healthy who use the pantry."

The River worked quickly to replace the stolen air conditioning units, making sure that theft-deterrent measures were taken. Two weeks after the vandalism, two new units were installed on the roof and protective caging was installed around the remaining unit. The total cost for the damage reached \$12,000.

The River saw a tremendous outpouring of support from the community. They experienced anonymous donations, words of encouragement from clients, and even a radio station taking up the cause.

Numerous news outlets in Madison covered the story, prompting many people to give. On Thursday, June 27, local radio station 105.5 Triple M held a daylong fundraiser called "Jonathan and Kitty's Who the Heck Steals From a Food Pantry-a-thon."

The River Food Pantry staff, on behalf of all clients and volunteers, wish to extend their thanks to all those who have donated to help cover the cost of replacing the air conditioning units. The River wouldn't exist without the support of its Northside neighbors and the greater community.

4th Annual Harvest Dinner for Hunger tickets on sale Sept. 2

The River Food Pantry will host its 4th Annual Harvest Dinner for Hunger, presented by American Family Insurance, Wednesday, Oct. 9. Tickets cost \$45 and will be available online and at The River Food Pantry starting Monday, Sept. 2. The dinner will be held at The River Food Pantry and will start at 5:30 pm. The evening will feature a wonderful gourmet meal, a silent auction and live music.

More fresh food at The River Food Pantry

By Betsy Ezell
The River Food Pantry

The River Food Pantry is working hard to increase the amount of produce, dairy and other perishable food items distributed to their clients.

Over the winter, The River surveyed clients to get a feel for how satisfied people were with the services they received. Participation was voluntary and 245 people returned surveys. When asked what kinds of food they'd like to see more of, more than 75 percent mentioned perishable food items, such as produce, dairy and meat. Only one respondent asked for snacks. Other requests included organic and low-fat food items. Proving all kinds of stereotypes false, our clients don't want junk food, they want healthy food.

In June The River was able to install a second walk-in cooler, thanks largely to a grant from the Madison Community Foundation. The cooler has allowed The River to double the amount of produce and dairy they give away to about 9,000 pounds every week.

The River has been blessed to receive donations from the vendors at the Northside Farmers Market, so the pantry is able give away local, high quality, in-season produce during its Tuesday pantry sessions.

Clients notice the difference. "You can always count on produce here at The River. I've been to other food pantries and you can't always get that other places," said a regular Tuesday client, who is an employed single mother of two.

The River is currently raising funds



Above: a client selecting berries. Below: produce table before a pantry session.

to purchase a refrigerated vehicle, which will increase food safety when transporting perishable food items. We are working to raise the remaining \$20,000 to cover the cost of a vehicle, which will help get fresher perishable food items to the families who need and want them.

Photos by Betsy Ezell

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NEIGHBORHOODS

Brentwood Green Team launches the Garden for Empowerment Project

By Abdul Thoronka

The Garden for Empowerment (G4E) project started this summer in the Brentwood Village neighborhood. The project is meant, among other things, to organize the community to form social structures that will work to address issues within the neighborhood. The project started this June with a community garden as an entering point. The children and youth of the neighborhood have been working hard to build four gardens. The gardens are community-owned and residents have been coming to volunteer in various ways.

In a discussion session, some young people who are presently working on the project had this to say:

Jeremiah Gregory: "The project is

giving us the chance to interact and know more residents as we engage them in our gardening."

Taliya Brown: "We have been planting flowers and picking up trash around the neighborhood. This will help to make the neighborhood clean and beautiful."

Micah Barber: "I see the project as a job training opportunity that will help to prepare us for the future. It is also developing our organizational and gardening skills."

Daluan Wells: "The project is bringing kids together and keeping them busy. This will also help to keep them away from trouble."

Larry Simms: "The project will give us fresh healthy vegetables."



The first of two youth work shifts for Garden for Empowerment project.

Revitalizing the Sherman Neighborhood Association

By Sherman Neighborhood Assoc.

Are you part of the Sherman neighborhood? If you live east of North Sherman Avenue, west of Packers Avenue, and south of Northport Drive, then the answer is yes. The Sherman Neighborhood Association invites you to help shape the future of our evolving community.

There is a lot going on in the Sherman neighborhood. The FEED Kitchens business incubator is transforming a unused patch of the NorthGate Shopping Center parking lot. Dorn Hardware is closing its doors. A bigger, better water well will break ground this fall next to

Shabazz High School. Reconfiguring North Sherman Avenue has sparked strong opinions for and against.

Sherman is a neighborhood in transition. A generation of hard-working homeowners is turning over — have you counted the baby strollers lately? Our businesses, the commercial heart of the entire Northside, face a changing clientele with changing expectations. For residents old and new alike, the question is: what kind of neighborhood do we want to become?

The Sherman Neighborhood Association will work to address that in the coming months. Our plans in-

clude opening a dialogue with both of the neighborhood's major shopping centers, making connections with the elected officials who represent us, and building visibility as an organization. Watch for our e-newsletter this fall.

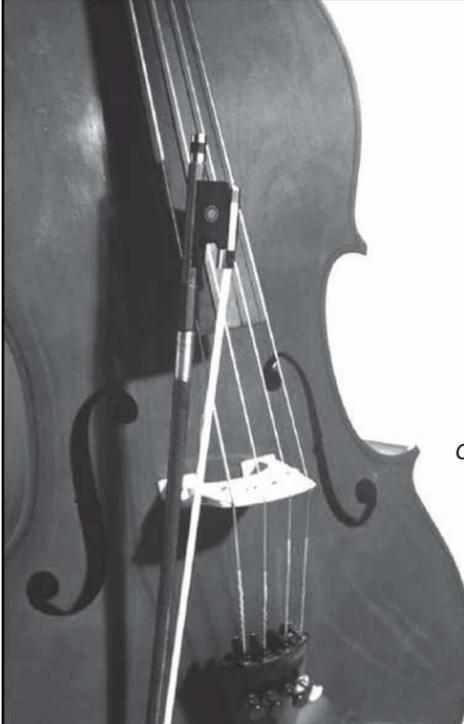
Do you have other ideas? Are you ready to roll up your sleeves? We need your participation to make our association a success. Join the Sherman Neighborhood Association at our next meeting Monday, Sept. 9, at 6:30 pm at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center.

In the meantime, check us out at www.shermanneighborhood.org and Sherman Neighborhood-Madison WI

on Facebook. Whether in person or online, we look forward to meeting you.

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COMMUNITY GROUNDWORKS

Community GroundWorks welcomes new executive director



Karen Von Huene comes to Community GroundWorks following a serendipitous career path. Until 2008, when she became the executive director of Wisconsin Lakes, a statewide lake advocacy organization, Karen worked in community-based social service agencies. She has had the unique opportunity to change her focus from social work to working with water, environmental advocacy and stewardship.

Karen relocated to Madison from Santa Fe, N.M., a decision driven by a desire to be closer to water and a verdant landscape. Having spent most of her adult life in the desert southwest, she has much more experience with water conservation than the average Wisconsinite. Karen lives in Waukegan on Six Mile Creek with her husband, Karl, a lab named Hank and too many cats. "Community GroundWorks is a great opportunity for me to learn more about urban agriculture," Karen said, "and to expand my notions of stewardship and respect for Wisconsin's natural resources."



Photo by Rebecca Starke

Gardening for Good gardener and poet, Andy, writes in his notebook.

Gardening for Good

Gardening for Good (G4G) is a program at Troy Community Gardens developed by Rebecca Starke. Now in its second year, G4G pairs people with and without disabilities in a shared garden plot. Among other fun activities, participants engage in a G4G writing salon called Gardenstories. The following poem was created from that rich reservoir.

THE GARDEN BASKET

Written by Gardeners for Good
Woven by Marge Pitts

Imagine a basket woven of voices. Each voice fragile as a blade of grass, and the weaving irregular, yet this basket is strong enough to carry home the fruits of Gardening for Good. *Marge P.*

We planted watermelon in straw bales, sunflowers. Pulled weeds. We are growing tomatoes. *Ken A.*

I want dirt. Sun and water. What's good is the vegetable part. Eat! That's what I want. *Kate K.*

Come out to pick veggies. You get out in the sun. *Sarah B.*

Little basil turns into big basil. Dig several holes in the dark soil. Plop the basil root first in the ground. Water basil vigorously. *Steve S.*

The peppers are good. I like the spicy ones. Counting the peppers, eating the peppers. *Doug K.*

I enjoy pulling mulch for the ground. In return it helps the plants grow along with the sun. *Jojo D.*

I live at Troy Gardens. It's my home. I love the birds at Troy Gardens. They're my friends. It's fun to garden together. *Marge M.*

I helped put all sorts of flowers in bottles. We made arrangements for the tables at the Good Food Garden Party. *Rick L.*

I like pumpkins to grow for Halloween and pie. I like to bake the seeds I dig out. *Edward E.*

Pull weeds, spray water on everything. We put up signs in people's gardens that said, "I like your garden," and we signed our names. *Julie S.*

I like cucumbers and onions. I am growing them in my garden. My favorite thing is getting in the dirt. *Andy B.*

I remember watching my mom in the garden when I lived in the country. I would go out and see her in the garden and look at the plants she was planting. "How is that seed going to come up as a potato?" I thought. *Laura W., also known as Wind Turbine*

When we garden together, not only are we cultivating a bounty of fruits from the earth, we are tapping into a powerfully positive source of joy. Side by side with our neighbors, we celebrate our harvest of good food and good friends. *Rebecca S.*



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ENVIRONMENT



Elise
Drott
Age 15

Students muck around in local lakes to learn aquatic biology

For the past 50 years, students at Madison East High School and Madison area schools have had the honor and privilege to be part of the Madison Metropolitan School District's summer enrichment program aquatic biology class. Aquatic biology took place for three weeks during the summer, every day from 8 am–12 pm. One hundred percent of our grade was a report that we had to complete when the course was over. Our class work consisted of collecting data on everything from the tiniest micro-organisms to enormous carp and Northern Pike, from leaves on trees to lily pads.

Paul Du Vair, an honors biology teacher at East High School with 50 years of data and experience under his belt, can recognize trends in the data we and students from previous years have provided. With all this data, Mr. Du Vair can make suggestions to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on what to do ecologically.

I had so much fun being part of year 50 of aquatic biology. We went into the icky,

muddy, stinky water almost every day. It was gross, but very exciting to be in University Bay, Six Mile Creek, Warner Lagoon and Picnic Point — places where most people won't venture into the water. Our class caught and exterminated seven carp, an invasive species that damages a lake's ecosystem and the Yahara River system. We witnessed a Northern Pike that was trophy size, almost 40 inches long. While testing for refuse pollution, we collected a "no hunting or trapping sign," a single water ski, multiple tennis balls and baseballs, and much more.

Aquatic biology and Mr. Du Vair taught me so much about identification of fish and plants. I can go out onto the lake and know so much more than I did a few years ago.

I am so thankful for the opportunity to be in this class. I would recommend it to my high school peers, but year 50 was the final year. I am so grateful that I was a part of the final year of this class, and am proud to call myself and my fellow classmates "Stewards of the Lakes."



New bird city festival features Northside

By Paul Noeldner

Celebrate the enjoyment of birds and nature at a family-friendly fall event. Madison and Maple Bluff officials will receive the Audubon-sponsored Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative Bird City flag at Warner

Park Community Center Sept. 29. Just as the Tree City designation helps cities enjoy and protect trees, a Bird City designation helps cities enjoy birds and save important habitat for migrating birds and local wildlife.

Learn more at the 1st Annual Bird City Festival Sunday, Sept. 29, at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center. Activities will run from 11 am–4 pm and will feature several Northside parks and neighborhoods.

Listen to educational talks and view fascinating hands-on bird and nature displays. Take your children to Lakeview Library for a live presentation on hawks and owls. Learn about Bluebird Trails and Citizen Science. See how a Madison organization helps injured birds, and find out what to do if you find a baby bird. Join in a family-friendly walk to find migrating birds, and discover fascinating nature nooks in Warner Park, Cherokee Marsh, Maple Bluff and nearby neighborhoods. Meet local friends groups and environmental organizations to find out how to attract more birds to your own yard. And remember to congratulate city officials for working with the community and partner groups to protect the birds and natural areas you love to see in our parks.

Go to <http://birdcitywisconsin.org> and cityofmadison.com/parks for more info.

Nature Nooks installed at library and WPCRC

By Paul Noeldner

Lakeview Library has a new Nature Nook in the back patio area to entertain and educate library visitors about birds. Installed with assistance from Madison Audubon volunteers Patrick Noyes and Paul Noeldner, the Birdie Diner includes an oriole feeder, a hummingbird feeder, a goldfinch thistle seed sack, suet feeders for woodpeckers and black oil sunflower seeds for cardinals, blue jays and other colorful year-round visitors.

The Nature Nook also includes a wren house and a bluebird house that may also be used by other cavity nesters, including the black-capped chickadee, tree swallow and house sparrow families. A similar Nature Nook was recently installed at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center.



Bailey
Sargent
Age 13

Energy future a real challenge for youth

By Bailey Sargent, Age 13 and Dan Tortorice

Today's youth face an energy future that is a lot more challenging than that faced by previous generations. World population keeps growing every year, and the Earth's climate is changing. Young people across all parts of Madison and the world will be making energy decisions that affect everyone. The knowledge they acquire at home and at school will provide them with tools they need to cope with this future.

On Earth Day 2013 two high schools on the west side of Madison, West and Memorial, issued a challenge to see which school could conserve the most electricity over four days of the school week. Students signed a pledge to join in conserving electric power. School administrators helped out by using fewer lights in hallways and other common areas. Students and teachers turned off room lights and machines that were not necessary at a particular time. The challenge was created by the schools' environmental and service clubs with the goal of raising awareness and participation in energy issues and getting students to advocate for action on these issues.

The two schools used almost four thousand fewer kilowatt hours of electricity when compared to the same four

days one year earlier. Their actions prevented just under three metric tons of carbon emissions from being released into the atmosphere.

Bailey Sargent is an eighth-grade student at Black Hawk Middle School. He writes here about activities and issues he sees at his Northside school:

"My school has built a community garden that has plots for community members and the two schools nearby. Black Hawk, a middle school, and Gompers, an elementary school, have compost bins to recycle unused vegetation and weeds. It has really been a great experience.

"I don't think anyone, kids or adults, should waste energy. We should close all the windows when we have air conditioning or heat on. We should open our car windows and turn off the air conditioner. Also, many people leave on lights, even during the day.

"I do not think that many students are aware of energy. I don't think that many adults are either. In our lives many people or kids don't care about energy usage until they have to pay their first bill.

"I think a lot of students learn from experience. So, if schools had an assembly about energy issues, it would be very helpful. I think an energy challenge between Northside schools would be a great idea."

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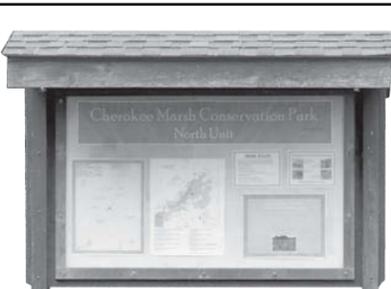
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Updated signboard at Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park

The signboard at Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park has updated maps and a poster by local schoolchildren. Stop by and see it in the main parking lot of the North Unit, 6098 N. Sherman Ave. The signboard was a project of the Friends of Cherokee Marsh with support from Madison Parks and the Dane County Environmental Council.

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ENVIRONMENT

New Lake View Hill water tower: an eco-cultural catalyst?

By Northsiders for an Eco-cultural Water Tower

Can a new Northside municipal water tower enhance the region's environment, cultural heritage, economy and public safety? An eco-cultural water tower can.

The iconic 1940s water tower currently located on Lake View Hill rises 130 feet and holds 55,000 gallons. Madison Water Utility (MWU) is planning a replacement tower at the same location, likely holding up to 1.6 million gallons, to meet present and future community needs.

During construction of the new tower, the wireless facilities located on the present tower, which generate co-location licensing revenues for the City of Madison and Dane County, will need to be relocated to a temporary tower, paid for by the wireless companies.

To spark your imagination, consider "Toward an Eco-cultural Water Tower and Landbridge for Madison's Northside: A Proposal to Celebrate Our Heritage, While Linking Neighborhoods and Eco-communities Across Northport and Troy Drives." This concept proposal was drafted by Northsiders for an Eco-cultural Water Tower (NEWT): Bill Bauer, Jon Becker, Don Dettor, Tim Nelson and Anne Pryor. After meeting with nearby residents, proprietors and others, NEWT sees many opportunities, including:

- artful tower design;
- celebration with public art of the site's eco-cultural heritage, e.g., effigy mounds and John Muir's visit;
- new outdoor amenities, such as tree-top education or viewing platforms and eco-zip lines;
- re-use of the 1940s water tower, modified to reduce its height to treetop canopy level;
- landscape enhancements for reduced storm water runoff, improved aesthetics, and better quality of life for the adjacent neighborhood;
- a landbridge connecting Lake View Hill and Warner parks, for safe passage of humans and other critters (first envisioned by park planners during the 1970s);
- long-term planning of the wireless facilities, taking into consideration possible new uses of the old and new water towers, informed by the possibility that over-the-horizon transmission may soon be replaced by modular, distributed technology.

To foster additional ideas, many pictures of water towers, landbridges and eco-cultural art from around the world were included in the NEWT proposal, which



An eco-cultural water tower design with wrap-around walkway and a John Muir mural at its base.

may be downloaded at CRANESinc.org. Becker, who convened NEWT, also founded Earth/Art® Resources, a Wisconsin nonprofit. E-art-H has championed the Earth Day Heritage Trails and Natural Wildlife Area, encompassing sites associated with Indian cultures, John Muir, Robert La Follette, Aldo Leopold, and Earth Day founder Sen. Gaylord Nelson.

Now referenced in Dane County's Parks and Open Space Plan, the Earth Day Heritage map claims Lake View Hill as the site where John Muir went in 1863, on his last day as a UW student. In "The Story of My Childhood and Youth," Muir recalled:

"From the top of a hill on the north side of Lake Mendota I gained a last wistful, lingering view of the beautiful university grounds and buildings where I had spent so many hungry and happy and hopeful days. ... I was only leaving one university for another, the Wisconsin University for the University of the Wilderness."

Experts agree that Muir, always attracted to high places, wrote of what is now known as Lake View Hill, the highest elevation on Madison's Northside and clearly visible from the knoll Muir frequented near UW's North Hall, his dormitory.

E-art-H is a partner of Capital Region Advocacy Network for Environmental Sustainability (CRANES), which funded the NEWT illustrations.



A proposed landbridge connecting Lake View Hill and Warner parks, providing safe passage for humans and other critters.

Nurses' dorm to be demolished

Dane County Parks Division has proposed demolition of the nurses' dormitory in Lake View Hill County Park (LVHCP). Some have suggested the dormitory should be preserved, restored or repurposed (for example, as a hostel).

A related issue is the creation of a community gathering space in the park. The historic sanatorium building is now being used by the Dane County Department of Human Services. The

LVHCP master plan calls for the addition of a community gathering space near the fountain in front of the building. Some are now suggesting that this community space instead be located at the former site of the nurses' dormitory after its demolition.

The future of the nurses' dorm or its site, as well as any new community gathering space, might best be considered in relationship to other proposals.

You are Invited!

**Lake View Hill Park Users
& Northside Residents**

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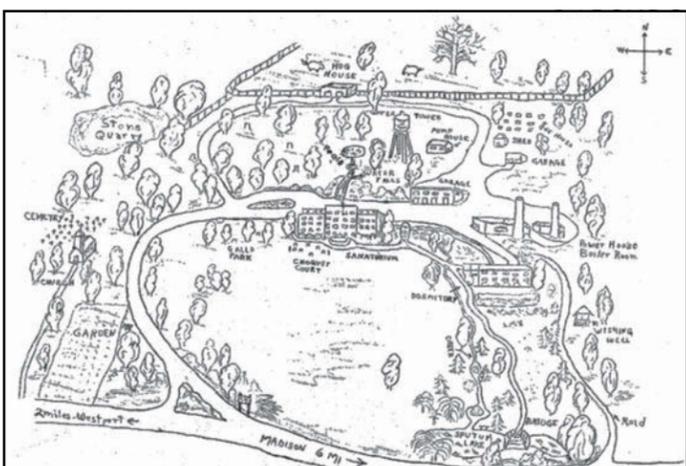
Please join us for a Public Information Meeting
and Design Workshop

When: Saturday, August 24, 2013

10:00AM – NOON (Rain or Shine!)

Where: Lake View Hill Park, Madison

Why: Dane County is looking for guidance from residents and park users with regard to the former Dane County Nurses' Dormitory site and its integration into Lake View Hill Park



Hand sketch by sanatorium patient, circa 1948, with landscape features