Northside county board unopposed, no primary election  

By Anita Weier  
Northside News  

Dane County Board supervisors for Northside districts will be unopposed in the April election, though they will be affected by recent redistricting decisions. Because no contest in the April 5 election has more than two candidates, there will be no primary election in February, according to the Dane County Clerk’s Office.  

The new county board member representing the Cherokee area will face representing parts of several municipalities, as well as the entire Town of Westport. He is Andrew Schauer of Sun Prairie, the incumbent supervisor for District 21.  

The committee in charge of redistricting “determined everybody’s districts except mine, and gave me what was left,” he said cheerfully. He will represent parts of the Town of Burke, a small part of Sun Prairie, and a few parts of Madison, as well as the Town of Westport.  

“I live in a corner of the City of Sun Prairie, on the corner of Rattman Road and Hoepker Road. I can kick a football into the town of Burke across the street and could hit a driver into the City of Madison,” Schauer said.  

Schauer has served on the Dane County Board for eight years. He has a law degree from UW-Madison and is a staff attorney for the Wisconsin Professional Police Association, which is the statewide police and sheriff’s deputies’ association. He hopes to meet a lot of people in the Cherokee neighborhood. “I will be honored to represent the area,” Schauer said. “I get up that way to go to baseball games at Warner Park. I love Warner Park, and the rest of the neighborhood is very beautiful.”  

He serves on the Personnel and Finance Committee of the county board. “The great majority of the board’s work gets done in these standing committees. It’s more efficient; the board meetings don’t go on until 5 am.” He likes that because “I care about the ability for people to participate.”  

If he can be reached at Schauer.Andrew@countyofdane.com or 608-630-5427.  

Schauer represents District 12 on the Dane County Board. He also faces some changes. He will no longer represent Maple Bluff, which will now be part of Michele Ritt’s Northside county board.  

Will the city save the 16?  

By Beth Sluys  
Northside News  

During the years of community work related to the Oscar Mayer Special Area Plan (OMSAP), there were many late-night meetings that included conversations about the re-emerging wetland at 2007 Roth Street (previously owned by the Hartmeyer family). This parcel sits at the very heart of the Sherman neighborhood and could be a wonderful, safe and welcoming natural area park for this diverse neighborhood.  

The community and Alder Syed Abbas were extremely supportive of conserving this 30-acre natural area, but in the end, 16 acres were put into the plan for a future green space (OMSAP, July 2020), preferably a passive recreation “sister park” to Demetral Park for more active recreation. If one reads the plan, the map clearly indicates that the recommendation is for green space.  

In February 2021, city staff presented that they want to “encourage redevelopment consistent with plan recommendations … and discourage development detrimental to character recommended by the Oscar Mayer Special Area Plan.” At a meeting with the Friends of Hartmeyer Natural Area group and Abbas on Jan. 28, 2021, Park Superintendent Eric Knepp mentioned that there is a model in place at Prairie Ridge and Raymond Ridge parks that offers two options for recreation. It is a balanced and well-thought-out combination of natural area for passive recreation and existing city park for active recreation.  

This same model can be used with passive recreation occurring in the natural area at the Roth Street wetland area (16 acres, per the OMSAP) and then the active park can be Demetral, which already hosts a dog park, sports fields, walking and bike paths and other active park amenities. Perhaps the city can look at making improvements to the active park to enhance what is offered. This would benefit the Sherman neighborhood by keeping this gem of a natural area park in the heart of the neighborhood, while supporting the improvements at Demetral Park. It would also support a bike path greenway that connects area parks along

Remember loved ones for Valentine’s Day in a way that feeds the soul  

By Lauri Lee  
Northside News  

Not everyone is a rose for Valentine’s Day kind of person. There is an expectation to give and receive romantic love on this day, but should it stop there? Valentine’s Day is a celebration of love — all love. Meaning love of friends and family that expresses appreciation of who they are to you in life.  

The traditional chocolate and roses is a way to show hearts, but love of yummy, sweet, gooey, hot or spicy may be the non-cliche path to feed the soul of special friends and other significant people in your life. A thoughtful gesture is worth more than a thousand words.  

Check out Section B, page 17 for yummy, sweet, gooey, hot or spicy ways to feed the soul of those on your Valentine’s list this year. It’s a great way to make or strengthen a connection with others.

Spiced sugar bun from Far Breton Bakery (farbretonbakery.com)

Where’s Nort?  

Find Nort and you could win great prizes!  
Details on page 2  

Raemisch Farm development on city’s agenda  

By Beth Sluys  
Northside News  

In August 2021, the Madison Common Council voted (15-2) to put the plat for the development of the Raemisch Farm on file. Now, Green Street St. Louis intends to re-introduce the same plat to the Plan Commission Feb. 7. If the plat is approved, it will come before the Common Council for a vote on Feb. 22.  

The key issue has been the arrival of the F-35 jets in 2023 and their impacts on the lives of all residents living near the flight path. Of concern is the 65-decibel (dB) sound level boundary, above which the noise levels become stressful and have been shown to cause harm for people living under the noise. Once the jets arrive, we could find that the boundary extends much farther to the western portion of the site where housing is being proposed. In Winoooski, Vermont, people have been living under the jets since September 2019 and more families ended up being impacted by noise than originally projected.  

The Raemisch Farm Work Group (RFWG) reached out to Groundswell Conservancy, a land trust that fosters land access for area food growers, to see if they might be interested in owning all or a portion of the farm, to keep it in agriculture. Groundswell currently offers land access on two farms and is looking to purchase a third farm. There is interest. Marsha Cannon, member of the RFWG, Raemisch continues on page 15

Other News  

Northside News  

Northside Planning Council......................4  
Business.................................8  
Community..............................12  
School & Youth............................14  
Environment................................19  
Elected Officials .........................20  
Health and Safety........................21  
Library.........................................8  
Senior........................................22  
WPCRC......................................23

ECRWSS EDDM  
Resident  
Madison, WI 53704
From
Lauri Lee
NPC Board Chair

To provide perspective on 2022, the year has started with a case of deja vu of the past two years with COVID cases on the rise. It’s January, and the community is hunkered down for two reasons—to avoid COVID and January’s frigid temperatures. We know we have the promise of spring and return of warmer weather, but I ask, when is the end of COVID season?

As I worked on production of this issue of the Northside News, I was struck by the effect of the pandemic on the Northside nonprofits and businesses. This February/March issue is smaller this time because not much is going on. After nearly two full years of navigating how to continue to meet the needs of the Northside community, how many times can activities and events be planned and then cancelled?

The toll on small businesses has also been great. These locally-owned and -operated enterprises are located on the Northside to meet the ongoing needs of the community. Are we loyal to them, or do we jump online or run to the big box store to get things we could source from them? They depend on all of us to keep our money where our heart lives. Shopping locally benefits each of us and every dollar spent at a locally owned business stays in our community. This creates more jobs and generates a more robust economy so each of us can thrive.

What’s new at the Northside News?

Please join me in welcoming John Dyerson as the new print layout designer on the Northside News production team. John’s decades of experience in print production makes him a valuable addition to the team.

To submit an article to the Northside News, please email editor@northsidenews.org for guidelines.

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Madison, WI 53704

Or, email it to us at office@northsidemadison.org

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Thank you to the FEED Bakery Training Program for their donations to the Nort scavenger hunts.

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April/May Deadline: Tuesday, March 1, 2022

$20/column inch for grayscale ads – $22/column inch for color ads
Reach 13,500 households with every issue. Special rates for nonprofits.

Ad Sizes Dimensions Grayscale Color
16th Horizontal 4.917”W x 2”H $ 80.00 $ 88.00
16th Vertical 2.375”W x 4”H $ 80.00 $ 88.00
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Please contact Lauri or editor@northsidenews.org or 608-334-4969 for rates.
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The Northside Planning Council is grateful to the following supporters in 2021:

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- $40,000+ Dane County Non-Profit COVID relief fund
- $30,000+ Dane County UW-Extension
- $10,000+ 100+ Women Who Care
- Epic Employee Designated Contribution
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- $1,000+ Cuna Mutual
  - Dane Buy Local Soup’s On!

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Pulled pork sandwich with fries

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Thursday
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Thank you to our donors and partners
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Support the FEED Bakery Training Program

Photo submitted by FEED Kitchens

Northside News • February/March 2022 • Page 3
This Shabazz grad may be the hair stylist for you

By Virginia Scholtz
Northside News

Looking for a gender-inclusive hair stylist who makes your dignity and identity a top priority? You might like to meet El, also known as Leah Ershler, at Mint Cuts + Color, LLC. El operates their business in a suite at Tess Beauty & Barbering Suites in Lakewood Plaza.

They are non-binary and especially enjoy providing a welcoming space for everyone — yes everyone — in need of hair care. To El we all benefit from a service should cost or would prefer to pay, but what one can afford to access.

Mint Cuts + Color operates within a cluster of salons at Tess Beauty & Barbering Suites at the corner of Sherman and Commercial Avenues. The suites have a common waiting area and a shared shampoo station and laundry facilities. Each salon uses its own capes. The shop can be accessed from Commercial Avenue or from the Lakewood Plaza Shopping Center parking lot.

In keeping with their personal philosophy that life should be balanced between work and family time, Mint is open Tuesdays through Saturdays mostly during afternoon and early evening hours. El and their husband have two dogs. They all enjoy being outdoors.

In the future El plans to gain more experience with curly hair types and to keep adapting to the ever-changing world of hair. Overall, El stated, “My goal is to make you feel like the most authentic version of yourself. Hair has no gender.”

For more about Mint Cuts + Color, visit Mintcutsandcolor.glossgenius.com. They are also on Facebook.

Naly’s Floral Shop wins Emerging Business Award

By Beth Sluys
Northside News

This year the Wisconsin Hmong Chamber of Commerce hosted (virtual format) the 15th Annual Business Awards Celebration, which is the largest Asian business awards event in the State of Wisconsin. The Emerging Business Award was given to Naly and Tou Lor, owners of Naly’s Floral Shop in NorthGate Shopping Center.

Each year Asian, Asian Pacific and Indonesian (AAPI) businesses and professionals are recognized for their achievements in both the business world and in their communities. The theme of this year’s event was “Rising Through Adversity” and recognized AAPI businesses and professionals who rose through the adversities and challenges confronting their businesses, especially during the pandemic.

The fast transitions that we had to make during the early days of COVID were a huge challenge, but we worked through it together, and with the support of the community. I had many sleepless nights, but we made it through and are excited about the year ahead,” said Naly. This September, Naly and Tou will celebrate their fifth year in business. Not only do they focus on Northside economic development, they also support area flower growers and truly believe we are all stronger together. Often, they are the “welcome ambassadors” for travelers coming to Madison from the airport who are looking for a special gift item or floral bouquet.

“Don’t underestimate the power of flowers,” said Naly. “Flowers bring joy, happiness and help take our minds off of troubling times. They touch the deepest part of our souls and help make memories that last a lifetime.”

“Every item and every flower is chosen with love,” said Tou.

One visit with Naly and Tou and it is clear they love the work they do and share that love with our community.

Naly Lor, owner of Naly’s Floral Shop
Full shelves offer a great variety of food items.

Patricia’s Market is both restaurant and market

By Beth Sluys
Northside News

Upon entering Patricia’s Market in Lakewood Plaza Shopping Center, you can’t help but notice the excellent smells of the food being prepared and the large photos of the city of Guanajuato on the back wall. The central Mexico city is the home place of Luis Adrian Serrato and his wife Patricia Sanchez, owners of Patricia’s Market. The large mural shows modern day and historic places from the city, which was proclaimed a World Heritage Site in 1988.

It is with pride that Luis tells me he wants to “bring you the culture and food from Guanajuato.”

The shop is both a grocery store and a restaurant, with a seating area inside the store or a place to wait while your food is prepared for carryout. The grocery store offers meats, snacks, canned goods, fresh produce, baked goods and kitchen items. Luis Adrian Serrato, Luis’ nephew, works with Patricia and Luis with a full-time job. Patricia and Luis’ cooking business and provides translation services, when needed.

While retaining a location for their business, it was the large space that offered Luis and Patricia what they were looking for. “We feel our business is a good complement to the other ones in the shopping center and in the area,” said Luis. “So far, people are pleased with what we are offering, and we serve a diverse customer base.”

Looking ahead, Luis expressed a desire to expand and to start a tortilla manufactory business, hopefully using locally grown corn.

Leaving the store with a bag full of tamales, I headed home for a tasty tour of Guanajuato, by way of Patricia’s Market.

Energy saving tips for winter

By Madison Gas and Electric Company

Heating is one of the largest energy users in our homes. By making smart choices and practicing simple tips, you can manage your energy use and costs. MGE has no- and low-cost ways for you to stay comfortable and save energy this winter.

- Set your thermostat for one temperature when you’re home and another when you’re away to maximize energy savings.

- If you haven’t already, consider installing a programmable or smart thermostat. Smart thermostats can be controlled remotely, learn your preferred settings and automatically schedule temperature changes. Eligible MGE customers can take advantage of a cash-back incentive from Wisconsin’s Focus On Energy® program for purchasing a qualified smart thermostat. There are a variety of models at a number of pricing options. Get more details at focusonenergy.wisconsin.gov.

- Turn your furnace fan to “auto” rather than “on.” If you leave it switched on, it will run continuously, which isn’t necessary, depending on your type of furnace, could cost about $25 a month.

- Some people believe that turning down your thermostat and using an electric space heater will save money. A space heater can be one of the most expensive ways to heat your home. At today’s prices, electric heat costs at least eight times as much per BTU as natural gas. Running a typical 1,500-watt electric space heater four hours each day for a month would cost $25. Instead, consider some low- or no-cost ways to warm: use a heated blanket or heating pad; put on a sweater; get up and move around; let the sun in during the day to warm a room and close your window treatments at night to keep out the colder night air.

- Lock up. Don’t just shut your windows, lock them as well. This step can be overlooked but is important. The locking mechanism activates a seal that helps to keep the air you heated or cooled inside your home.

- Keep your water heater temperature set at 120 degrees Fahrenheit and use cold water to wash clothes. Also, remember to run your washer on full loads. If you go on vacation, switch your water heater to vacation mode.

- There’s a lot to understand about managing heating costs in your home. MGE is available to provide tips and answer your questions about saving energy and money. Contact MGE’s energy experts by email at AskExperts@mge.com.

Ascendium gave back in record numbers in 2021

By Ascendium Education Group

On a chilly Friday morning in November, Andrea Krebs found herself not at her desk, but outside the River Food Pantry distributing free meals to a steady stream of area families. She was there of her own volition but also with the support of her employer. Krebs, a senior writer for Ascendium Education Group, was taking part in Ascendium’s Volunteer Time Off (VTO) program, which grants employees up to eight hours of paid time to support nonprofits through volunteering during work hours.

She was hardly alone. In 2021, Ascendium employees donated over 1,000 volunteer hours to 48 Madison-area nonprofit organizations through VTO. They also volunteered roughly 3,000 hours to 25 organizations outside work during nights and weekends, and what Ascendium calls Beyond VTO. The over 4,000 combined volunteer hours in 2021 represents a significant increase over 2020.

For Krebs, volunteering provided a chance to help Northside neighbors who, due to the COVID-19 health crisis, inflation and other circumstances, are increasingly pushed to depend on The River Food Pantry for food assistance. She also provided another, less obvious benefit: at a time when Ascendium has shifted to a work-from-home policy, it allowed her to network with company leaders and co-workers in person — many for the first time.

“I started working for Ascendium in the midst of the pandemic, so this was really my first opportunity to meet with colleagues face-to-face,” said Krebs. “Volunteering, especially online, was a great way for company time, really allowed me to see Ascendium’s mission in action.”

That mission: to champion opportunity. According to Ascendium’s Vice President-Strategic Communications Brett Lindquist, employees are encouraged to support organizations they are passionate about and are given the choice to donate their time as they see fit. The company also works with local nonprofit organizations to help find volunteer opportunities for our employees. Some of the Madison-area nonprofit organizations that Ascendium employees volunteered with in 2021 include Box of Ballrooms, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dane County, East Madison Community Center, Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin, The River Food Pantry and Operation Fresh Start.

“Even during a year in which the COVID-19 crisis made in-person volunteering more difficult, our employees consistently answered the call to volunteer,” said Lindquist. “We’ve really worked hard to create a culture of giving as a company, and that’s reflected in our employees’ desire to give back.”

Volunteering wasn’t the only way Ascendium gave back to the Madison community in 2021. The company also donated more than $1.3 million to local nonprofit organizations. That includes $225,000 in Good Neighbor Grants, which are $15,000 grants given to 15 Madison-area nonprofits that share Ascendium’s commitment to increasing education and workforce training outcomes for learners from low-income backgrounds. Recipients of the inaugural Good Neighbor Grants, which are nominated and voted on by employees, include Briarpatch Youth Services, East Madison Community Center, Literacy Network of Dane County and Rubin for Kids.

Said Lindquist, “We are deeply grateful to our partners who are doing the work to meet the needs of the community.”

To learn more about Ascendium and its employee giving program, visit ascendiumeducation.org/ascendium-cares.
Indoor pickleball courts coming to the Northside

By Anita Weier
Northside News

The successful Beef Butter Barbeque company is spreading its wings. Having served 350,000 people since its founding three years ago at the Northside TownCenter, the company is renovating an empty space at the center to become indoor pickleball courts.

“Pickleball is popular and easy to learn, but indoor courts are needed, especially in winter,” said Patrick Riha, owner of Beef Butter Barbeque. Work is progressing on building a five-court pickleball facility at 2907 N. Sherman Ave., between Bierock and ORTHDX Natural Fitness.

“We will have five professional courts that will be 20 by 44 feet each. There will be netting between the courts, and the nets on the courts can be used for pickleball or badminton,” Riha said. Restrooms and showers will be available.

Courts can be rented individually, and members will have a key card for entry at any time. Members will be able to put in skill ratings so they can be matched with similarly skilled players. There will be controlled access with a code for court time. “It will be a 24-7 fitness center,” said Riha.

The facility will also be available for rental for special events, with a bar and TV. Attendees could order food from the nearby Beef Butter BBQ restaurant, which already provides catering services. “We will run league, charity tournaments and clinics,” Riha said. Lighting will be bright enough for televised tournaments. Cost for rentals will be an estimated $10 for a 90-minute session and 12 months of unlimited play at a probable cost of $595.

Asked how the idea developed, Riha said, “I was renting this vacant space to store some equipment, and I asked Dave and Don Bruns if I could lease this space for pickleball.” He noted that the new business will benefit Bierock, Willy Street Co-op and other neighboring businesses. “It will be awesome,” Riha said, “but it will be a lot of work.”

What’s new at Willy Street Co-op-North?

By Brendan Smith
Willy Street Co-op

Double Dollars distribution ends March 8
March 8 will be the last Tuesday when customers receive Double Dollars vouchers until late October, although you’ll still be able to use them through May, while program funds last. That means if you have Five Dollars vouchers, you’ll be able to use them for Double Dollars vouchers at the end of this May that you were not able to spend, through May, while program funds last. That means if you have Five Dollars vouchers, you’ll be able to use them for Double Dollars vouchers at the end of this May that you were not able to spend.

As a reminder, customers who use their Access Discount Program funds last. That means if you have Five Dollars vouchers, you’ll be able to use them for Double Dollars vouchers at the end of this May that you were not able to spend, through May, while program funds last. That means if you have Five Dollars vouchers, you’ll be able to use them for Double Dollars vouchers at the end of this May that you were not able to spend.

One way to save is to get a membership. Willy Street Co-op members will have a key card for entry at any time. Members will be able to put in skill ratings so they can be matched with similarly skilled players. There will be controlled access with a code for court time. “It will be a 24-7 fitness center,” said Riha.

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There is no better exercise for your heart than reaching down and helping to lift someone up.

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Curbside meals, bakery and soup available weekly at FEED Kitchens

By Chris Brockel
FEED Kitchens

As we continue to bunker down through the pandemic, many of us are tiring of the same carry-out or meal delivery and need something a little different to excite our palates. Great food options abound at FEED Kitchens so consider starting a new routine to try something new each week to make mealtime an adventure. Food carts can’t operate in the winter, so offering curbside pickup during the winter at FEED Kitchens helps to keep them in business. Think about getting out of the winter and pandemic mealtime rut while helping local food entrepreneurs at the same time.

El Wiscorican, a food cart featuring Puerto Rican cuisine, is offering Thursday and Friday night meal pickups for orders placed by Wednesday of the same week. The menu changes weekly so check their website at elwiscorican.com. Tripleta sandwiches, grilled skirt steak, mofongo, chicken fricassee, pastelon, roast pork, and a selection of Puerto Rican sweet bread and desserts are items you will find on a rotating basis. In 176 reviews on Facebook, El Wiscorican receives a perfect review score of 5.0. You truly can’t go wrong with anything you order.

Madison classic food cart Café Costa Rica operated by Chef Thony Clarke offers meal pickups at FEED on Wednesday evenings. The menu features sweet Latino chicken, burritos, quesadillas and family meals. Thony’s menu is a perennial favorite in Madison. Orders can be placed through Thony’s website at mango-man-cooks.squaresite. While there you can also order a few bottles of his Mango Man Salsa to add zest to many of your favorite recipes.

The reputation of FEED Bakery and the wonderful baked goods produced by the FEED Bakery Training Program staff keeps growing. A purchase of their delectable baked goods helps support the program and puts more people back to work. Go to www.feedbakery.org to see the product list that includes cookies, bars, pastries, muffins and more. Think of ordering for upcoming events or satisfy your family’s cravings for great bakery. February is the perfect time to place your first order for FEED Bakery Valentine butter cookies and candy coated cookies as a treat for the office or to give to friends.

In partnership with Dane Buy Local and locally owned restaurants, including a handful of vendors working out of FEED Kitchens, the Soup’s On! initiative continues to sell and distribute quarts of freshly prepared soups each week through March at FEED Kitchens. Orders can be placed each Wednesday through Saturday through danebuylocal.org/Soups-on/. Pick-up for the weekly orders is every Tuesday evening at FEED Kitchens from 4–6 pm. It’s a drive through pickup, so you don’t even have to leave your car.

Far Breton Bakery offers weekly Friday morning pickups at FEED Kitchens of their old world artisan bakery menu. Far Breton bakes some of the best croissants and spiced sugar buns that you will taste this side of the Atlantic Ocean. Far Breton also has a bakery trailer they sell from Sunday mornings just off Sherman Avenue next to Kappel’s Clock Shop. You can find their menu at farbretonbakery.com. While you can also sign up for one or more of their Chef Pastry Workshops being offered at FEED Kitchens on Saturday mornings.

All of the small businesses operating out of FEED Kitchens have worked hard throughout the pandemic to keep them afloat, while keeping themselves and their families safe. They have experimented with service models, pivoted as conditions demanded, and continue to stand tall against the forces working against them. Your support of their work sends them a strong message that you appreciate and desire their presence in our community while giving you a taste experience that will shake you out of the culinary doldrums.

### Business Products Website Order cutoff Pickup

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cafe Costa Rica</th>
<th>Latino chicken, burritos, quesadillas and family meals</th>
<th>mango-man-cooks.square.site</th>
<th>Wednesday, noon</th>
<th>Wednesday, starting at 4 pm at FEED Kitchens, 1219 N. Sherman Ave.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>El Wiscorican</td>
<td>The menu changes weekly so check elwiscorican.com for the menu. Tripleta sandwiches, grilled skirt steak, mofongo, chicken fricassee, pastelon, roast pork, and a selection of Puerto Rican sweet bread and desserts.</td>
<td>elwiscorican.com</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Thursday and Friday Pickup starting at 4:30 pm FEED Kitchens, 1219 N. Sherman Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEED Bakery</td>
<td>Cookies, decorative cookies, brownies and bars, pastries and scones, muffins, coffee cakes and assorted trays</td>
<td>feedbakery.org</td>
<td>Advance order required</td>
<td>M–F 8 am–4:30 pm FEED Kitchens, 1219 N. Sherman Ave.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Soup’s On!

Freshly made soup by local restaurants and food businesses. Soup is frozen the same day.

Dane Buy Local is offering Soup’s On! orders are packaged for drive by pickup outside of FEED Kitchens.

Visit danebuylocal.com/Soups-on/ Wednesday–Saturday to place your order.

### Support the FEED Bakery Training Program

#### Valentine Cookies

**Butter Cookie Trays**

- 2 lb. (approx. 90 cookies) $32.00
- 3 lb. (approx. 135 cookies) $46.00
- 4 lb. (approx. 180 cookies) $60.00
- 5 lb. (approx. 225 cookies) $74.00

#### Valentine Cookie Box

- 16 oz. box Butter Cookies - $13.75
- 16 oz. box Candy Coated Hearts - $9.75

**Party Trays**

Made-to-order, 2 lb. minimum, call for pricing. Order at: feedbakery.org

email orders@feedbakery.org or call Amber at 608-444-1072. Pick up Mon–Fri, 7 am–4 pm.
COMMUNITY

We are #PantryProud

By Becca Carpenter
The River Food Pantry

A common misconception about food pantries is that we offer only highly processed foods with low nutritional value. Those who have never visited a food pantry might assume we distribute only frozen, canned and dry goods. The River Food Pantry is proud to let everyone know we offer much more than that.

The River exists to provide an accessible and stable supply of free nutritious food choices to anyone facing food insecurity in Dane County. We offer a bountiful choice of groceries four days a week. Items include a variety of nonperishables, but also include fresh fruit and vegetables, milk, butter, eggs and meat options. We also offer gluten-free items, vegetarian items, hygiene items and more.

Our professionally trained chefs work with volunteers four days a week to cook fresh, nutritious and delicious to-go meals, including vegetarian options, for entire households to enjoy at home.

We are proud to offer as many quality food options as possible so people can choose what best meets their needs. We are making free healthy food more accessible than ever before through our innovative programs: groceries via curbside pickup or delivery (River Delivers), online grocery orders (ePantry), to-go meals (FAM, Family At-Home Meals), mobile lunch program (Munch), and our community partnerships.

By offering our community choices for groceries and meals, and ways to receive them, we show our neighbors respect, which is The River’s number one core value. From cooking meals with fresh ingredients to filling fridges, freezers and cupboards, we are nourishing bodies, minds and souls throughout our community. Sincere thanks to all who help The River, along with other hardworking pantries in the area, to fulfill our vision of a fully nourished community. All are invited to come by The River and see for yourself why we are the area’s busiest food pantry. Learn more at riverfoodpantry.org.

Dad Joke of the Day continues in Cherokee neighborhood

By Anita Weier
Northside News

The Dad Joke of the Day has become a tradition in the Cherokee Neighborhood.

The project was started by Tom and Jeni Hanser in March 2020 to help neighbors get through the pandemic shutdown. They posted a joke of the day on a signboard in their front yard on Comanche Way, and it proved extremely popular with people walking by.

By October 2021, they were running out of steam and jokes. Luckily, friends were willing to take the project on. Ana Stephens, who lives nearby, now posts jokes daily on her lawn at 1105 Menomonie Lane.

“We started Nov. 1,” Ana said. “The idea now is that we will have a rotating joke around the neighborhood. But so far, there are no volunteers for the next shift.”

Ana, who works at the Wisconsin Center or Education Research, is handling the Dad Joke work mostly on her own. Her husband Jason, who works for an investment firm, is not usually involved, nor are their three children.

“The Hansers gave me a bunch of jokes to get started,” Ana said. “After those ran out, I have been finding them online. Also, just a few weeks ago, someone anonymously gifted us with a Dad Jokes book in our mailbox.”

Some of her favorites: “I just found out Albert Einstein was a real person. I thought he was a theoretical physicist.” “I asked my date to meet me at the gym, but she never showed up. I guess we’re not going to work out.” “To whoever stole my copy of Microsoft Office, I will find out. You have my Word.”
Dane County Veterans Service Office links local vets to benefits

By Anita Weier
Northside News

Some local veterans, their spouses and dependents are unaware of numerous services and benefits available to them in return for military service.

The Dane County Veterans Service Office is there to help the 30,000 veterans and spouses in Dane County find out about the medical, financial, educational and transportation benefits available to them.

State law requires that each county have such an office, and Dane County has provided one since 1942. Prior to the pandemic, veterans could just stop in at the office in Room 108 of the City-County Building at 210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blv., but currently services are provided by phone.

In the three years prior to 2020, about 5,100 people a year were assisted by the office, which has five full-time and two half-time workers. “We are here to help veterans of all eras and all branches of the service,” said Veterans Service Officer Daniel Conner.

The first step is to call the office at 608-266-4158 and give basic information about questions and needs. Then a formal phone appointment is set up with a veterans service officer, who must be a veteran.

“We try to be thorough to identify benefits a person could be eligible for,” Conner said. Not all benefits have the same eligibility requirements.

He recently was able to secure veterans benefits for a Northside woman whose husband had died from a service-connected condition, the spouse received Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.

“We don’t work for the federal or state government. We work for our veterans,” Conner said.

Veterans who are eligible for disability benefits can get anywhere from $120 a month for a 10% disability to thousands of dollars. “One female veteran whose disability claim we worked on for a decade just got a retroactive payment of $258,000,” he added. “Some come in

and we end up filing a disability claim they wouldn’t have known to do.”

The office also works with the Veterans Administration to connect homeless veterans to permanent housing. A local program called Vets Ride with Pride provides bus passes for Madison Metro.

The Veterans Service Office assists veterans to the Wisconsin GI Bill, which provides a tuition waiver for eligible vets to attend Wisconsin universities or technical colleges. Also, veterans who have been affected by medical problems caused by Agent Orange can receive substantial benefits.

Those with questions should phone the Veterans Service Office at 608-266-4158 or go to the website DaneVets.com.

Madison Vet Center offers free services to veterans and their families

By Rita Lord
Northside News

In 1979, recognizing that many Vietnam veterans were experiencing readjustment problems, Congress created Vet Centers to assist them. Since then, eligibility has been broadened to include veterans of more recent conflicts and veterans’ family members.

There are over 200 Vet Centers nationally whose mission is “to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to assist veterans and family members overcome the readjustment problems associated with war and personal trauma.”

We are fortunate to have the Madison Vet Center right here on the Northside, located at 1291 N. Sherman Ave. in the NorthGate Shopping Center. The center oversees 18 counties in southern Wisconsin.

Services include individual and group readjustment counseling, marital and family counseling, referral for benefits assistance, liaison with community agencies, job counseling and placement, substance abuse information and referral, community education, and sexual trauma and harassment counseling. All services are free to eligible veterans and their families.

Counselors come from many clinical disciplines such as psychology, social work, psychiatry and substance abuse. At the Madison Vet Center, all staff are prior service veterans.

Jonathan Howell, Veterans Outreach Program specialist and certified peer support specialist, stated, “We have multiple Vietnam Era, Living with PTSD, GWOT [Global War on Terrorism] and senior veteran groups. Average meeting time is once a month to every couple of weeks. Meetings are often held at senior centers, VFWs and county Veterans Service Office locations. If veterans are interested in attending, we ask that they first contact us at 608-264-5342 for more information.”

For job counseling and placement, “We provide referral and support for the veteran to the Department of Workforce Development and community agencies to start the employment-seeking process,” Howell said.

He noted, “Part of the role of the Veterans Outreach Program specialist is to provide education presentations to currently serving [military personnel], veterans and the public detailing what services we offer. We also partner with community providers, so we provide that information to help assist those wishing to be involved with their veteran community.”

“The Vet Center prides itself on confidentiality and offers a warm, welcoming atmosphere to all veteran populations,” said Howell. “We also provide a 24-hour Vet Center Call Center with counselors ready to talk with our veterans at any time. The call center can be reached at 1-877-927-8387.”

Warner Park Community Recreation Center (WPCRC) is now a Silver&Fit® participating Fitness Center! Silver&Fit is designed specifically to help older adults achieve better health through regular exercise and health education. Silver&Fit provides eligible members with no-cost or low-cost fitness memberships through arrangements with certain health plans. Silver&Fit is provided by American Specialty Health Fitness, Inc., a subsidiary of American Specialty Health Incorporated.

If your health plan offers Silver&Fit and you would like more information about WPCRC, please contact Carie Abarca at cabarca@cityofmadison.com, or call 608-245-3669.

You may also visit Silver&Fit at www.SilverandFit.com.

Silver&Fit is a federally registered trademark of American Specialty Health Incorporated.
The Sewing Machine Project held classes at EMCC

By Regina McConnell
East Madison Community Center

Six adult participants attended a six-week sewing class at the East Madison Community Center presented by The Sewing Machine Project®. The project offers classes at local community centers, serving clients designated by the centers.

The curriculum focuses on basic sewing and mending and becoming acquainted with the sewing machine — how to operate and maintain it. Each course runs six weeks. Students are required to attend all six sessions in a course and “pay it forward” by completing a project to be donated to the community center where the class is held. After meeting these requirements, students are “gifted” the machine on which they learned, along with a small starter sewing kit.

The talented instructor, Rebecca Sites, encouraged students to take risks and push boundaries within each lesson. Volunteers provided support as needed. EMCC plans to host another round of workshops in spring 2022.

For more information about the project, visit thesewingmachineproject.org/our-work/local-sewing-programs.

Youth staff member at EMCC wins first place award

By Regina McConnell
East Madison Community Center

Elijah Smith, a motivated youth and teen program worker at the East Madison Community Center, recently received an exciting award for his creativity and entrepreneurial skills. Elijah won first place in a program called Teens Mean Business, which is hosted by CEOs of Tomorrow Inc.

“We had eight to nine weeks to come up with a business idea and present it to the judges and see what happens. The goal of my project is to destroy teen obesity. I created a customizable backpack that includes a water bottle, basketball and instructional cards with basketball activities,” said Elijah.

“The third place winner gets $250 and an award, second place gets $500 and an award, and first place gets $1,000 and an award. Half of that money goes to the college of your choice. I plan to go to Madison College to study construction and architecture,” he said.

Elijah Smith was awarded first place in the Teens Mean Business program.
ARTS for ALL Wisconsin offers memory loss program

By Mike Lawler
ARTS for All Wisconsin

On Jan. 26, the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Dane County (ADRC) held a ribbon-cutting ceremony announcing that ARTS for All Wisconsin (AFA) and its art center on Aberg Avenue are dementia-friendly. All administrative staff and members of AFA teaching staff received the training in late 2021 in advance of starting the new SPARK! program. “I’m so thrilled to know our staff is equipped with the knowledge and strategies gained from the ADRC’s Dementia Friendly training,” said AFA Director of Arts Education Jill Jaworski. “We are always working to improve our accessible and adaptable arts programming for community members, and this additional training prepares our teaching artists to offer excellent support to our SPARK! program participants.”

SPARK! programs are free for participants and care partners to attend together on the first Friday of each month. Each 90-minute program is unique, including creative experiences in artmaking, drama, movement/dance, music, poetry or storytelling.

The program kicks off Friday, Feb. 4, with Telling Tales Together with teaching artist Terry Kerr, allowing participants to liberate their imaginations and connect with one another as they explore story structure and storytelling techniques.

What: Cultural programs for people with early to mid-stage memory loss and care partners

When: Every first Friday beginning in February 4, from 10-11:30 am

Where: 1709 Aberg Avenue, Suite 1

How: Register each month at artsforallwi.org/programs/spark

About ARTS for ALL

The mission of AFA is to expand the capabilities, confidence, and quality of life for children and adults with disabilities throughout Wisconsin by providing programs in the arts. More information can be found at artsforallwi.org.

About the ADRC Dementia Friendly Program

A dementia-friendly community is a place where individuals with dementia live good and comfortable lives as independently as possible, continue to be a functional part of their communities, are met with patience and understanding, and are given support where necessary. The Dementia Care Specialist works with communities in Dane County to raise awareness about people with dementia and their needs.
Lyrical bringing our pandemic truths

By Deniye Mitchell, Nevaehia
Boston and Vera Naputi
East High School

Let’s start with a simple statement of truth: We learned some things during this pandemic. As college students, along with our former teacher from Madison East High School, we want to highlight lessons the pandemic has taught us as our way of sharing with our EHS community. Whatever the timeframe from 2020 to the present has been, we can attest that we are each changed.

Although the pandemic interfered with our high school graduation and with Ms. Naputi’s chance to properly celebrate our passage to college, one thing remained: our ties to each other that foster a deep sense of sharing. Here are lessons we learned with added lyrics that we believe substantiate our lessons.

Perseverance: We’ve felt completely overwhelmed and often caught ourselves questioning our abilities to tackle what appeared to be insurmountable challenges. In those moments, we thought about Aaliyah’s lyric in one of her songs, “And if you don’t succeed, dust yourself off and try again.” Our perseverance was evident when we stepped in with found confidence and reminded ourselves what our victories have been so far.

If there’s a will, there’s a way: We used our willingness to believe in our path and purpose, and we found a way.

Perseverance was evident when we stepped in with found confidence and reminded ourselves what our victories have been so far.

Here are lessons we learned with added lyrics that we believe substantiate our lessons.

Take advantage of free money: To all college students who are in the process of pre-college prep, listen to your teachers and counselors. Apply for everything related to scholarships, grants and work study.

As Rapsody’s lyric says, “I like the checks with the commas on commas; I want the checks with the commas on commas.” We deserve all the opportunities and need to believe we are all deserving of the money.

Life will never be the same so focus on the present and not the past. We are thinking about J. Cole’s lyric from the song, “let go my hand.” “At times you gotta step away, do some livin.’ Let time provide a new prescription, given truer vision.” There are times when we have been wistful and have wanted to go back to life pre-pandemic. But J. Cole is speaking our truth, and to us, we are stepping away from the past and we are open to a "new prescription" to a hopeful, good life.

Self-care is important: More than ever, we need to care for ourselves, not only by ourselves, but in community. In each of our cultures, we believe we find joy and hope when we care for ourselves and each other. For this vital lesson, we bring in Lauryn Hill’s lyrics, “How you gonna win when you ain’t right within” and “Tomorrow, our seeds will grow. All we need is dedication.” Learning how to dedicate time and energy to care for ourselves inevitably gives us the seeds to grow on our journey to be fully human.

All of these things matter when it comes to our current realities. Wherever we are on our journey, know that we are exactly where we need to be; and as two college students and an educator, we are thriving.

Deniye attends Clark Atlanta University. Nevaehia attends Jackson State University. Both graduated from East High School where Ms. Naputi is a teacher.
Math, engineering and more at East High School

By Cynthia Chin
Madison East High School

East students and current eighth-graders are in the process of selecting courses for 2022-23. Be sure to investigate all the options and think ahead about what can be done now to develop skills for a livelihood tomorrow. There are many opportunities at East to develop cultural competence and artistic talent, investigate specific career fields, and get a head start on earning technical certifications or Madison College/UW-Madison credits. Talk to counselors soon about dual credit options, advanced placement and the Start College Now program, all of which enable prepared and motivated students to begin their post-secondary studies early.

Math Club students have been competing virtually with other Dane County schools throughout the fall semester. New team members are welcome to join for the February and March math meets, and also for the cool non-competitive problems being discussed every Friday during lunch. Contact Ms. Paschke or Mr. Galarowicz for more information.

Two teams of East students participated in the High School Mathematics Competition in Modeling. East teams researched and produced capacity and cost analyses for battery storage of solar energy when private residences go off the mainstream power grid. As we await the results of this competition, a group of senior and junior participants is contemplating participation in the Math Modeling Challenge sponsored by MathWorks and the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics in late February.

America Saves Week is Feb. 21-25. This year’s theme is “Building Financial Resilience” (americasavesweek.org). East students can improve their financial know-how by taking specific math, social studies, business, and family and consumer science courses. High school students with Summit Credit Union branches in their buildings (like East) have the opportunity to participate in Project Teen Money each year. Visit summitcreditunion.com/project-teen-money/videos to watch short videos made by students about spending, saving and giving.

National Engineers Week is Feb. 20-26. East’s Engineering Club is always looking for new members. This year we have hosted virtual visits from Madison College Engineering Transfer Program, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, UW-Madison Biomedical Engineering Department, and Engineers Without Borders. We have completed some engineering design challenges and will be working through the Beats Unlocked Computer Programming mini-course during our spring semester. Contact Ms. Chin for more information.

Volleyball is the setting, equity for the score!

By Patty Witte
Madison Starlings

Madison Starlings Volleyball Club is a local group working to improve access to club volleyball regardless of income. We are a local program under Starlings Volleyball USA. Club volleyball is an opportunity for youth to play outside the school season. The 2021-22 season is already under way, but youth are welcome to join our open gyms. For more information, email madisonsstarlings@gmail.com.

Do you love volleyball? Girls ages 12-18 and boys ages 12-15 are welcome to try out. Tryouts for 2022-23 will be in October for middle school students and November for high school students. Specific dates will be listed on our website as fall approaches.

Adult volunteers are needed to help us year-round. Our website is starlings.org/Madison, where you can find more information about our club.

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Financial Advisor
The Constellation Building
16 N. Livingston Street
Madison, WI 53703
608-250-4968

Kevin M. Faulkner
Financial Advisor
301 N. Sherman Ave.
Suite 200
Madison, WI 53704
608-241-4796

Giving back to our Northside neighbors

In 2021, Ascendium employees spent more than 4,000 hours volunteering in our community. This year, we want to help even more.

If you know of a nonprofit in need of occasional volunteers, contact us at ascendiumcares@ascendiumeducation.org.
ascendiumeducation.org

Northside News • February/March 2022 • Page 13
A rainbow of birds found in our community

By Paul Noeldner
Friends of Urban Nature

The friends and the birds we see every day come in a rainbow of colors. Because they are familiar to us, we sometimes forget how beautiful and special they are. The common everyday Wisconsin birds we see and enjoy in our backyards, school grounds, neighborhoods and parks are just as colorful as birds anywhere in the world, even in winter. You don’t have to travel to Africa or Europe or South America or Asia to find special people and special birds. Some of them are right here.

Wisconsin’s Rainbow of Birds includes big, foot-long, blue, black and white Blue Jays whose jaunty head crest and noisy “jay jay jay” calls welcome us outdoors on cold bright winter days. Their Latin name “cyanocitta cristata” comes from Greek words meaning dark blue jay with a crest.

A slightly smaller but equally bright-colored neighborhood bird with a flashy head crest and jaunty “cheerio” call is the Northern Cardinal. Female cardinals have a beautiful orange tinge that glows in sunlight. The males are a striking bright red that gave them their name because they reminded people of Catholic Church leaders called cardinals, who traditionally wear bright red robes.

Today our common neighborhood Blue Jays and Cardinals give their names to major sports teams that wear their colors. The Rainbow of Birds around us in winter also includes yellow (Goldfinch), black (American Crow), white (Tundra Swan), black and white (Black-capped Chickadee), pink (House Finch) and tan (Cedar Waxwing). There is an old adage that says, “birds of a feather flock together.” However, much like people, birds often do better when they flock together with birds of different colors to help alert each other to danger and to help find and share food sources. These birds remind us that people see every day come in all colors too, and they are all beautiful if we stop to look, listen and learn about what makes them special and share in helping each other.

Learn more about all these birds visit AllAboutBirds.org and search for their names to find fun facts about them. Check out the Northside News Calendar and join free Bird and Nature Adventures to see some of these brightly colored Wisconsin winter birds for yourself.

Will the City continued from page 1

a trail from Olbrich Park all the way up to Cherokee Marsh, with stopping off points along the way to visit the various parks and all that they offer — wonderful assortment of natural features, cultural explorations at Indigenous mound sites, and a variety of things to do.

A natural area park has fewer inputs, like mowing and pesticides; and the active Friends group, in collaboration with area conservation groups and neighbors, are already improving the habitat and doing restoration work with the permission of Kraft Heinz. What better way to get area children out and into nature than making it accessible, safe, welcoming and nearby?

At the April 26, 2021, Plan Commission meeting on proactive zoning for the Oscar Mayer area, it was decided that the area designated in the plan as green space be considered as being zoned conservancy natural area, rather than park and recreation.

The exact wording from the meeting minutes states “That the Hartmeyer property be zoned CN (Conservancy) instead of PR (Parks and Recreation) but recognizing that, given the planned amount of housing in the area, some of that land may be needed for active recreation, which may require some PR zoning. There was also support for just officially mapping the future park without addressing the zoning until later.”

In April 2021, the Suter family purchased a half-acre portion of the Roth Street property right behind Kavanagh’s Esquire Club and intends to redevelop the Fox Water building and eventually have a construction business and apartment in that location. This is a portion of the land that was designated in the OMSAP as future conservation and natural area for public good.

Will the city keep its commitment to creating a 16-acre conservation natural area at the Roth Street wetland or will it let the opportunity for a beautiful legacy park slip away, one half-acre at a time? When discussing the wetland at Roth Street, the Sheldon Neighborhood Association Co-Chairperson Jennifer (Jeff) Argelander is clear that “the neighborhood values the wetland natural area and strongly supports protecting it as a legacy resource in the community, for now and into the future.”

This item will be up for a vote for rezoning at the Feb 7 Plan Commission meeting, Legistar #66379.

Call, text, or email today!
ComputerRepairMadison.net

Northern Cardinal

“Bring Back The Spring”
Crane Spotting Contest

Nature starts hinting at warmer weather in the late winter and early spring. Red buds of maple trees seem to swell and show more brightly. Iceicles on the sunny side of the house drip and trickle as a little snow melts from the roof. Cranes, although they look too sophisticated and delicate to muck around in the snow, can appear before the actual Spring Equinox.

To enter the Northside News “Bring Back the Spring Crane Spotting Contest,” mail your entry to: Northside News, 1219 N. Sherman Ave., Madison, WI 53704; or email your entry to office@northsideplanningcouncil.org.

Contest starts February 1, 2022 and ends March 21, 2022.

Warner Park enthusiast and Master Naturalist, Kathlean Wolf, will announce the date sandhill cranes are spotted at Warner Park. Only one entry per person. If multiple entries are correct, the winners will be selected by a drawing.

Prizes have been donated by:
Jung Garden Center, 1313 Northport Drive
Kingdom Restaurant, 1865 Northport Drive
Enrique’s Market, 1417 Northport Drive

Winners will be announced in the April/May issue of the Northside News.

Entry Form: Warner Park Crane Spotting Contest

Your Name: Phone or Email:

Date you expect first crane is spotted: Mailing address (optional)

Comments?

Mail this form to:
Northside News, 1219 N. Sherman Ave., Madison, WI 53704
or Email to:
oﬃce@northsideplanningcouncil.org.
2021 PFAS Water Quality Test Results

All active wells meet drinking water standards. Well 15 to remain offline indefinitely.

By Marcus Pearson
Madison Water Utility

Madison Water Utility continues its proactive approach to PFAS testing. The utility expanded PFAS testing in 2019 to include a wider spectrum of PFAS chemicals. These PFAS tests were among the 25,350 total tests conducted by the utility in 2021 to ensure drinking water safety. The latest results indicate that at least some PFAS are present in Madison wells. However, all 21 active wells meet PFAS water standards recommended by the EPA, Wisconsin DHS for additional PFAS compounds. PFAS, or Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, are a class of thousands of pervasive, human-made chemicals found in air, soil, lakes and ground-water, and other water bodies like Starkweather Creek. They are responsible for the non-stick, stain-resistant and fire retardant properties of cookware, clothing, fabrics, food packaging and foams. Exposure to PFAS is inevitable, regardless of locale, but only a small portion of human exposure comes from drinking water; most derive from sources like food packaging and commercially treated products that make PFAS non-stick or stain-water repellent. Lifetime exposure to high PFAS levels, particularly consumption of locally caught contaminated fish, are believed to be harmful to humans. PFAS were first found at Well 15, located on East Washington Avenue, in 2017. Amid community concerns about PFAS chemicals, the utility shut down the well in March 2019. Well 15 is an important water supply source for Madison Water Utility and a critical strategic asset. Possible treatment options are being explored for PFAS removal at the well. The utility fully commits to inform and engage the public, especially those residing in the Well 15 service area, before any decision to place the well back in service is made. The utility acknowledges the critical role of community advocacy played by organizations such as Madison Environmental Justice, neighborhood associations (Carpenter-Ridgeway, Klenk Park/Emerson East, Glendale and Greater Sandburg), and other interested and involved citizens. Such advocacy informs public policy decisions and promotes better outcomes. Continued conservation by utility customers has made it feasible, in the short term, to meet demand for additional water and fire protection needs in the area with Well 15 currently offline. 2021 Water Quality Testing Results and PFAS elf table 2021.pdf.

2021 PFAS Water Quality Test Results

include a wider spectrum of PFAS chemicals. These PFAS tests were among the 25,350 total tests conducted by the utility in 2021 to ensure drinking water safety. The latest results indicate that at least some PFAS are present in Madison wells. However, all 21 active wells meet PFAS water standards recommended by the EPA, Wisconsin DHS for additional PFAS compounds. PFAS, or Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, are a class of thousands of pervasive, human-made chemicals found in air, soil, lakes and ground-water, and other water bodies like Starkweather Creek. They are responsible for the non-stick, stain-resistant and fire retardant properties of cookware, clothing, fabrics, food packaging and foams. Exposure to PFAS is inevitable, regardless of locale, but only a small portion of human exposure comes from drinking water; most derive from sources like food packaging and commercially treated products that make PFAS non-stick or stain-water repellent. Lifetime exposure to high PFAS levels, particularly consumption of locally caught contaminated fish, are believed to be harmful to humans.

By Dan Tortorice

There certainly is no better sledding hill in Madison than the big lawn area of Lake View Hill Park right in the middle of the Northside. If you throw in the view across Lake Mendota, it becomes a spectacular winter sports destination.

The Friends of Lake View Hill Park are pleased to announce a family sledding event on Saturday, Feb. 12, from 9 am-12 pm at Lake View Hill Park, 1202 Northport Drive.

In Lake View Hill Park the sledding comes with a great view.

Family sledding event Feb. 12 in Lake View Hill Park

By Dan Tortorice
Friends of Lake View Hill Park

This fun activity is co-sponsored by Healthy Parks Healthy You in partnership with Dean Health Plan, Dane County Parks and the Foundation for Dane County Parks. It’s part of our national observance of February being Heart Health Awareness Month.

In addition to sledding, we will have free refreshments and healthy treats, information on healthy living, and a chance to win prizes. Pack up the family and join us for some exciting winter fun.

Raemisch Farm continued from page 1

stated, “The Raemisch Farm Work Group favors housing, but not in an unsafe location. We won’t know the true noise level at Raemisch Farm until the F-35s get here. Why not leave everything west of the 65-decibel contour in Agriculture zoning until 2027?”

The Oscar Mayer Special Area Plan recommends the area near the Hooper Corporation and Packers Avenue as a food corridor. A food network could be anchored in the Public Market to the south, including FEED Kitchens, area restaurants and markets. Troy Gardens, Northside Farmers Market, the Northside Business Association and food providers, like Raemisch Farm, owned by Groundswell. The farm is on a bus route, which is of interest to several Hmong growers who do not drive. Madison could host one of the country’s largest urban farms. A Northside network related to food and locally grown products is an idea worth considering.

Share your ideas and comments with Alder Charles Myadze at District18@cityofmadison.com and Alder Syed Abbas at District12@cityofmadison.com.

Northside county board continued from page 1

District 18. He has also gained more eastside territory.

“The district always went out to the interstate, but now it is clustered around the interstate, I have East Town Mall and Walmart and Reinwald Park,” he said.

A major change facing Palm is that, due to a last-minute amendment, he will have to move to stay in his district. “We are going to sell our house and move. I am running a race in the interim,” Palm said. “The ward I was in is now in District 6.”

Palm works for the Madison School District, where he is registrar for Capital High School. He has served on the county board since his appointment by December 2020. Palm serves on the Health and Human Needs Committee and on the Area Agency on Aging. He also is working to make sure the county supervisor who represents the airport area should be a required position on the Airport Commission.

Palm, who formerly served on the Madison Common Council, can be reached at Palm.Larry@countyofdane.com or at Ritt.Michele@countyofdane.com.

District 18 Supervisor Michele Ritt has represented that Northside area since 2014. A special education teacher in the Westside School District, she is chair of the Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and serves on the Food Council. Ritt formerly represented the Cherokee area, which is now in District 21, and gained Maple Bluff in the re-definition of the wards. She can be reached at Ritt.Michele@countyofdane.com or 608-335-6827.
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Valentine’s Day gifts of food that feed the soul

By Lauri Lee
Northside News

Think outside the box this Valentine’s Day to find treats beyond the ordinary to give to friends and loved ones.

Far Breton Bakery

If you haven’t discovered Far Breton Bakery (www.farbretonbakery.com), owned by Marie-Arzel Young, it’s time you did. She operates a one-of-a-kind bakery business specializing in hand-crafted artisan all-butter creations. All baked goods are made from scratch with organic flour and rolled by hand.

Located at FEED Kitchens, 1219 N. Sherman Ave., Young is also a regular vendor at the Northside Farmers Market.

Young started Far Breton Bakery in 2019. She has worked as a professional pastry chef since 2000 at several popular restaurants, including the Owens of Brittany, L’Usule, Harvest and Samba Brazilian Grill. Young’s pastries have also been influenced by her time spent during summers with her mother’s family in the Noirmoutier and Aix-en-Provence regions of France.

Young offers FEED Kitchen Fridays from 8 am–noon; Burrows Road Sunday from 8 am–noon; Northside Farmers Market from May to October.

Marie-Arzel Young, Far Breton Bakery

Please pass the hot sauce

Hot sauce is another popular choice when remembering someone for Valentine’s Day.

Mandy’s Mood Foods

Mandy Shipler, owner of Mandy’s Mood Foods (www.mandyasmoodfoods.com), has always loved cooking and baking. Her earliest memories were of her in the kitchen with her grandma learning from her years of experience in cooking.

“I like all kinds of food but spicy foods are one of my favorites!” said Shipler. “I always put hot sauce on everything: tacos, chicken, pizza, eggs, Bloody Mary’s. You name it, I like it with hot sauce. Over the years, I started to become a bit of a connoisseur. I figured out what I liked and was frustrated that nothing on the market lived up to my culinary standards. Rather than complaining, or settling for mediocre run of the mill hot sauce, I started making my own. I had no plans to share it (outside of my home, that is) but everyone who tried it loved it.

Once I realized I was onto something, I got myself a spot at the FEED Kitchens, and spent over a year perfecting my recipe. All of my Mandy Shipler, Mandy’s Mood Foods ingredients are high quality and I use as many local ingredients as possible. When I say my hot sauce is handmade, I mean it every step of the way. I am a one person show and have enjoyed the long hours and all the steps to watch this dream come to life.

I hope that you enjoy using my hot sauce as much as I enjoy making it. Always remember, life should never be bland. So pass the hot sauce!

Cookie Van Campaign is close to goal

By Lauri Lee
Northside News

We are close to our Cookie Van Campaign goal on Go Fund Me and need just $3,000 more to be able to purchase a replacement vehicle.

The FEED Bakery program has been a success and the funding from the 2006 van donated to them three years ago. The engine works like a top, but the electrical system is shot. Plus, the delivery staff has to avoid being hit by the lift gate because of failing hydraulics. The body is crumpled like one of the cookies being delivered around the community.

The sale of bakery items pays to put more unemployed and underemployed students into the training program, but nothing is left to fund a replacement vehicle.

Please go https://gofund.me/472accb or contact Chris Brockel, manager@feedkitchens.org.
Madison Public Library is committed to the health and safety of staff and the public and is working closely with the City of Madison and Public Health Madison & Dane County to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We follow all current Public Health orders.

Expanded hours
Lakeview’s hours are Monday–Friday, 10 am–8 pm; Saturday, 9 am–5 pm; and Sunday, 1–5 pm. See all library hours at madpl.org/locations.

Lakeview news
Lakeview Library is excited to welcome the newest member of our team, Teen Services Librarian Rachel Lavender. Rachel comes to us with a diverse library background and an enthusiasm for programming for Northside teens.

Have you seen the library’s sandhill crane sculpture, made of local wood and created by local artisans John and Joy Newman? The life-sized sandhill crane carving was commissioned by the Friends of Lake View Park Hill in 2007, won in an auction and donated to the library by Adeline Becker. John Newman recently passed away, but his enthusiasm for art, nature and education continues to inspire others.

UPCOMING EVENTS

All events are at Lakeview Library unless otherwise indicated. Check madisonpubliclibrary.org for the most up to date information on programs and services.

Dane CORE 2.0 Rental Assistance
Tuesdays, Feb. 1–March 29, 1–5 pm
Are you behind on your rent because of the pandemic, either directly or indirectly? You are not alone. Many people are experiencing financial hardship right now. The African Center for Community Development will be at Lakeview Library on Tuesdays to help individuals and families who owe back rent apply for Dane CORE assistance. Call the African Center for Community Development at 608-957-5623 or 608-514-9321 to schedule an appointment.

DANEnet Free Tech Repair
Thursdays, Feb. 3–March 31, 2–4 pm
Having trouble with your digital device? DANEnet technicians are available at Lakeview Library to assist you with your technology repair needs for free. Technicians can look at laptops, desktop computers, phones and tablets, and can help with viruses, data recovery, slow computers, app issues, password resets and more. No appointment is needed. Walk-ins only, first come, first served.

Digital Equity Project events are made possible through the partnership of Madison Public Library and DANEnet, thanks to funding by the MGE Foundation and the AT&T Foundation.

We Read and Create!
Thursdays, Feb. 3–March 31, 3:30–5:30 pm
Drop-in at Lakeview Library for all sorts of creative projects and activities for families, groups and all ages.

Online Spanish Literature Group
First and Third Thursdays, Feb. 3 and 17, March 3 and 17, 1–3 pm
Presented by University League en asociación con la Biblioteca Sequoya. Los libros y las discusiones son completamente in Spanish. Please ask about obtaining a book at the “Ask Here” desk at Sequoya Library.

All Ages Read and Play
Mondays, Feb. 7–March 14, 10:30–11:30 am
Join us for this special story time — books, songs and play for children ages 5 and under. Spending time together and reading aloud with young children promotes healthy brain development, improves language and listening skills, and helps build a lifelong love of reading. Library programs are always free. Siblings and childcare groups are welcome.

Cooking with Chef Lily
Tuesdays, Feb. 8 and 22, 4:30–5:30 pm
Saturdays, Feb. 12 and 19, 1:30–2:30 pm
Join The Kids Chef, Lily Klifton, for a series of cooking demonstrations for children and families. Participants will learn about different foods, where they come from, how to follow recipes, and how to use a variety of kitchen tools. Due to COVID precautions, this will be a hands-off program, but participants will get to take home a meal to enjoy. Food generously provided by Willy St. Co-op North.

Women in Jazz (Online)
Tuesday, March 22, 7–8 pm
In this virtual presentation, flautist and lecturer Galen Abur-Razzaq highlights the influence of women on the evolution of jazz, their significant contributions to the art form, and their struggles, both professional and personal. Register to attend the event via Zoom and a link will be sent to you. Register at madpl.org/calendar or call 608-246-4547. Sponsored by the Center for the Humanities.

Women in Jazz (Online)
Wednesday, Feb. 2–March 30, 10 am–12 pm
Attention word lovers. Exercise your brain by playing Scrabble with other adults.

Chess at the Library
Second and Fourth Mondays, Feb. 14 and 28, March 14 and 28, 6–9 pm
All ages and skill levels are welcome.

Book Discussions
Read the book and join the discussion. New members are always welcome.

Evening Book Discussion
First Thursdays, 6:30–8 pm
Second and Fourth Mondays, Feb. 14 and 28, March 14 and 28, 6–9 pm
All ages and skill levels are welcome.

Women in Jazz
(Online)
March 3: “A Confederacy of Dances” by John Kennedy Tole
March 10: “Asymmetry” by Lisa Halliday
March 24: “The Remains of the Day” by Kazuo Ishiguro

Daytime Book Discussion
Second Thursdays, 12–1 pm
Feb. 10: “Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup” by John Carreyrou
March 10: “Asymmetry” by Lisa Halliday

Mystery Book Group Discussion
Third Thursdays, 5:30–7 pm
Feb. 17: “Redemption Road” by John Hart
March 17: “Tangerine” by Christine Mangan

Telling Fact from “Fake News”: Digital Literacy Training for Adults
Thursday, Feb. 10, 1–2:30 pm

Has a friend or family member ever shared a news article with you that turned out to be “fake news”? Have you ever passed along information only to later learn that it was misinformation? It’s challenging to navigate all the information we encounter daily. This training, led by educator and researcher Sara Thomas, will empower participants to be active consumers of digital content in their daily lives. Register for the program to receive the link. Register at madpl.org/calendar or call 608-246-4547. Sponsored by the Center for the Humanities.

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Joy Newman with sandhill crane sculpture at Lakeview Library

Lakeview Branch Library
246-4547
we have our annual shift change. Late for MPD. It is the time of the year when myself will be grateful for both. celebrating longer days and the promise etal issues?

smoking has been linked to musculoskel-

Over the years, it’s no surprise that our right from the moment we learn to walk. males.

females generally have wider hips than

lems? One of the reasons for this is that women than men develop knee prob-

5. Overexertion. While exercise is good for our bodies, it can at times cause misalignments in the knees themselves or in the joints surrounding the knees. If there is misalignment in the hips or pel-

2. Tobacco use. Did you know that smoking has been linked to musculoskel-

etal issues?

4. Weight. Carrying excessive weight can have a major impact on your knees. One pound off the body equals four pounds of pressure off the knees. In a 2005 study published in the Arthritis and Rheumatology journal, research-

our planet warms, the threat from fleas and ticks continues even dur-

four pounds of pressure taken off the knees. That means losing just five pounds will take 20 pounds of pressure off your knees. Increase that to 10 pounds, which feels achievable to most people, and you’ve just removed a full 40 pounds of pres-

5. Overexertion. While exercise is good for our bodies, it can at times cause misalignments in the knees themselves or in the joints surrounding the knees. If there is misalignment in the hips or pelvis, ankles and feet, the lack of proper joint movement in those areas can cause pain in the knees. Gentle chiropractic ad-

justments to the knees or other involved joints can get you out of pain and put you back on the road to recovery.

When temperatures become warmer in the winter and vibration stirs their cocoons, adult fleas emerge. When the temperature is above freezing, they can become active and find their way onto your pet and into your home. Ticks look for a warm host during their most active months but are always searching for a blood meal. Ticks are commonly found in tall grass, trees and brush piles. Wildlife transport them into urban yards and parks. Here they pose a risk for your pets and for you. Adult ticks and their offspring will stay dormant in dark moist spots like leaf piles until tem-

Prevention is much better and less ex-

pensive than managing an infestation. Think of the winter months as a time of vulnerability for these pests. Thorough house cleaning and continuing your pets’ flea and tick medication will help you keep the fleas and ticks from bugging you and your pets.

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**Team City Awards**
The City of Madison is fortunate to have a talented and dedicated workforce, and we recognize that with the Team City Awards bi-monthly. Since early 2020, 132 outstanding individuals and 11 teams representing every city division have received #TeamCity awards. I’m proud every day to work with such an amazing group of people.

We recently celebrated another 10 outstanding employees nominated by their coworkers and residents. We honored one of our Fleet service technicians for the work she does, our Parks Assistant Superintendent who put in countless hours working with the folks who camped out at Reindahl Park, a city architect who managed the Olbrich Gardens expansion, and an invisible facility maintenance worker at Warner Park Community Recreation Center.

Additionally, for the first time ever, we officially recognized a number of city employees who went above and beyond with their customer service in 2021. As we look back at 2021, it is worth recognizing the great customer service that our city employees provide. These employees have displayed great attitude, knowledge, and willingness to assist. In most scenarios, these employees are the first contact residents have with their corresponding department and thus become the face of the department.

The last nearly two years have been especially challenging to any first-contact employee. Everyone is COVID-weary, and at times, our frustrations come out in-person or on the phone, whether the employee we are talking to is responsible for our frustrations or not. These employees’ jobs are even more challenging as they work to stay calm and assure a pleasant experience for anyone working with the city. Because of their great qualities, residents have a more positive experience when interacting with the city.

Many residents have contacted me about the proposed Raemisch Farm Development. On January 11, I convened a virtual neighborhood meeting so that residents could learn more about the project. At the meeting, a few loud voices — thank you for your passion! — were raised against this proposal. Meanwhile, those who support the plan have been more low key. As the alder for all the people in the 18th district, my job is to listen and to lead.

The interests of working people, people of color, and the vast majority of residents of the Northside will be best served by continuing to work with Green Street, the developer, to make this project the best it can be.

Working together we can achieve a win-win. Let’s look at the facts.

Green Street’s proposal contains positive environmental elements. They have agreed to preserve more than eight acres of wetlands. They will donate 3.3 acres of forest to Lakeview School. They will designate 1.5 acres as a neighborhood common area.

The proposal also provides much-needed affordable housing. The plan calls for a mix of single-family homes, townhomes and apartments. The apartments will include both market rate and workforce units with rents affordable for those earning $55,950, 80% of the average median income in Madison. No homes will be built on the eastern portion of the property, where noise levels will be too loud for residential development.

I reject false choices. We can have development and protect the environment. We can disagree and not be disagreeable. We can develop the Raemisch Farm parcel and provide affordable, healthy housing while sustaining the natural resources that make this parcel unique.

Let’s work together respectfully and honestly to do what’s best for all. That is my commitment. That is what you elected me to do.

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*Dan County Executive*

County will soon hit 100% renewable electricity. We are only a few weeks into the year, but Dane County’s effort to embrace clean, renewable energy is already set to exceed any COVID-19. Please make sure you are up-to-date on your vaccines and wearing your mask in public. 

We continue to have significant energy consumption despite the ongoing pandemic. The new installation — combining nine-megawatt solar projects at the Dane County Regional Airport and other solar facilities across the county — will push us to our goal of 100% renewable electricity by 2024. This milestone has been years in the making and will mark significant progress in our ongoing effort to combat climate change. 

If we want to move the dial on the climate crisis, this kind of work cannot wait decades or it will prove too late. We all have a responsibility to act now, and that’s what Dane County government is doing. A more sustainable future is within our reach, and I encourage everyone in our community to continue to take bold action. 

Looking back to move forward

Over one year ago, I was sworn in as the new state senator for the 16th Senate District. Since that day, it has been a pleasure to serve you all and represent our shared values in the Capitol. While there is no playbook or guide to being a successful senator, in the first year alone, we have accomplished so much. 

In 2021, I was proud to: introduce 111 bills, including legislation to legalize cannabis, promote economic security, protect our water and natural spaces, support survivors of sexual violence, and more; attend 15 legislative floor sessions; participate in 21 committee meetings; host 26 community listening sessions; hold 28 meetings with local elected leaders; respond to over 3,200 direct constituent contacts; organize 31 meetings with local businesses; send 37 e-newsletters; and much more.

I look back on 2021 and see many successes, but I won’t stop there. In 2022 I hope to further this path by continuing to engage with ordinary folks across the district. I look forward to more meetings with my neighbors in the 16th senate district to engage with the most important issues facing our community. I will always keep you informed of what is happening at the state capitol. As your voice in the state senate, I want to ensure that you know the legislation being brought forward and where I stand on these policies. 

Moving forward, I pledge to advocate for a progressive agenda for Wisconsin, work together with the majority party when I can, and push back against legislation that does not reflect the will of the people. 

Here’s to a safe, healthy and peace-ful 2022. While the past two years have brought challenges that none of us could have imagined, I am hopeful we will move forward together toward brighter days.

**Larry Palm**

*District 12 Supervisor*

Welcome to winter! I hope everyone has been bundling up protected from the weather and from the continued onslaught of COVID-19. Please make sure you are up-to-date on your vaccines and wearing your mask in public. 

In my previous column, I indicated that the redistricting process has modi-fied District 12 — removing Maple Palm and surrounding areas from District 12. This was adopted by the full County Board Supervisor with me above), Dane County Sheriff Larry is endorsed by State Assembly Representative-Elect and County Board Supervisor Michele Ritt.Just in case you need a refresher, I am happy to provide one on the creation of the County Board member with the majority of the airport would be on the commission. This would not only improve communication from the commission, but I believe would be essential to bring the voice of the community residents to the deci-sions of the commission. 

There continues to be significant environmental issues at the airport, such as PFAS, and continuing and poten-tially changing impacts, such as noise abatement, that will need to be re-presented. I look forward to the full County Board taking up OA-031 early in 2022. 

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns or comments about Dane County and our various activities. You can reach me at palm.larry@countyofdane.com. 

**Michele Ritt**

*District 18 Supervisor*

In 2020 the Dane County Board cre-ated the Broadband Task Force with Resolution 415. This group has been meeting since the summer of 2021. The resolution outlines the work the group will do over the year, collecting data, ex-ploiting funding mechanisms, and part-nering with stakeholders to learn where broadband access exists and also where it does not exist. 

The work will lead to recommenda-tions presented to the full county board regarding the county’s role in facilitating the expansion of broadband to our resi-dents. The goal is to improve broadband access in Dane County. 

The Task Force is counting on commu-nity members to help with data. Accurate maps showing internet speeds are often required when requesting grant money that would help to expand and improve broadband access. Data from throughout the county is needed for this to happen. 

Please consider completing this speed test (madisonregion.org/industry-and-innovation/broadband) and including your voice in this process. It’s easy to do and only takes a couple of minutes to com-plete. Feel free to share this information with your friends, family and social me-dia world. 

The speed test link is from the Madison Region Economic Partnership. They are also working to improve broadband in-frastucture and identify areas that are underserved and will then share the data with the Dane County Task Force. 

Now, more than ever, everyone needs access to broadband for work, school and meetings. For many of us, connec-tion through Zoom is our safest option. 

Thank you in advance for participating and sharing this information with your friends and on social media. 

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions. I can be reached at 608-335-6827 or ritt.michele@ countyofdane.com. Stay well.

**Samba Baldeh**

*State Representative*

The first time I learned about the high cost of making a phone call from a jail, I didn’t believe it. How can a jail charge $5 for a five-minute call, especially for someone who likely cannot afford bail and is waiting for a trial for aivable? After all, don’t we want folks in jail to keep their family relationships intact? Isn’t it good for a child who is miss-ing their mom or dad to stay in touch? Being unable to make a phone call dur-ing the pandemic is especially difficult when in-person visits may be prohibited or curtailed. 

Because few inmates have the money to pay these high charges, they rely on family members to “buy minutes.” The families who may have just lost their breadwinner — buy phone-time from companies that have contracts with the county sheriff departments. The companies then “kick-back” 50–70% of all the revenue to the county. More expensive charges mean more money for the department. 

I believe this is predatory behavior that takes advantage of the inmates’ families who are often unable to pay these charges. 

To address this problem, I introduced a bill this month that would require coun-ties to charge no more than the cost of a call outside the jail. Many states have enacted or implemented similar laws. I will keep you informed of its pro-gress over the next few months. 

Note: The Dane County Sheriff has among the lowest phone rates in the state and has pledged to reduce them to zero, if possible. The state prison system, as well, has reduced its charges to about five cents per minute.
Getting older adults connected

Older adults are one of the largest demographics without access to broadband service. Nationwide nearly 22 million (about 42% of American older adults aged 65 and older) do not have broadband access at home, compared to about 25% for adults aged 18-64. One of the biggest challenges for NewBridge staff during the pandemic is keeping older adults connected. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted our systems for social support, communications and health care, highlighting how home-based internet and digital skills are an essential lifeline for older adults during public health emergencies and everyday life.

NewBridge, in collaboration with UW Credit Union, DANEnet and EPIC, has been providing free computers and technology assistance to low-income older adults during COVID. In 2021 NewBridge distributed over 100 computers, with software installed, to low-income older adults in the Madison area. We also provided instruction on how to use a computer. This allows them to participate in our virtual programs, set up an email address to communicate with family and friends, and access essential resources, such as telehealth services. We also spend time educating older adults about the value of being connected. In 2022 we hope to distribute an additional 150+ computers.

While the resources available to provide computers for older adults seem to be plentiful, thanks to our existing partnerships, finding affordable internet fees is another matter. A majority of the older adults served by NewBridge are on fixed incomes and cannot afford standard monthly internet fees. We can only provide financial support to cover a year of internet service for a limited number of people. This has greatly impacted the number of older adults who are connected virtually.

For more information about the NewBridge computer distribution program, please contact Deenah Givens at 608-512-0000 ext. 3002.

What is needed to close the connectivity gap?

• Communities, municipalities, and non-profit groups must work together with broadband providers and government agencies to ensure that services are extended into homes and residential care facilities.
• Provide adequate funding to address the lack of broadband access for all citizens, including older adults. Funding is needed to build an infrastructure for providing affordable, reliable internet service across the state and to provide the devices needed to use the service when available.
• Increase funding to expand the Lifeline telephone assistance program and provide additional support for broadband service to help overcome the cost barriers to broadband adoption.
• Educational materials and outreach efforts are needed to help older adults better understand the value of being connected. These efforts must address both low-cost and market-rate options to reach a diverse audience of older adults.
• Training programs are needed to assist older adults in learning how to use various technology devices and software so older adults can effectively utilize internet services. They will be able to access needed services, obtain essential resources, and maintain essential connections with family members and friends, services providers and their communities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Artful Aging (in person): Wednesdays, Feb. 2-March 23, 1–3 pm. Class size is limited to 10 so we can practice social distancing.

Wellness Warriors Support Group (Zoom): “We get by with a little help from our friends.” Wednesdays, Feb. 9-March 23, 3–4:15 pm.

Let’s Cook Together (Zoom): Wednesdays, Jan. 26-March 2, 4–5:30 pm.

Heart Health Presentation (Zoom): Thursday, Feb. 24, 10–11 am.

Bone Health Presentation (in person or Zoom at Goodman Community Center): Tuesday, Feb. 8, 1–2 pm.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Bingo (in person and Zoom): Every Friday in person, 10:15–11:15 am; second and fourth Fridays via Zoom, 1–3 pm.

Book Club (Zoom): First Wednesday of each month at 10 am.


Chair Yoga with Kim (in person): Thursdays, 10:30–11:30 am.

Easy Yoga Plus Classes with Ellen Millar (Zoom): Wednesdays and Fridays, 10–11 am.

Mah Jong (in person): Thursdays, 1–3 pm.


Sewing Club (in person): First and Third Thursday of each month, 9 am–12 pm.
Happy New Year!

As we ring in the New Year, I hope you enjoyed the holiday season with your loved ones. By the time this article publishes, I hope we will have navigated through the Omicron variant with some light at the end of the tunnel for the pandemic. WPCRC staff have been working hard to ensure the facility is safe for public access during these unprecedented times.

With 2021 in the books, I want to share some highlights from an incredible year as we look forward to 2022. The Kids Need Opportunities at Warner (KNOW) program partnership with the Madison Parks Foundation provided 1,075 hours of afterschool and out-of-school time programs and open gyms for 150 Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) teens. Additionally, the WPCRC provided 1,110 hours of adult open gym, providing adults opportunities to stay active and connect with their friends through recreational play.

WPCRC staff displayed an extraordinary commitment to public service in 2021. For their efforts, WPCRC staff was recognized as the North Star Award 2021 High Impact Award recipient for COVID-19 response supporting the temporary men’s shelter and restoration for public use. Additionally, WPCRC Maintenance Mechanic Chad Norquist received an individual North Star Award and was selected by Mayor Sanya Rhodes-Conway to receive a #TeamCity Award on January 5, 2022. The #TeamCity Awards recognize City of Madison employees who go above and beyond the call of duty and embody the city’s mission, vision and values.

The WPCRC now offers Silver & Fit and Active & Fit memberships, providing eligible members access to the exercise room at no cost by reimbursing qualified health plans. Please call 608-245-3669 to see if your health plan is eligible for membership.

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Pickleball Courts
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