

COMMUNITY

Northside Farmers Market launches event-filled summer season

By Winnie Bade

Every year on a sunny morning in June, I look around at the bright blue sky and fresh new leaves as green as green can be and say “This is why we live in Wisconsin!” Time to hit the Sunday morning Northside Farmers Market and soak up some neighborhood cheer.

This summer we have not one, but two benefit brunches to feed the soul. June 8, from 9–noon, The River Food Pantry will serve a hearty breakfast of pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee. Skip Jones and John Dugleby, often spotted in drum circles and coffee shops around town, will provide the toe-tapping music. The River Food Pantry is the busiest pantry in Madison. The recent addition of a large cooler enables the pantry to provide more fresh

vegetables and fruit, and now the push is on to raise money for a refrigerated truck for safe summer transport. Come support the pantry and have a delicious breakfast too.

On July 13, our second Benefit Brunch welcomes Domestic Abuse Intervention Service (DAIS) to the neighborhood. DAIS will be serving yummy egg sausage casserole, vegetarian scramble pie, fried potatoes, bakery from The River Bakers, juice and coffee. The talented musicians of Countryside Montessori will entertain us. This summer DAIS will open their new facility at 2102 Fordem Ave. to serve families in need of services and shelter from domestic abuse. Your breakfast will support their important work.

“Events at the weekly Northside Farm-

ers Market are fun, and the Market gets better every year. In this, our 10th year, the market is truly a one-stop shop,” said Dale Matthews, NFM board member and one of the founders. He has watched the Market grow and mature into a neighborhood institution. “This year, we have vendors offering a great selection of quality meats, including whole chickens, pork and angus beef.” Fresh eggs and vegetables, honey, maple syrup, cheese, jams and pickles, garden plants, flowers and a variety of ready-to-eat treats are available, as well as homemade soaps and high quality yarns. Bring the dogs — there are treats for them, too.

The Market runs May through October from 8:30–12:30 at the Northside Town-Center, corner of Northport Drive and North Sherman Avenue. For more infor-

mation, visit northsidefarmersmarket.org or like us on Facebook.

The market needs volunteers. To help with setup, information table, website maintenance or other tasks, please contact Nahrissa Rush, 446-5929 or nahrissarush@gmail.com.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2126 N. Sherman Ave., is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year.

The Anniversary celebration begins with an old fashioned ice cream social Sunday, July 20 from 1–4 pm. The public is invited to this free event.

There will be music and entertainment for the children. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the afternoon events.

Brunch Fundraiser will benefit The River Food Pantry

By Pat Gallagher
The River Food Pantry

The River Food Pantry will hold their fourth annual Summertime Benefit Brunch at the Northside Farmers Market on Sunday, June 8 from 9 am–noon. Enjoy a classic breakfast of pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee. The brunch will cost \$9 for adults and \$6 for children. All proceeds will go towards providing food for hungry families in Dane County.

Attendees will enjoy music from local folk artists, Skip Jones and John Dugleby. In addition to breakfast and live

music, market-goers can shop for fresh, locally grown produce, organics, meats and eggs available from the many vendors at the Northside Farmers Market.

With every \$10 the event raises, The River Food Pantry will be able to provide \$100 worth of food to its client families. In 2013, The River gave away 1.7 million pounds of food, directly affecting 84,697 individuals struggling with hunger in Dane County.

The River’s food costs are up by 50 percent over last year. Funds raised at the Summertime Benefit Brunch will help The River with its greatest challenge:

getting enough food to distribute to the growing numbers of people seeking assistance. The increasing cost of food, the scarcity of low-cost and free food from partner food banks, and increased demand, have made assistance more costly to provide. The River has met this challenge by buying food wholesale.

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

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COMMUNITY

Jeffrey James to perform at FEED Kitchens during Make Music Madison June 21

By Laurel Sampson
Northside News

Singer/songwriter Jeffrey James will bring his talent home to the Northside during the second annual Make Music Madison celebration, Saturday, June 21. James will perform from 1-3 pm outside the FEED Kitchens, 1219 N. Sherman Ave. in the NorthGate Shopping Center. The Make Music Madison event matches musicians with public spaces across the city to perform free to the public on the summer solstice.

James has been traveling and performing for the past seven years, singing vocals and playing acoustic electric guitar. You can hear the influence of Michael Franti and Jack Johnson in his music and his personal ethos. "Music is the language of the unspoken. Maybe it's hard for us to relate to each other and what we're going through. We have places to be and deadlines, but music, you can feel something even if it's not words, bringing a positive message with a positive beat."

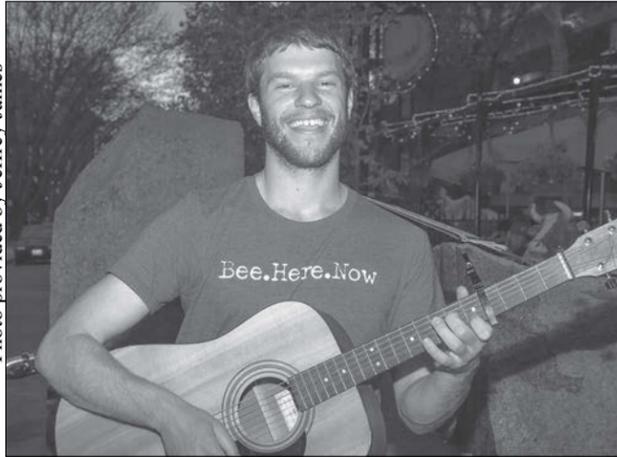


Photo provided by Jeffrey James

Jeffrey James will perform at the FEED Kitchens June 21.

After following the progress of the FEED kitchens, James specifically requested it for his performance venue. He supports the work there, "It's an affordable resource for local cooks and entrepreneurs to create their products and keep it in the community." The event at

the FEED Kitchens will also mark the one-year anniversary of the release of his song "Home Again" about his return to Madison.

Participating was important because the message resonates with him. "It's a community event that responds to and respects local musicians. As a musician who is traveling, you don't always feel like you are getting a chance to be heard. ... I think it's so awesome the mayor would support this."

For more info about Make Music Madison events go to makemusicmadison.org. You can follow Jeffrey James and listen to his music at thejeffreyjames-how.bandcamp.com.

Let's Eat Out to make weekly appearance on Northside

By Sheri Gasser

There's another option for dining out Monday evenings in the neighborhood this summer. From 5-7 pm on Wheeler Road at Comanche Way about five food carts will be set up. This weekly food cart event, which is hosted by Let's Eat Out, will run until the end of October, weather permitting. Carts may vary each week but right now there is Slide, Porktopolis, Fried & Fabulous, GiGi's Cupcakes and Fortune Cafe. According to Slide cart owner Christine Ameigh, "We are very excited to be out in the neighborhood again. We appreciate the community's support of our small businesses by joining this great family event." Let's Eat Out Madison is currently in its second year. You can find them on Facebook and Twitter.

Youth sailing lessons in Madison take a new tack

By Don Sanford
Madison Youth Sailing Foundation

Founded in 1992, Madison Youth Sailing Foundation (MYSF) has taught hundreds of Madison kids the love for sail sports. 2014 marks a new direction for MYSF. Founding board member Brad Binkowski and board member Gary Stone have decided to step back to an advisory role and four

new board members have joined the MYSF board to pilot the next leg in Madison youth sailing. MYSF welcomes Brian Anderson, Jamie Hanson, Justin Segersten and Patrick Heaney to the board. This is a strong team eager to advance youth sailing in the Madison area.

MYSF is also very proud to introduce its new sailing school director

Leslie Poole. Leslie is a business student at the UW where she also competes on the UW sailing team. She spent the last five seasons working as a sailing instructor for Delavan Lake Sailing School and Geneva Lake Sailing School where she helped instruct and create lesson curriculum. Leslie is US sailing certified and has experi-

ence racing Optimis, X boats, 420s and MC scows. We are thrilled to have her on our team.

This is an exciting time for youth sailing in Madison. See the details at www.madisonyouthsailing.com or email Brian Anderson at info@madisonyouthsailing.com for more details.



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COMMUNITY

A Warner Park baseball memory

By Dan Tortorice



On a chilly, misty Saturday in June, 1996, I decided to take a walk through Warner Park. Within 15 minutes I was passing through the prairie next to the sledding hill — my own little slice of heaven.

While walking down the road where WPCRC is now located, I peeked into the baseball field. In those days it was nicknamed the Wolf Den for the Madison Black Wolf team. I recognized immediately the figure of Darryl Strawberry playing right field.

Strawberry had been a young superstar in the major leagues for several years, winning a World Series with the New York Mets in 1986. He was suspended from baseball in 1995 because of personal problems caused by using cocaine. The New York Yankees signed him to a contract with the condition that he would play for the St. Paul Saints of the Northern League. If he performed well and behaved himself with the Saints, the Yankees might promote him back to their major-league club.

I became curious to see Mr. Strawberry in action so I bought a ticket and stood by the fence right behind home plate.

The Black Wolf were in the field. I do not remember how the first batter got on base but our pitcher hit the next batter with a pitch, leading to runners on first and second base. The pitcher looked a

Water well on North Sherman to get makeover

By Amy Barrilleaux
Madison Water Utility

In 1939, Madison Water Utility unveiled its new water well facility on North Sherman Avenue, one of seven wells across the city serving a growing population of just over 65,000. A lot has changed since that well went into service 75 years ago — Madison's population now stands at more than 250,000, and its drinking water and fire protection system relies on 22 active wells, 30 reservoirs and some 840 miles of pipeline. The well on North Sherman is now one of the oldest facilities still in use by Madison Water Utility, but it remains a primary source of water for the city's Northside. People living along North Sherman Avenue, west of Packers Avenue, and as far south as the Yahara River all get their water from this well. It also provides water to the Village of Maple Bluff.



Left to right: a current picture of Well 7 and a rendering of the future Well 7.

This year, Madison Water Utility is investing \$5.3 million to rebuild the North Sherman Avenue facility, known simply as Well 7. Its reservoir capacity will be increased to 500,000 gallons and a second booster pump will be added, bringing better fire protection to the area. Well 7 will also be fitted with a major filtration system to remove naturally-occurring iron and manganese, which

means the water will look better and taste better. Construction started in May and is due to be completed in a year.

Interested in learning more? Visit Madison Water Utility's Well 7 project page for construction updates and photos: www.cityofmadison.com/water/plans/Well7.cfm. You can also join the project's Citizen Advisory Panel by emailing water@madisonwater.org.

little nervous as he faced the next hitter. I could see why he felt that way because Strawberry was beginning to swing a bat in the on-deck circle. The batter walked on four pitches.

As Strawberry came to the plate, the Madison fans started to jeer him with the chant of "DAR-RYL, DAR-RYL." I wondered to myself how our pitcher would throw to him after a hit-batsman and a four-pitch walk.

Before describing what happened, I need to put it into my own perspective. As a young kid I was lucky enough to see several games of the Milwaukee Braves in County Stadium. I saw such

sluggers as Henry Aaron, Eddie Matthews, Frank Robinson and Roberto Clemente. When the Brewers brought baseball back to Milwaukee, I saw more future hall-of-fame players like Reggie Jackson, Harmon Killebrew and Jim Rice.

But I have never seen a more beautiful swing than Darryl Strawberry put onto the waist-high fastball on the first pitch. He uncoiled his six-foot-six-inch frame so perfectly. There was a loud 'crack.' I have no idea where the ball landed because it was still rising when it disappeared into the mist over the right field wall.

The crowd went silent for a few seconds then rose to its feet with a standing ovation. They weren't cheering for Strawberry. They were cheering for the sheer beauty and majesty of the tremendous blast they had just witnessed.

Darryl Strawberry was called up to the Yankees in early July and would win a World Series later that year. He would end his career with a sparkling total of four World Series rings.

On that Saturday morning in 1996, he provided me with one of my most treasured baseball memories.

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ENVIRONMENT

Recycling program adds items

By Dan Tortorice

Municipal recycling programs are one of the true success stories of modern American society. The cooperation of local citizens, businesses and government has produced a huge reduction in the wasteful and expensive task of burying our trash.

In Madison we are keeping 69 percent of our waste out of the Dane County landfill. We are making it possible for this “waste” to be converted into useful products and fuels. The City of Madison recently sent out its 2014 Recyclopedia to update citizens on new items we can put out for recycling and some other items that no longer can be put out for curbside collection. It also has information on the fees for larger appliances and mattresses.

All plastic containers numbered one through seven can be put into the green recycling cart. These include the tubs for margarine, ice cream, dairy and produce. Plastic cups can be recycled as long as they are not Styrofoam. Sandwich bags, produce bags, along with bags for newspapers, softener salt, dry cleaning and bread all can be recycled. Plastic bags must be placed into a larger plastic bag, tied at the top and pressed down to about the size of a basketball. The plastic caps for soda and milk bottles should be screwed onto the containers before putting them into the bin. Black or dark green bags along with drawstring bags cannot be recycled.

New items for recycling are empty metal paint cans and lids, pots and pans, plumbing fixtures such as faucets, metal pipe less than 18 inches long and small appliances such as toasters and blenders. A large number of small appliances can be collected

without a fee. These include: chain saws, fans, garbage disposals, leaf blowers, irons, printers, VCRs and weed whackers. Put the metal appliances in the green recycling cart and others in the tan cart.

There are some items that should not be put into the recycling bin. These include: aluminum foil, plastic toys, plastic laundry baskets, motor oil bottles, along with Styrofoam and black or dark green plastic bags. Place these items in the trash.

For those people who want to recycle items like Styrofoam, the Recyclopedia can tell you how to take them to drop-off sites. Computers and televisions will no longer be collected at the curb. They must be taken to drop-off sites where a \$10 fee is charged. Some local appliance stores will take these items free. Also, fluorescent bulbs should be returned to the stores that sell these products. Sellers of fluorescent bulbs are required by the city to accept the bulbs for recycling. Some retailers might charge a small fee for this service.

The future of our recycling program will be in the area of organic materials. These items include household and restaurant garbage and contaminated paper products like paper towels, etc. These materials make up the majority of the volume — 50,000 tons — we currently send to the landfill. The Streets Division has had a pilot program of collecting organics since 2011. The program will grow to 1,600 homes this year. Madison is planning to build a digesting facility in 2016 or 2017, which could lead to the regular collection of organics on a citywide basis.

For more information, visit www.cityofmadison.com/streets/recycling/

Monitoring water quality at Warner Park

By Theresa Vander Woude

Clean Lakes Alliance

If you visit local piers, docks or beaches — including Warner Park — this summer, you may notice people peering into long, clear plastic tubes full of lake water and taking notes. If you do, say hi. These citizen water quality monitor volunteers collect data to help improve our understanding of lake water quality, as part of the Clean Lakes Alliance (CLA) Clean Clear Waters program.

The long, clear tube is a turbidity tube, which allows for measurement of lake visibility depths even in shallow, near-shore water, where most of our daily interactions with the lakes occur. The tube has a black and white disk at the bottom: the deeper the water in the tube that the volunteer can see the disk through, the clearer and cleaner the water is. Volunteers also record other observations, like the number of swimmers in the water and the presence of weeds or algae blooms.

This is a second-year pilot program for the CLA. Due to the success and popularity of the first year of the pilot, the number of sampling locations has expanded from nine to around 40 across Lakes Mendota, Monona, Waubesa, Kegonsa and Wingra. There are six sites around the north side of Lake Mendota, including Warner Park and likely Cherokee Marsh. The goals of the program are to provide more accurate and timely information on beach conditions, as well as to help UW-Madison researchers model

the movement of algae blooms.

With all the data that will be collected, CLA needed a better way to make the information readily available to the public. A new partnership with 100state, the City of Madison and Dane County will give volunteers the ability to input data into a mobile app so that the information will be instantly available to researchers, government agencies and the public. There will also be a crowdsourcing function, so that any lake visitor can make an update about the status of a beach, for example.

For more information, please visit cleanlakesalliance.com.

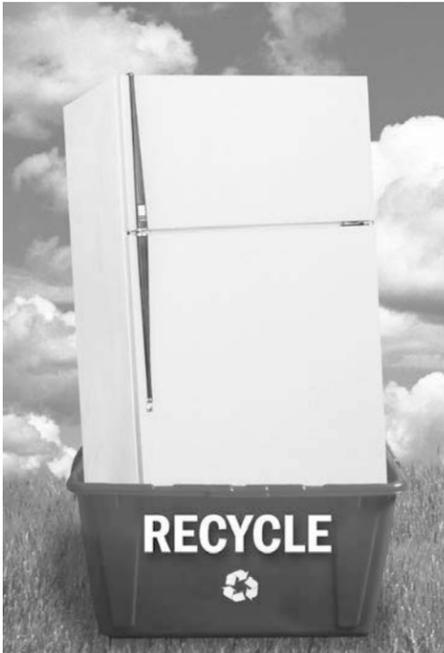
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If you can help us, please contact UW-Madison PhD candidate Trish O’Kane: pokane@wisc.edu

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ENVIRONMENT

Restoration activities continue at Cherokee Marsh

By Jan Axelson
Friends of Cherokee Marsh

If you've visited Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park recently, you may have noticed that some areas have a different look. Madison Parks has been continuing its work to restore oak savanna and open oak woods in targeted areas.

Oak savanna, which once thrived over much of Dane County, is a landscape of grasses, sedges, flowers, and scattered trees, mostly oaks. The oaks are spaced widely enough to be open grown and not crowded by branches of other trees.

Oaks and other native plants can withstand fire. Without fire or other management activities, aggressive shrubs and trees choke out the native grasses and flowers and create dense thickets that are of little value to wildlife. Oaks don't grow in shade, so when the mature oaks die off, no young oaks are available to replace them.

In 2011, Madison Parks management set a goal to restore up to 50 acres of oak



Photo by Jan Axelson

These open grown oaks at Cherokee Marsh have room to spread their branches.

savanna in Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park's North Unit at the end of N. Sherman Avenue. Restoration activities, under the supervision of Conservation

Resource Supervisor Russ Hefty, include forestry mowing to remove brush, tree thinning to open the canopy, and sowing native grasses and flowers. Along

with oaks, native trees such as hickory, hackberry, and hawthorn remain in the wooded areas.

Madison Parks also continues to conduct prescribed burns in selected areas in spring and fall. The burns emulate the periodic fires that once helped keep the prairies and oak savannas open.

The City of Madison's ordinances include a commitment that our conservation parks "preserve Madison's native landscapes, its plant and animal populations for citizens' careful use and full enjoyment." In restoring prairies and oak savanna at Cherokee Marsh, Madison Parks is keeping that commitment.

Remembering the passenger pigeon

by Paul Noeldner

As we watch the huge historic Warner Oak in Warner Park and other Northside oak trees bud and grow leaves it is hard to imagine that 100 years ago some of these same old trees bowed their mighty limbs under the weight of thousands of roosting passenger pigeons, a little bird that has since totally disappeared from our

world. Go to <http://foldtheflock.org> to download a free passenger pigeon origami in remembrance.

The passenger pigeon's only crime was that it was good to eat, easy to shoot and sell, and no laws protected it. The tragic and totally unnecessary loss of this beautiful creature forever from the world has triggered a hundred years of growing environmental ethics, laws and awareness. Today we

can enjoy healthy nature recreation and outdoor education in our urban Northside parks and natural areas alongside bluebirds, bald eagles, and other beautiful companions on earth that were once also endangered but have recovered with a bit of human help and ethical accommodation for their own sake as well as ours. When you see a bluebird in an oak you are looking at a better world.

Dena Fritz



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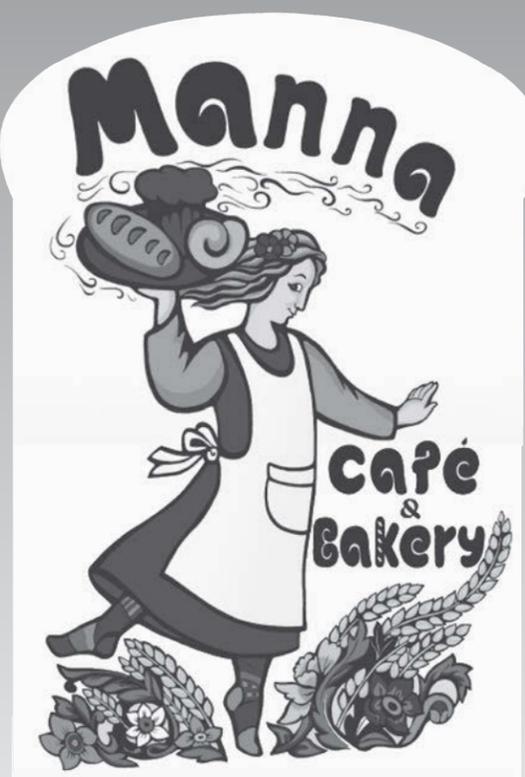
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COMMUNITY GROUNDWORKS

Back to the land — Thursdays are go-to day at Troy Gardens

By Community GroundWorks

Of course, any day is a good day to visit Troy Gardens, especially in summer. Whether you have a plot in the community gardens, like to take a walk in the natural areas, or are curious to see a five-acre organic urban farm, Troy Gardens is open to the public from sunrise to sunset. This year Community GroundWorks is scheduling lots of activities on Thursday evenings, starting with Troy Community Farm Stand.

Troy Farm is a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture), which means you can buy a share now and receive fresh, seasonal organic veggies, eggs, and fresh picked flowers weekly throughout the growing season. We also sell produce directly at the farm stand, which is open 4-6 pm every Thursday through Oct. 23. Starting this year, the farm stand will be located under the shelter in Troy Kids' Garden, and the cut-your-own flower bed for CSA members will be located near the greenhouse. The farm stand accepts cash only or your prepaid market share. Details about CSA memberships and the market share option are available on our website at communitygroundworks.org.

The gorgeous natural lands at Troy Gardens remain that way only with the help of volunteer stewards — and you can become one. On Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 pm we invite you to work and learn in our native tallgrass prairie. This four-acre prairie, planted in 2003, is the only organically managed prairie in Wisconsin. Because we don't use chemicals to remove invasive species, we depend on dedicated volunteers to help manage our prairie. Savor the



Photo by Rebecca Starke

Jojo loves to arrange flowers while Gardening For Good.

changing face of the prairie through the season; learn to identify a new prairie plant every week, while helping to protect this diverse ecosystem.

If Wednesdays are better for you — or you just want more Troy Gardens in your life — we offer a volunteer steward opportunity in our herb garden on Wednesday from 6:30-7:30pm. Tasks include weeding, lining paths with branches, and spreading woodchips over the path. This is a great way to learn more about herbs, spend time outdoors and meet new people. Contact Becky at becky@communitygroundworks.org or call 240-0409 if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering or donating items.

Now in its third year, Gardening for Good (G4G) meets under the blue-bottle tree in its front-row community garden plot on Thursday evenings at Troy Gar-



Photo by CGW staff

Many hands make light work at Troy Community Gardens opening day in April.

dens. G4G is a shared gardening project. Each of the gardeners brings his or her own set of skills and interests, as well as abilities and disabilities. While some of the gardeners use wheelchairs and walkers, and some communicate without words, all of us enjoy working with the soil, harvesting our bounty and spending time with a community of people that accepts us just as we are.

We discover the richness of deep community as we garden, laugh and tell our stories all summer long. G4G meets on Thursday evenings from 6-7:30 pm from May 29 through Aug. 14 (no gathering on July 3). Email Rebecca at wearegardeningforgood@yahoo.com if you have questions or would like to join. You can also check out our blog at gardeningforgoodmadison.com.

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garden party

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www.communitygroundworks.org



Community GroundWorks

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Welcome Home, DAIS!

Silver Leaf Interiors helps create a safe haven for those without a voice

By Jamie Quam and Laura Groenier



Laura Groenier has a story engraved in her memory and it affects the work she does today. Groenier owns Silver Leaf Interiors where she creates interiors that express the warmth,

love and safety that clients look for in their home environments. But she knows that for people experiencing domestic violence, their home life is often chaotic, unsettled and unsafe. So she has generously chosen to donate her time, talent and furnishings to DAIS (Domestic Abuse Intervention Services) to create a safe space in their new emergency domestic violence shelter. "What a home gives people is serenity that alters our mental state," said Laura. Below you will find the story that began decades ago, as told by Laura.

The summer of 1979 when I was 10, Angel and Billy moved next door to us with their mom and dad. Angel was bubbly with a twinkle in her eye and a bounce in her step. Billy was a year or so older with square rimmed black glasses and there was no bounce in his step. Billy was introverted and took a while to warm up to the rest of the neighbor kids.

These were the days of kids playing outside from sun up to sun down. People came and went in our neighborhood but the kids all formed our own little rascal gang of sorts. We did everything together and we were sure to stick together when things were crazy in our lives and in the neighborhood. It didn't take long for us to adopt the new kids into

our wandering group and soon Billy warmed up and we were all running together in the neighborhood.

Because we lived right next door we soon found out that when their dad drank, things got loud and crazy at their house. One summer night I was woken by the biggest commotion at their house. Our windows were open and because we lived on a cul de sac, our picture window was angled toward their house. That night we woke up to a car revving its engine with kids screaming outside. We all gathered in our dark living room, talking in hushed tones and stayed away from the window. From what we could gather, the out-of-town relatives that were visiting had been drinking and it turned into a big fight. The dad decided he was leaving and taking the kids and relatives with him, but instead of leaving he decided to charge the house, with their mom still inside, with his car packed full of his two kids, his relatives and their baby.

The car's back passenger's side door was open and swinging with my friends wanting to scramble out. Every time the car charged forward the door swung wildly and the kids screamed louder. The car eventually took off with everyone in it and I wondered where they were going, when they would be back and what was going on. The adults talked in hushed tones and we went back to bed and didn't talk about it again. I never asked anyone the next day, not my mom, not Angel and Billy (who were both home by then), not the other kids in the neighborhood, I never spoke to anyone about it... until now.

Months went by and other smaller incidents happened but they were so much less impressive to my 10-year-old self than the one that no one talked about. I

felt that it was just normal for them and they seemed to be okay about it. The moment in my life where I realized that things were not fine came in late fall. I understand now that Billy took the brunt of the abuse as a child and that's why he seemed so reserved compared to Angel.

Yelling broke out next door and you could tell someone was in trouble. I was outside playing when Billy ran through our backyard and into the woods. Angel was not far behind him and encouraged me to come help her find her brother. Billy sat on a log in the forest with his head in his hands trembling; it was a cold fall day and the tears and snot running down his face must have been cold as well. He was so scared of his dad, his emotion was raw and he was terrified that his glasses were broken and he would be in more trouble. It was at this moment that I saw the red marks on his face and neck and it was suddenly clear to me why his glasses had been taped with black tape for as long as I had known him. Angel and I couldn't do anything but sit there with him to protect him in the only way we knew how. To hang out in the woods away from whom he feared most.

We sat there for a long time, until he gained enough mental strength to go home. I felt completely helpless and without a voice. They moved soon after this and I never told anyone about what happened because it seemed like there was no one to tell.

I've carried those stories with me since 1979 and that is why this cause is so important to me. I keep thinking, 'If only there was a place for Angel and Billy's mom to go, maybe she would have found the strength and resources to make a difference in her and her children's life.' I often wonder where they are today and how their life turned out.

"Children are often the silent observers of domestic violence and while they don't have a voice they certainly have a presence and they carry these experiences into adulthood," said Laura. "We are happy to provide our support and help create a safe haven for other families like Angel and Billy's who need a place to go. But just as importantly I wanted to share my story in hopes that it might inspire others to share theirs and contribute to a place that will make a difference for those who live without a voice."

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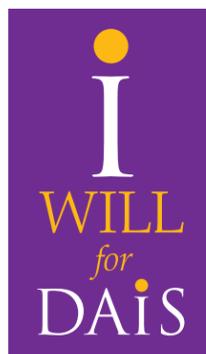
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