

COMMUNITY

**Tennyson Ridge from page 1**  
of their income for rent and are considered cost burdened. Severely cost-burdened renters, 30 percent of the city's renters, pay more than 50 percent of their income for rent, the report summarized. When housing costs gobble up most of the household income, it is harder for these families to pay for other essentials such as food and transportation, medicine and other basic needs.

The Tennyson Ridge apartment project, selected through a competitive process by AHI, was identified as having good access to schools, transportation and grocery stores, affordability and family-sized units at a mix of income levels.

Tennyson Ridge is part of a mixed-use project situated between the planned Independent Living senior housing project to the east and Lakeview Elementary School to the west. It is proposed that Eliot Lane would be extended north from Tennyson Lane to accommodate access to the project. Up to 15 single family lots are planned. They will measure approximately 6,000 square feet and will flank both sides of this extension as a buffer and transition between the single-family homes on the south side of Tennyson Lane and the proposed apartments to the north. Another street extension is proposed to provide access on the east side of the property. The land developer and city agreed to a realignment of the proposed Elliot Lane extension to preserve a grove of mature oak trees.

The Tennyson Ridge apartments are proposed to consist of two three-story apartment buildings, one with 42 units and one with 30 units. Apartment and project amenities include decks or balconies for each unit, a washer and dryer in each unit, individual storage, heated underground parking

with additional outdoor parking for cars and bikes, fitness center, business center, sustainable and energy-efficient construction, above average handicapped accessibility, as well as extensive and varied outdoor uses.

Tennyson Ridge apartments are an urban infill redevelopment project that would be too costly to build with conventional financing on this site. The majority of the project will be financed with Section 42 tax credits, which lower the cost to build the apartments, resulting in affordable rental rates without rental assistance. With an estimated \$1 million required for demolition, contamination cleanup, installation of two new roads, as well as tree preservation and extra green space, it takes the inclusion of a large development alongside single family homes on this lot to absorb the extra costs.

The mission of the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) is to provide housing for a variety of income levels. City of Madison programs typically define low income as 80 percent of area median income (AMI) based on the number of persons per household. The most common professions with average incomes in this range include customer service representatives, cashiers, janitors, laborers, waiters/waitresses and administrative assistants. Tennyson Ridge will offer rents ranging from 30 percent of AMI through market rate in the same building. The bulk of units will target renters in the 50-60 percent of AMI range (see chart). For a family of four, 60 percent AMI is \$48,480, while the maximum income for renters in market-rate apartments is \$87,300. Twelve of the 72 units are designated for disabled veterans receiving services from Lutheran Social Services.

DANE COUNTY AVERAGE MEDIAN INCOME (AMI) CHART

Household	100% AMI	60% AMI	50% AMI	30% AMI
1 person	\$56,600	\$33,960	\$28,300	\$16,980
2 people	\$64,700	\$38,820	\$32,350	\$19,410
3 people	\$80,800	\$43,680	\$40,400	\$21,840
4 people	\$87,300	\$48,480	\$43,650	\$24,240

These are the maximum incomes for a household to qualify for one of the designated apartments based upon the Dane County Average Median Income.

TENNYSON RIDGE APARTMENTS INCOME MIX

Number of Units	Type of Rental Units	Rental Unit Square Feet	Average Median Income	2015 Rent
7	1 BED / 1 BATH	710	30%	\$452.00
2	1 BED / 1 BATH	710	50%	\$732.00
6	1 BED / 1 BATH	710	60%	\$872.00
4	1 BED / 1 BATH	710	Market	\$947.00
5	2 BED / 2 BATH	970-1,178	30%	\$541.00
18	2 BED / 2 BATH	970-1,178	50%	\$901.00
4	2 BED / 2 BATH	970-1,178	60%	\$1,001.00
7	2 BED / 2 BATH	970-1,178	Market	\$1,171-\$1,201
19	3 BED / 2 BATH	1,252	50%	\$1,032.00

The bulk of units target renters in the 50-60 percent of Dane County's Average Market Income range. Twelve of the 72 units are designated for disabled veterans receiving services from Lutheran Social Services.

In December 2013 and January 2014 the original project was approved by the City of Madison. The concept plan received approval by the Urban Design Commission; the Common Council approved the rezoning and neighborhood plan amendment; and the Plan Commission approved the conditional use. The project didn't receive WHEDA funding last year, primarily due to the inactive Tax Incremental District #40. The developer, T.W. Sather Com-

pany, intends to resubmit these same plans to WHEDA in January 2015 with modifications for saving the grove of trees and additional green space. Determination of availability of this financing is expected in April 2015. If the project is approved and financing is obtained, it is anticipated that construction would commence in fall 2015 with completion in fall 2016. The single family lots are planned to be developed concurrent with the apartments.

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## COMMUNITY

## Developer discusses Tennyson Senior Living Community designs on Dec. 17

By Sue Berg  
Independent Living, Inc.

The latest information about a long-anticipated new senior community on Madison's northeast side will be shared by Independent Living, Inc. (ILI) at a neighborhood meeting set for Wednesday, Dec. 17. ILI is the local nonprofit organization that plans to build Tennyson Senior Living Community at 1936 Tennyson Lane.

"Neighbors and friends interested in the senior housing development are invited to attend the meeting from 2:30-4 pm, Dec. 17, at Warner Park Community Recreation Center," said Rita Giovannoni, ILI CEO. "Registration isn't necessary but we would love to know how many plan to come," Giovannoni said. Contact Sue Berg at 268-9628 or [orsberg@independentlivinginc.org](mailto:orsberg@independentlivinginc.org) to RSVP.

At the meeting will be renderings of the site plan, building exteriors and interior floor plans. The community will be built in two phases on the 8-acre parcel that fronts Tennyson Lane. The first and largest phase will construct 75 independent apartments, 60 assisted living apartments and memory care units, underground parking for 65 vehicles, surface parking, and a beautiful central community space that will house several services including

the main reception area, dining, bakery/café and wellness/aquatic center.

"Fundraising is crucial to the project. Donations and inquiries are welcome," said Nicole Schultz, fund development director. A key fundraising event in 2015 will be a golf outing set for Sept. 14 at Bishop's Bay. For information about the golf outing or charitable gifts, contact Schultz at 268-9631 or [nschultz@independentlivinginc.org](mailto:nschultz@independentlivinginc.org).

## Home heating basics lead to savings

By Dan Tortorice

We all remember what a tough winter we had last year. Hopefully, we will not be hearing the words "polar vortex" for a long time. The furnaces in our homes and businesses had a tremendous workload last winter, leading to higher energy bills for everyone.

With the cold-weather season approaching rapidly, we need to turn our attention to operating home heating systems efficiently to reduce our costs and protect the environment. It's time to focus on some basic rules of home heating.

It's a great idea to turn down the thermostat at night and at times you are not at home. MGE recommends a night setting of 55 degrees. There is a big payback from this simple act of turning down the heat at night. Every degree of temperature reduction for a period of eight hours leads to a one percent cost saving. So if you can turn

down by 10 degrees each night, your savings could be about 10 percent. If you are able to turn down during the day when people are gone, your savings will rise accordingly.

These savings are not lost during the time it takes to reheat the home, and there is no advantage to "reheating faster" by setting the thermostat higher than the usual setting. It's also untrue that a lower nighttime setting is dangerous for children. Children over the age of about two weeks are able to regulate body temperature just like adults. If parents are concerned about children kicking off their warm blankets, have them wear warm pajamas with feet or even use a sleeping bag on cold nights.

The most convenient way to achieve a consistent set-back is to install a programmable thermostat. They range in cost from \$30 to \$100 and can pay back their cost quickly during a winter like our last one.

There are other simple home-heating rules that can lead to reduced costs and increased comfort.

- Keep your furniture away from heat registers so air can flow freely into the room.
- Do not rely on a space heater for heat. A typical space heater is more than four times more expensive to operate than a 90-percent efficient gas furnace — about 22 cents per hour as opposed to less than five cents per hour.
- Open your window drapes and shades on sunny days to gain some heat from the sun. Be sure to close them at night to keep heat inside.
- Turn off lights and televisions when they are not being used.

These basic steps can lead to substantial savings over a long winter season. To learn more about home energy use, call MGE's Home Energy Line at 252-7117 and talk to an energy expert.



Photo provided by Cheryl McCollum

State Rep. Melissa Sargent (far left) welcomes the Xiong family to their new home at a Habitat for Humanity of Dane County home dedication ceremony Oct. 23. The family moved into their North Sherman Avenue Habitat home at the end of October. George and Alley contributed 375 hours of work in the building of their home.

George and Alley immigrated to Madison in 2005. Their families fled Laos in the aftermath of the Vietnam War and they lived in refugee camps in Thailand. They were married in 1992 and had their first child in Thailand in 1994. "We are extremely happy our children are receiving formal education and all the opportunities here in the United States that we never had," said George.

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ENVIRONMENT

Photo by Hannah Gaines Day



Here's the buzz about bees

By Jan Axelson  
Friends of Cherokee Marsh

One in three bites of food we eat depends on pollinators to transfer the pollen that plants need to produce seeds and fruits. Our most important pollinators are bees, but in recent years their numbers have been falling.

Learn about the diversity, natural history and importance of native and managed bees at a free, fun and informative presentation by Dr. Hannah Gaines Day, a research associate in the Department of Entomology at UW-Madison. Dr. Gaines Day will also review current research at UW-Madison and provide suggestions for how we can all help the bees.

Plan to attend "What's the buzz? Wisconsin's bees and how you can help," Saturday, Jan. 31, from 10:30-11:30 am at Lakeview Branch Library, 2845 N. Sherman Ave. (next to Pierce's Market).

The Friends of Cherokee Marsh will hold a brief member meeting at 10 am before the presentation. Everyone is welcome at both events. Refreshments are provided.

This event is sponsored by the Friends of Cherokee Marsh and the Lakeview Branch Library. For more information, go to www.Cherokeemarsh.org or call 215-0426.

Wild Warner leads students on hunt for knowledge

By Paul Noeldner  
Wild Warner

Every Wednesday an eager group of Sherman Nature Explorer middle school students races to the wild side of Warner Park. These "Last Child in the Park" outings — led by UW Nelson Institute-coordinated UW ecology students — also teach them something about birds, nature and being good citizens.

They love scavenger hunts. On the Halloween scavenger hunt for candy hidden near ash trees and sumacs, they found green ribbons that Wild Warner members had tied to ash trees. Lots of people have asked about the green ribbons. Put up in cooperation with Madison Parks, the green ribbons help raise awareness of how the non-native Emerald Ash Borer threatens our trees and the efforts underway to save and replace some of them. For more information, visit <http://cityofmadison.com/parks> and <http://wildwarner.org>.

In the long term, planting for biodiversity with a variety of native species and saving low-maintenance natural areas in parks and yards for birds (like woodpeckers that eat bugs) helps protect trees, reduces the need for pesticides and saves costs. With their candy, the students learned a valuable lesson about nature and working as a community to protect it.

On a November scavenger hunt to find trash and help clean up the park, the Nature Explorers spotted big white garbage bags floating in the Warner wetland lagoon. Wait, they weren't garbage bags. The first giant American White Pelicans seen in Warner Park (bringing total bird species to 136) rested with their large

yellow pouted fishing beaks tucked back under folded 8-foot black-tipped wings like magic toy transformers. The students and passing park visitors took turns shouting "shoot" to take voice-activated cellphone pictures of the pelicans through a spotting scope. Some pictures are posted at <http://wildwarner.org>. They learned that pelicans and other migrating birds need protected natural areas to rest.

The dog lovers that meet at Warner Park were equally enthralled by the peli-

cans, as were park visitors who spotted magnificent Tundra Swans at Cherokee Marsh. People visit our Northside parks for nature recreation, enjoying nature for its own sake. The special awe we feel when we see birds and wildlife has been documented to improve human health, empathy for other people as well as nature, and neighborhood values. These values and ethics are critically important in today's society and are helped by the

Wild Warner continued on page 13



Photo by Fred Campbell

White Pelicans have been spotted in the Warner wetland near the dog park. The birds are headed south to winter along the Gulf Coast. Two of the birds have recently been joined by a third. Pelicans eat fish, salamanders and crustaceans. The white pelican is the 136th species of bird to be verified in Warner Park, a sign of improving water quality and shelter.

*Christmas at Lakeview*

**Sunday, Dec 14**  
*Christmas Concert & Program at 4 pm in main sanctuary with choirs and youth*

*Pasta Dinner at 5:15 pm in East Hall*  
Freewill donation proceeds go to high school summer trip to National Youth Gathering

**Monday, December 15**  
*Annual Northside Senior Christmas Lunch and Euchre Tournament*  
Beginning at 11 am in front of fireplace in library with Christmas Carols and appetizers

*Roast Chicken and Baked Ham Dinner*  
Served at 11:30 am freewill offering  
Euchre Tournament for those who wish to play after the meal

**Wednesday, December 24**  
*Christmas Eve worship at 4 pm*  
"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" and Holy Communion

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at 6:30 pm*  
With special music and Holy Communion

**Thursday, December 25**  
*Christmas Day Festival Worship at 9 am*

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[www.lakeviewlutheranchurch.org](http://www.lakeviewlutheranchurch.org)  
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**Do you need help managing your home energy costs?**

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) provides assistance for heating costs, electric costs, and energy crisis situations. Whether you use wood, propane, natural gas, electricity, or fuel oil to heat your home, energy assistance is available if you qualify.

- Your household must pay heating costs directly to a fuel or utility company or heating costs are included in the rent.
- Your gross income is less than the amount shown below for your household size:

Household Size	One Month	Three Month	Annual Income
1	\$2,096	\$6,288	\$25,151
2	\$2,741	\$8,223	\$32,890
3	\$3,386	\$10,157	\$40,628
4	\$4,031	\$12,092	\$48,367
5	\$4,676	\$14,027	\$56,106
6	\$5,320	\$15,961	\$63,844

Don't delay! Make an appointment today! Funds are limited!

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COMMUNITY GROUNDWORKS



Photo provided by Marge Pitts

The after-season harvest: from farm to food pantry

By Garrett Peterson  
Community GroundWorks

Oct. 23 marked the final CSA delivery of 2014 for Troy Community Farm. Each week for 21 weeks from June through October, Troy Farm provided approximately 200 families with delicious, nutritious vegetables, organically grown on less than 5 acres on Madison's Northside.

As the growing season comes to a close in the fall, the farm undergoes the process of transitioning the fields out of production and begins preparation for the cold months ahead and the growing season to follow. Once the final deliveries are complete, even the most meticulously

planned seasons inevitably result in some unharvested food remaining in the fields. One option a farmer has is to simply till the crops, which incorporates the beneficial organic matter into the ground, improves the soil and makes life easy. But what would be the fun in that?

On Sunday, Oct. 26, Troy Community Farm conducted its fourth annual field gleaning for The River Food Pantry organized by farm staff member and food pantry volunteer alumni, Justin Markofski. Over the course of three hours, volunteers — including farmers, gardeners, neighbors and friends — collectively harvested 1,443 pounds of carrots, beets, leeks and

rutabaga for donation to the pantry.

The River Food Pantry, located just 2 miles from Troy Community Farm, serves more than 600 Dane County families per week. A chance to provide locally grown produce to families in need, while collaborating with another Northside nonprofit, is a win-win situation for everyone and an opportunity well worth the effort.

While it makes us farmers feel warm and happy to share our excellent vegetables, we at Community GroundWorks are especially glad for the chance to say thank you to the entire Northside community for your support all year in the best way we know how: by feeding people.

Wild Warner from page 12

simple act of preserving and restoring low-maintenance natural areas in our parks and neighborhoods. This is the story told by the American White Pelicans.

To celebrate Northside nature, a new nature center area is being developed in the big hallway in the Warner Park Community Recreation Center. Stop by and see Arlene Koziol's photo exhibit of Warner Park Sandhill Cranes. The nature center area is part of Northside community efforts led by Wild Warner, Madison Parks and other Madison Bird City partners to celebrate nature recreation and protect our beautiful urban parks and neighborhood natural areas for birds and wildlife. This is a community effort. Donations are being accepted at <http://northsidemadison.org>. Please indicate "Wild Warner Nature Center and related activities" on your donation.

Here is a little poem about our love of nature written by the author of this column. You can do better. We welcome contributions of local bird and nature pictures, stories and poems; email them to [info@wildwarner.org](mailto:info@wildwarner.org).

Beyond Hidden Crows Call

I paint you a picture of towering trees  
Stately dark trunks, bright green between  
Breeze fluttered tops and knotty bark eyes  
Arching the winding paths and roadsides  
Meadow patched quilt, rough fencepost hem  
Home for the wild critter and child  
Beyond hidden crows call  
Berry sweet thickets, bright streambed rocks  
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# Holiday Giving

## Giving back to our community

All year we print stories about great things happening in our community. It's likely that you or your neighbors have benefited from the activities of the many nonprofit organizations that make their home on the Northside. Consider giving a holiday gift or end-of-year donation to one of the groups that improves the quality of life for so many of us. We asked Northside nonprofits what's on their wish lists for this holiday season. Take a look and see what you can give or do to help them achieve their worthwhile missions.

**Center for Families**  
**www.centerforfamilies.org**  
 (Domestic Abuse Intervention Svcs.)  
 Our mission is to empower those affected by domestic violence and advocate for social change through support, education and outreach. Contact 251-1237.

**WISH LIST**  
 • Monetary donations  
 • Baby formula (iron, soy and lactose-free)  
 • Child safety and art supplies

**Community GroundWorks**  
**www.communitygroundworks.org**  
 We are a nonprofit organization that connects people to nature and local food. Call 240-0409 or email info@community-groundworks.org.

**WISH LIST**  
 • Gift cards to hardware stores, garden centers or home centers  
 • Garden carts (2)  
 • 8-foot ladder

**Community Support Network, Inc.**  
**www.visitCSN.org**  
 We work with people with developmental delays so they can increase their competence and confidence and participate fully in their community. Contact Deb R. at 514-1641.

**WISH LIST**  
 • Art supplies  
 • Used vehicles in safe working condition  
 • Financial donations

**DAIS**  
**http://abuseintervention.org**  
 Our mission is to empower those affected by domestic violence and advocate for social change through support, education and outreach. Contact 251-1237.

**WISH LIST**  
 • Gas cards  
 • Gift cards (Target, Walmart, Walgreens, Hy-Vee, Woodman's or Coppers)  
 • New socks and underwear for women and children

**FEED Kitchens**  
 (Food Enterprise & Economic Development)  
**http://feedkitchens.org**  
 FEED Kitchens, a food business incubator on Madison's Northside. Contact Adam Haen at 204-7015 or feedmanager@northsidemadison.org.

**WISH LIST**  
 • Used (or new) delivery vehicle  
 • Table-top bottler  
 • Hand-held steam cleaner

**Friends of Cherokee Marsh**  
**www.cherokeemarsh.org**  
 The Friends of Cherokee Marsh work to protect and restore the Northside's wetland gem. Contact info@cherokeemarsh.org or 215-0426.

**WISH LIST**  
 • Donate to bring classrooms to the marsh; \$45 buys transportation for 20 children

• Fund restoration activities by contributing to the Cherokee Marsh Conservation Fund  
 • Design a logo for the Friends

**Kennedy Heights Community Center**  
**www.khcommunitycenter.org**  
 We envision a safe and vibrant community where people can connect, learn, grow and thrive. For more information, call 244-076. To see our volunteer opportunities, make a financial gift or read our full wish list, visit our website.

**WISH LIST**  
 • Legos  
 • Calculators  
 • Toiletries for our food pantry (especially paper towels, toothpaste, shampoo and toilet paper)

**Lakeview Lutheran Food Pantry**  
**www.lakeviewlutheranchurch.org**  
 Every Monday evening our pantry serves an average of 25 households from the Northside and throughout Dane County. Contact the church office at 244-6181.

**WISH LIST**  
 • Cases of pancake mix, pancake syrup and hot cereal  
 • Cases of canned peas, canned corn and any kind of canned soup  
 • Monetary contributions

**Living in Community Inc.**  
 at St. Paul Lutheran Church  
**http://stpaulmadison.org**

Our mission statement: live, love, share together. Call the church office at 244-8077.

**WISH LIST**  
 • Help in grant writing  
 • Monetary help for our food pantry (we buy 700,000 lbs. of food each year)  
 • Monetary help in feeding thousands of Northside senior citizens

**The River Food Pantry**  
**www.riverfoodpantry.org**  
 Our mission is to bring a message of mercy and hope to those in need by providing nutritional basics and encouragement. Donations are accepted Monday-Friday from 9 am-6 pm at The River, 2201 Darwin Rd.

**WISH LIST**  
 • Volunteers to help with Christmas dinner prep on Dec. 18 and 19, email volunteer@riverfoodpantry.org  
 • 33-gallon heavy-duty trash bags  
 • Bright colored paper (8.5x11, various colors, regular and card stock)

**Vera Court Neighborhood Center, Inc.**  
**http://www.veracourt.org**  
 Vera Court Neighborhood Center, Inc. works to improve education and employment opportunities for all community members. Contact Patrick Schrank at 246-8372 or patricks@veracourt.org.

**WISH LIST**  
 • Volunteer tutors to support our amazing students  
 • Monetary donations to support our

Latino Academy of Workforce Development's adult education program  
 • New or gently used couches

**VSA Wisconsin**  
**http://www.vsaWis.org**  
 VSA uses the creative arts to improve the quality of life for children and adults with disabilities. Contact Kathie Wagner at 241-2131 or kathie@vsawis.org.

**WISH LIST**  
 • Gas and grocery gift cards for site visits and receptions  
 • Floor tripod for camera  
 • Monetary donations for programs at the VSA Art Center

**Wild Warner**  
**http://wildwarner.org**  
 Donations to Wild Warner help fund Warner Park nature recreation and education projects. Contact info@wildwarnerpark.org or 698-0104.

**WISH LIST**  
 • Monetary donations to help us purchase  
 • Bookcases, nature books, children's checkout backpacks, signs and exhibits for the Warner Park Nature Center  
 • Telescope for viewing birds and wildlife  
 • Bird feeder supplies for the Nature Nook enjoyed by senior citizens and Sandhill Cranes

## Yelp Helps: celebrating everyday heroes

By Terrie Anderson  
*Northside News*

Superheroes were out in force Oct. 21 at the Food Enterprise and Economic Development (FEED) Kitchens for a fun event that helped 10 Northside nonprofits share their volunteer needs with folks who came out to partake of the party and learn about the organizations.

In collaboration with Madison Non-profit Day and the Northside Planning Council, Yelp hosted this event with a



theme that inspired the nonprofit representatives to dress their part as superheroes. In addition to some local businesses, food entrepreneurs using the FEED Kitchens provided food (Igo Vego and WaunaQue) and drink (Mocraft Beer and Mad Maiden Shrub) for the event.

Yelp is a California company that publishes crowd-sourced reviews to connect people with local businesses. In business for 10 years, Yelp makes the reviews available through mobile apps.

If you'd like to know how you can volunteer some of your time to help Northside nonprofits keep making a difference in our community but missed this event, check out their wish lists on this page.

## Homeless Memorial Service

By Pastor Dean Kirst  
*Lakeview Lutheran Church*

Dec. 21 is the shortest day of the year. Many people are focused on shopping, baking and family gatherings on that day; but others will spend some time remembering those who have been homeless and died during the past year. The community is invited to pause from their holiday activities and join us Dec. 21 at 3 pm on the Capital Square. You are invited to bring names of people you want to remember. You are also invited to bring warm socks and mittens to donate to Community Action Coalition to be distributed to people who are without homes. The event is outside so dress warmly. It is sponsored by Madison Urban Ministry, Community Action Coalition, Lakeview Lutheran Church, First Congregational United Church of Christ, Grace Episcopal Church and various individuals.

## Adopt-a-Family for the holidays

By Jamie Quam  
*Domestic Abuse Intervention Services*

For most of us, the holiday season is a time when there is a little magic in the air. But for many, there is added pressure and worry this time of year. The holiday season can be extremely stressful for people dealing with issues related to domestic violence. That's why Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) developed the Adopt-a-Family program.

This program pairs clients who have used DAIS' services in the past calendar year with community donors. The community donors sign up to purchase suggested gifts highlighted on our clients' anonymous wish lists," said Karen Larson, DAIS' Adopt-a-Family coordinator. "We usually have more than 100 families sign up, and these range from adults who don't have children to single par-

ents. Community donors are individuals, families, businesses, church groups and community organizations."

"Since 2009 the employees of Kraft Foods/Oscar Mayer have played a key role in the success of the Adopt-a-Family program," stated Linda Elliot Stanley, who coordinates Kraft's giving drive. "Their caring support has provided gifts for 110 individuals, as well as donations to DAIS."

"Families in crisis are not only experiencing financial strain, making it difficult to purchase gifts, but we also know that domestic violence impacts parent/child bonding," said Larson. "Adopt-a-Family is a way for us to provide support so the family can have a positive holiday experience."

While some gifts requested are meant to remind children what it's like to just

be a child, Larson was quick to point out that many are related to basic needs, like coats, socks and underwear. "Many victims are in the process of moving into new housing and may have left everything behind or had their things destroyed by the abuser. They will ask for household items as a way to start fresh," said Larson.

It is an incredible feeling for victims to know that people care and support them. DAIS often receives thank you notes for donors to let them know how much the gifts meant. One note read in part, "No words I write can ever say how thankful we are for you and everything you did for us."

For more information about how you can get involved in the Adopt-a-Family program or how to support DAIS generally over the holidays, please visit <http://abuseintervention.org/adopt-a-family/>.

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ARTS

# Warner Beach student-designed mural unveiled

Northside News

The Northside Planning Council and the Northside Art and Design Group are thrilled to announce the completion of the Warner Beach Community Mural. The artwork was unveiled on Oct. 24. Approximately 60 area residents attended the event, enjoying refreshments and the chance to meet the artists.

Rep. Melissa Sargent, who had participated in one of the public painting days, spoke about the importance of art in education. Anita Weier, an original member of the Art & Design Planning



Photo by K. Bassler

Kennedy Heights students in front of their beautifully designed mural panels.

Group, spoke briefly, and Erik House, Kennedy Heights Youth Coordinator described the positive impact of the project on the young people who participated. Mary Ambrosavage acknowledged the many people who contributed to the successful public art installation. The youth artists from Kennedy Heights



Photo by Bob Paolino

Alder Anita Weier lends her support.

Community Center were recognized for their creative talents.

Students explored local wildlife and native plants as part of their summer camp experience. They practiced their developing art and design skills under the direction of artist Alexis London. Their images were transferred to wood-



Photo by Bob Paolino

Rep. Melissa Sargent speaks about arts in education.

en panels, which were then painted by youth and community members.

Funds were generated by a crowd-sourcing campaign and a matching grant from the Madison Arts Commission. The Kickstarter campaign was so successful, the group was able to enhance the project with four additional mural elements.

# Can you feel it? An art exhibition you can touch

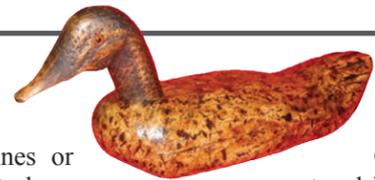
By Kathie Wagner  
VSA Wisconsin

An exciting new exhibition is now on view at the VSA Wisconsin Gallery through Feb. 13, 2015. "Can You Feel It?" features work by artists with visual impairments. The work in the exhibition includes tactile "friendly to the touch" two- and three-dimensional creations. Gallery visitors are invited to run their hands across textured pencil sketches, wood carvings, tactile landscapes and embossed metal.

Each work of art is labeled with a digital "aura" that brings the work to life. Gallery guests can download the free

Aurasma mobile app from iTunes or Google Play on any smartphone to learn more about the work and the artists. Gallery hours are 9 am-4 pm, Monday-Thursday, or by appointment.

Students represented in the exhibition are Leah Sinclair, Ben Meyer, Tia Bertz, Kaylee Bertz, Linda Her, Alexander Ingles, Jocelyn Riley, August Paulson and Christopher Schultz, all students from the Wisconsin School for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Janesville. Their visual impairments range from being able to legally drive to being completely blind. Some students also have cognitive and physical disabilities.



Other artists featured in the exhibition are Dan Sullivan, Wausau, and Albert Schmiede, Mauston, who also have visual impairments. Both artists have recently achieved national recognition. Albert specializes in acrylic textured paintings on canvas. Dan's hand-carved duck decoys — created from old barn timbers, fence posts and other vintage woods — are textured by a special hammering technique that gives them an interesting tactile quality.

The VSA Wisconsin Gallery is located at 1709 Aberg Ave. Selected works are for sale.

Photos provided by Kathie Wagner



Above: Mixed media collage by Alexander Ingles. Right: duck decoy by Dan Sullivan

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## ARTS

## Vera Court Rise High students add to Soundz on Saturday

By Marcus Watson  
Northside News

Most jazz musicians and roadies are in bed early Saturday morning. But stop by the Goodman Center when the sun peeks over the horizon, and you'll see a different story. "Live Soundz on Saturday," a new six-week Goodman youth jazz program, has been convening at 8:45 am sharp this autumn, shaking off the sleep and waking up the groove.

Granted and funded through its parent organization The Greater Madison Jazz Consortium, as well as the Goodman Center, the Peterson and Evjue Foundations and the Madison Arts Commission, the program offers a hands-on approach to jazz education unlike any other in the area. A cadre of experienced and respected jazz musicians, including Hanah Jon Taylor, Charlie Painter and Rand Moore, lead a group of dedicated employees, volunteers and fundraisers who fervently believe in the program. Each one blends their own harmony into the mix.

"Private lessons during the week weren't making it," said Zach Watson, founder and keyboard player of the group. "Time and economic constraints hampered attendance while the public school programs couldn't offer the diverse teaching to hold the students' interest. Hot Cross Buns wasn't doing it," he added.

The students of this program are just as diverse and eclectic as the music they are learning. Coming from all over Madison's north and east sides, the children are a cross-section of the communities in which they live.

"I believe the youth centers should share their space," said Becky Bauer, coordinator for middle and high school programs at the Vera Court Neighborhood Center. "Not ev-



Photos by Ross Hubbard

Educator Hanah Jon Taylor teaches the art of sax while another student keeps time.

ery location can offer the unique programs the students need." Students from Vera Court attend the Goodman program.

The grant dictates that 75 percent of the program's participants be low-income. Participants are given rides to and from the Goodman Center and a healthy breakfast. This environment fosters wide-awake and attentive students who are more easily reached by the educators.

"To educate, to wield authority," mused reed player Hanah Jon, "one must demonstrate respect. The kids pick up on that. I teach that artistic authority comes from practice, from humbling oneself to the art." The message seems to be resonating with the students.

Thirteen-year-old Jalin, whose broken right foot has not cooled his bass kick, has bought in. "I've been playing since I was five," he remembered. "I had to give up my first drum set to the church. But I got another one, and this one, I'm keeping."

Thirteen-year-old Alek lugs around an alto sax case half his size. "I'm most-

ly self-taught," he said confidently. "I started playing sax six years ago because that's what I wanted to do."

Vera Court students Saffi and Sira both want to sing and play piano. "I'm here 'cause she's here," said Saffi of Sira, and Sira said the same.

The program divides the morning into three parts: the first hour is a full group class taught by one of the musicians; the second hour, the students break up into individual drum, horn, keyboard, reed and vocal groups; and the third hour is a full onstage jam. The result is a pure lesson in harmony. Where most musical styles are constrained, jazz allows students' "mistakes" to be celebrated and built upon, offering a rarely visited educational concept: mistakes build character.

For now, the program is funded through its final concert performance on the Goodman Center stage in late November. It remains uncertain whether the program will continue in 2015.

Greater Madison Jazz Consortium mem-

ber Howard Landsman acknowledges the future depends on community support. "We need money," he said. "We'll be working this winter raising funds to make this program run in the spring and the fall. The interest the students have shown should be rewarded. I encourage everyone to come out and see the final concert."

#### Davis from page 1

This taste of showbiz wouldn't have happened without a lot of practice. The dancers train every week at Virginia Davis School of Dance. Having the chance to perform at such a high-profile venue requires dedication on the part of the girls and their director, Kay Davis Hamielec. According to Wood Holmes, Hamielec "dedicates an incredible amount of time to Ready, Set, Dance! and has created this performance opportunity for middle-school girls in order to instill a strong sense of self-worth, confidence, self-esteem, and respect through the art of dance." Hamielec added, "Miss Kay loves these girls and their families."

Dancers spend a lot of time practicing and performing, and their efforts have been rewarded with memories that will last a lifetime. Through dance these girls gain confidence and self-esteem and learn the importance of teamwork. Many continue their dance training and go on to participate in performance arts programs in high school.

The dancers are currently working on the 2014-15 season show entitled "American Bandstand." If you are interested in booking a show, contact the Virginia Davis School of Dance at 241-4988.



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SCHOOLS & YOUTH

## Fighting obesity

*New consortium working with families to combat "convenience store diet" and sedentary lifestyles*

**By Stephanie Fox**

*North and East Side Consortium*

If you were born before the 1960s, you might remember a time when it was difficult for children to get their hands on junk food like candy bars and soda. While home-grown vegetables and fruits were inexpensive and readily available for meals, unhealthy foods were too expensive for most families. The modern family is seeing a reverse in nutritional trends. Manufacturers are able to produce unhealthy snacks cheaply, and it is now the healthy food that is expensive and more difficult to obtain.

Low-income families are most at risk for falling victim to the cheap and unhealthy "convenience store diet." Public health researchers at the University of Washington found that a family shopping at a convenience store could buy 2,000 calories worth of food for about \$3.52, and a comparable amount of calories in fruits, vegetables and other healthy foods would cost \$36.32 at a grocery store. This discrepancy brings to light two of the biggest issues facing Madison's low-income families: access to healthy food and availability of resources needed to obtain that food.

In addition, research in Dane County has shown that children in low-income

## Boy Scout Troop 127 welcomes first Eagle Scout

**By Wally Meyer**

Ian Murkve has earned the Eagle Scout award, scouting's highest honor. Ian joined the Cub Scout program in 2002 and earned his Arrow of Light award in 2007. He joined Boy Scout Troop 23 and started his path toward Eagle Scout. In February 2014 Troops 23 and 27 merged, forming Troop 127. Therefore, Ian became Troop 127's first Eagle Scout.

Along the way, Ian earned 33 merit badges, including camping, personal fitness, hiking and cycling. He was a dedicated scout and participated in many campouts, events and activities. In 2012 Ian went on a 12-day backpacking trip that covered more than 60 miles at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. In 2014 he canoed the Boundary Waters in Minnesota with other troop members.

Ian has devoted hundreds of hours of service to the community. For his Eagle Scout project, he helped in the creation



Photo by Melissa Sargent

Troop 127's newest Eagle Scout Ian Murkve being supported by his family, reflecting the way in which all Scouts and Scouting families support one another. From left to right: Krista Thomson, Alex Murkve, Wendy Murkve, Jeff Murkve, Brandon Jolivet, Ian Murkve, and Caitly Murkve.

of a garden area for the FEED Kitchens on Sherman Avenue. Ian directed

more than 20 scouts and volunteers in the building of a compost bin, benches and a garden wall. The benches were painted and decorated by members of VSA-Wisconsin. The result of the collaboration is a lovely outdoor community gathering space.

Never afraid of a challenge, Ian has succeeded at everything he's ever set his mind to. He has conquered new skills like juggling, walking on jumping stilts, running in the Madison Marathon and riding a unicycle on trips of 50 to 100 miles.

Ian is a 2014 graduate of Madison East High School and is enrolled at Madison College, where he is studying to become a personal trainer. When you see Ian, congratulate him on this great honor.

If your son is ready for some adventure and would like to join a nationally recognized program, contact Scoutmaster Paul Hughes at psusparks@gmail.com or 215-5374.

families are 50 percent more likely to suffer from sedentary lifestyles than their wealthier peers. Inadequate nutrition for low-income children, combined with low activity levels, leads to higher rates of obesity among this demographic.

This dilemma is exactly why the North and East Side Consortium (NEC) was created. The NEC is funded in full by the Irwin A & Robert D Goodman Foundation Inc and focuses on improving health by reducing obesity rates in north and east Madison. Four community centers

make up the NEC: East Madison Community Center, Vera Court Neighborhood Center, Kennedy Heights Community Center and Goodman Community Center. All four centers are currently offering increased access to healthy foods, nutrition education and fitness activities for families and youth enrolled in after-school programs. NEC piloted their health improvement program in June at the centers' summer camps and rolled

out full programming this fall.

Creating healthy lifestyle changes in children early on will help them grow into healthy and productive adults. Therefore, the NEC health activities and education are being offered to children ages 3-18, as well as parents and caregivers. This fall the NEC initiative added a fitness component to the O'Keefe Middle School after-school program and organized an intramural basketball league.

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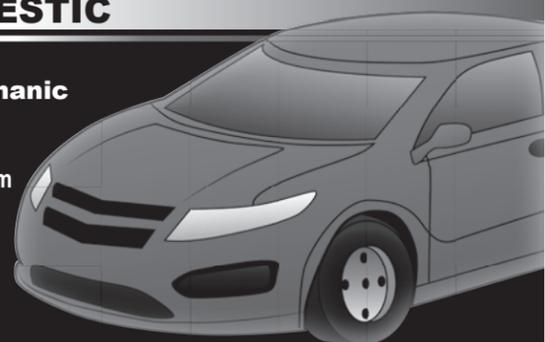
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SCHOOL & YOUTH

# Community leaders sent to the “Principal Experience”

By Melissa McGraw

Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation

Two employees of Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation & Affiliates were sent to the principal’s office Oct. 14. Both Black Hawk Middle and Gompers Elementary offer A Principal Experience each year through the Foundation for Madison’s Public Schools.

Darrel Feucht, Manager of Facilities and Contingency Planning, shadowed Principal Sarah Chaja at Gompers; and Rick Giese, Chief Systems Development Officer, visited Black Hawk as a guest of Principal Sean Storch. They were among 85 community leaders who participated across the Madison Metropolitan School District.

“Our teachers and students were excited to welcome Rick Giese as our principal partner and show him a day in the life of learning at Black Hawk,” Storch said.

A Principal Experience is a unique opportunity to see firsthand the rewards and challenges faced by our public schools every day. As Superintendent Jennifer Cheatham said, “Teachers have the most important job; principals have the hardest.” She noted that they work toward creating an environment in which educators can stay focused on great teaching.

At both Gompers and Black Hawk, efforts to create that positive environment begin before 7:30 am. Storch and Giese greeted students as they got off the bus, then Giese read the morning announcements and the Pledge of Allegiance over the public address system. Feucht had a similar experience at Gompers, where all 280+ students gather in the cafeteria for



Left: Darrel Feucht, Manager of Facilities and Contingency Planning at Great Lakes, visits with students at Gompers Elementary. Right: Rick Giese, Great Lakes’ Chief Systems Development Officer, visits with a student at Black Hawk Middle.



Photos provided by Melissa McGraw

morning assembly.

To classes of kindergartners and fourth-graders, Feucht read “A Fine, Fine School” and answered fun and interesting questions about his career and life. “It was so great to have Darrel Feucht spend his morning with us at Gompers,” said Chaja. “This experience was powerful for our young students as they learned about a possible pathway for their own lives and were able to learn about jobs that exist in our Northside community.”

Giese observed a sixth-grade literacy intervention class, which included free reading, a sentence structure exercise with the teacher, and computer time to practice spelling. He learned that only 22 percent of

Black Hawk’s sixth-grade students scored proficient or advanced on the Measures of Academic Progress assessment in reading. Getting books into the hands of more students is the reason Great Lakes holds an

annual book drive for its adopted schools.

To help students improve, Storch said, they have 90 minutes of English Language Arts class every day. “We are working hard to meet our children where they are at and help them grow as much as possible in the short time we have them.”

“All I can say is, Wow!” Feucht shared. He was struck by how much educators do for their students, beyond just teaching, to provide what he calls “a lot of kid caring.” For some children, school is the only structure in their lives — from meals and clothing to social development.

Neither he nor Giese envy the tough job principals have, but thanks to A Principal Experience, they are inspired to do more. “Great Lakes has the people and the resources, and we want to help,” Giese said. “We have to keep the conversation going.”

“We are very appreciative of the meaningful resources that our Great Lakes partners have shared with us,” Storch said. “Thank you for supporting student learning and growth.”

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