



# Northside News

Vol. 29, No. 3, Issue 171

www.northsidenews.org

December 2023/January 2024

Photo by Anita Weier



Captain Kelly Donahue

## North District police captain to retire at year-end

By Anita Weier  
Northside News

Captain Kelly Donahue, who has headed Madison's North Police District since 2021, will retire at year-end.

"What an honor it has been to be trusted by the community and the Police Department with the lives of so many people. It is one of the greatest honors of my life," she said.

Donahue, who joined the Madison Police Department 26 years ago, said that challenges in recent years have been working through the COVID pandemic and during the fear and anger following the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

"There was fear by the community and the police, and a lack of trust in various communities," she said. "Some were doubting the trustworthiness of police officers. Having dedicated my life to policing with integrity, it was very difficult for me."

Donahue tried to re-engage with the community by continuing Coffee with a Cop sessions at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center and at Oakwood Village East. Cookies with a Cop at Lakeview Library was not a big success, but programs at community centers where neighborhood officers joined people for game nights and movie nights were a hit. Officers also supervised a walking bus to Lakeview School for children who lived too close to ride a school bus.

She encourages officers to humanize police by sharing stories of where and how they grew up and difficulties they encountered along the way.

Donahue also takes pride in focusing on "stratified policing," which is evidence-based. "Through data collection and experiences with officers, we

**Police Captain to retire**  
*continued on page 12*

Photo by Justin Markofski



Example of vegetation overgrowth in shallow Warner lagoon

## Warner Lagoon Water Quality Plan: progress report

By Justin Markofski  
Northside News

Longtime Northside resident Jack Hurst has been on a mission to improve the Warner Lagoon for over 20 years, and many others have joined in his concerns and cause. In fact, a formal city-led restoration process began in February 2016, thanks in part to the prior years of advocacy and awareness raising of Jack and other residents and

constituents wishing to sustain and improve the wonderful resource that Warner Park and Warner Lagoon is here on the Northside.

While slower than hoped for by Northside residents, fishers, activists and environmental groups, an official Warner Lagoon Water Quality Plan report was completed by City Engineering and Parks staff with lots of stakeholder input. This official plan was accepted by the Board of Park

Commissioners in April 2021 and the Board of Public Works in May 2021.

A joint letter of support for the project and appeal for increased dredging of the lagoon was submitted by Wild Warner and the Yahara Fishing Club back in March 2020 and is included in Appendix G of the 184-page report.

That letter of support, signed by

**Warner Lagoon**  
*continued on page 16*

Photo provided by MGE



MGE is upgrading the Northside electric system in 2024

## MGE electric upgrade coming

By Dave Benforado  
Madison Gas and Electric

Madison Gas and Electric (MGE) is upgrading the electric system in the North Madison neighborhood to enhance service reliability and to provide a more

efficient delivery of electricity.

This work will involve replacing aging facilities and installing some new underground electric lines, as well as replacing or removing existing overhead power lines. Due to its scale, the project will be addressed in multiple phases. Work is scheduled to begin in early 2024 and will continue through 2025.

### Why is this work needed?

Storms and wind can cause trees to fall or branches to bend or break into overhead electrical wires. Even small limbs

**MGE**  
*continued on page 12*

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Lauri Lee, Chair; Shaunté McCullum, Co-Chair; Areli Estrada, Vice Chair; Kerri Mallien, Treasurer; Renee Buchanan, Sue Peck and Ruth Schultz



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**The Oct/Nov Winners**  
Carolyn Haswell  
Linda Nicholls

Or, email it to us at office@northsideplanningcouncil.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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1219 N. Sherman Ave.  
Madison, WI 53704

### NORTHSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL

From  
**Justin Markofski**  
NPC Executive Director



Greetings, Northside Neighbors.

I had a fantastic time with so many of you from our Northside community celebrating the tremendous North Star Award recipients this year. What a wonderful evening of positive energy and appreciation. Congratulations once more to the winners, and thanks to all who nominated and came out to recognize community good happening all around us — in schools, community centers, businesses, nonprofits, affinity groups and neighborhood streets.

Reflecting on the evening, I found myself meditating on themes of gratitude and generosity, and how these attitudes and ways of being in the world improve our own health and community at large. What kind of people do we prefer to be around: Thankful or complaining? Generous or stingy? The


answer is obvious, yet how do we apply this to what we bring to those around us?

One thing I appreciate about both gratitude and generosity is we can choose to practice these ways of being no matter what our circumstances and status. While there are so many things we can't control in our individual lives and collective culture, our attitude and choices we make are within our power. And as showcased so well at the North Star Awards, living this way matters. Lives are touched and changed. People are benefited. And it feels good.

There is a lot of need in the world: physical, emotional, mental, relational, spiritual. Life can be very hard, and not everyone gets the same opportunities or start. Yet we all benefit when someone chooses some gesture of generosity toward us. I know I have many times received the generosity of others. We all are refreshed when encountering some heartfelt expression of gratitude. We are more interdependent than we realize. No matter what we have, let's together increase gratitude and generosity on the Northside.

Contact Justin at: 608-444-6640 or director@northsideplanningcouncil.org

From  
**Chris Brockel**  
NPC Food Systems Director



Almost all major holidays around the world revolve around eating special foods together, and for many people, food and the act of preparing foods call up memories from our past. Food represents a defining narrative about us and connects us to our families and our culture.


On one level there's the sense of security of having food at all — and then there's the pleasure we get in indulging in special foods around the holidays. Doing these things amplifies key moments in our lives. Food also plays the role of establishing connections within a family unit. When I was growing up, my mother and grandmother would get together with my five siblings to bake cookies around the holidays. I am not a great baker, but I have tried to carry on this tradition with my children.

It's something that I can use to reconnect myself, and connect my kids, with the past. Even though they're not present with me when I'm baking with my children, it calls to mind and forges a connection with the family of the past and my current family.

Part of the reason food is such an important part of holiday tradition is not just the moment of coming together to eat, but also what happens when you get there. You renew your sense of family and share your activities of the day together. It's those things that we often do over a meal or through the sharing of food or the preparation of food that really helps define what family is.

At FEED Kitchens our family is the 90 vendors and staff who work here. Through the sharing of food and cultural foodways inside the facility, we remind ourselves of the deep connections we have with our work family and community as well as with our blood family, but. It's important that we continue to honor our own foodways and learn to respect and understand those of others. Not just during the holidays, but year-round.

From  
**Lauri Lee**  
NPC Board Chair



I am deeply honored and humbled to have received the Lifetime Achievement award from the NPC board and staff at the North Star Awards (see page 21). The recognition I have received means more to me than words can ever express. Throughout my journey with the Northside Planning Council and the Northside community since 2009, I have never volunteered for the sake of recognition or praise. My motivation has always been to satisfy my inner desire to connect with and be a part of significant work that helps others. This passion has been the driving force behind my involvement in the many things I do.

My work for the Northside community has provided a profound alignment of my passion and profession, allowing me to overcome challenges and contribute to the

growth of our community. Reflecting on my life's journey as a volunteer, which began in high school, I cannot fathom the quality of my life without the act of volunteering. This journey affirms that passion and perseverance can indeed weather any storm, leading to growth and results that can only happen when working together with others to achieve a greater purpose.

As I leave the role of board chair in January, it is my hope to inspire others to step up and take on this vital role. My commitment to the Northside community will persist as I continue my role as Northside News editor. My passion for economic development and business growth will continue as I chair the Northside Economic Development Coalition and stay involved with the Northside Business Association and Dane Buy Local.

In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the NPC board and staff. You're an incredible team and I look forward to continuing my journey of service, fueled by the belief that together, we can continue our impact on the Northside community.



Photo by Krystal Images

NPC Board and Directors from left: Justin Markofski (Executive Director), Kerri Mallian (treasurer), Shaunté McCullum (co-chair), Lauri Lee (chair), Renee Buchanan, Areli Esrada and Chris Brockel (Food Systems Director). Not pictured: Sue Peck and Ruth Schultz.



Office of the Common Council

#### Get Involved in Local Government and Neighborhood Level Work

We encourage all City of Madison residents to get involved in the decision-making processes of their local government. By participating in Common Council meetings, you can have a say in policies, services and developments that directly affect your lives! All council meetings are open to the public to attend in-person or virtually by watching live on Madison City Channel. Visit the common council website for more info or call their office at 608-266-4071 with community input or questions. Let's engage locally.

**The Northside Planning Council is grateful to the 2022 supporters.**

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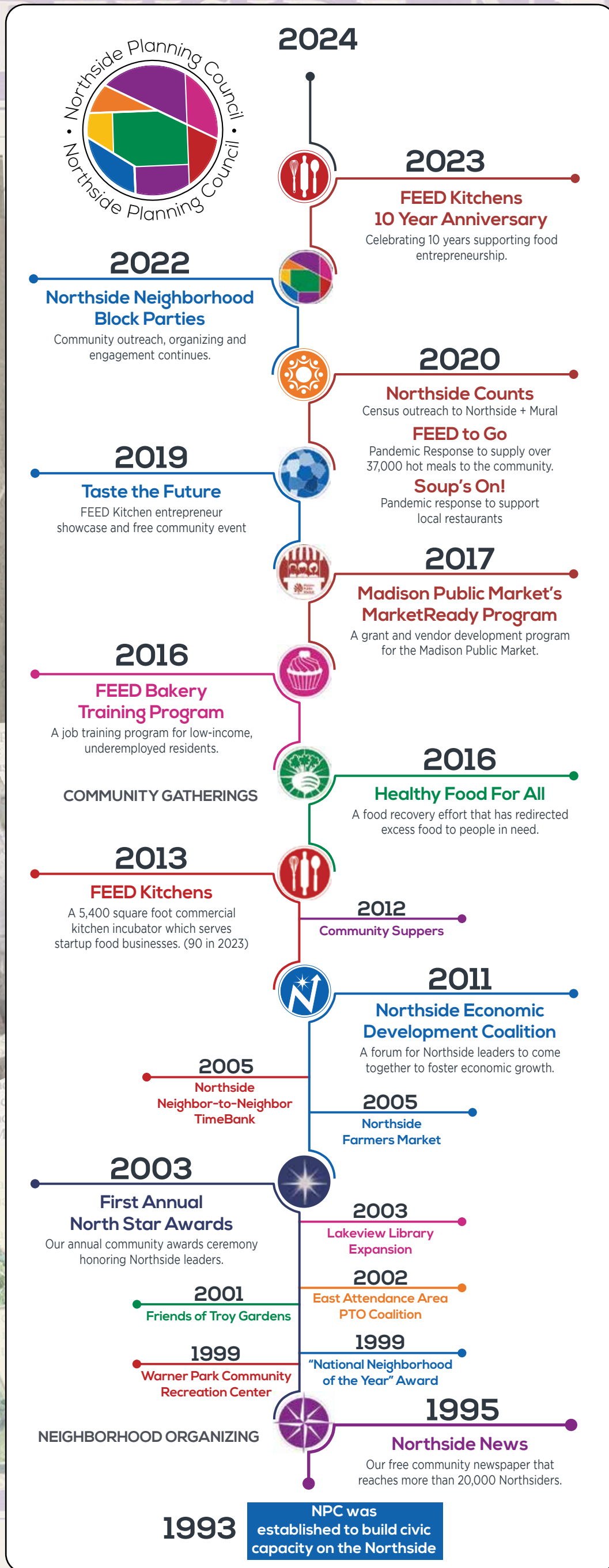
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Dane Buy Local Soup's On!



# NORTHSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

### Northside Planning Council – 30 years and FEED Kitchens – 10 years



**BUSINESS**

From  
**Camille Carter**  
*President*



**Madison Black Chamber**

On Nov. 14, the Madison Black Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to celebrate the graduation of its second cohort of entrepreneurs from the prestigious Incubator & Accelerator program. This milestone marks another successful chapter in the Chamber's mission to empower and uplift Black-owned businesses within the community. Nearly 40 businesses dedicated their time to making their businesses

better! Congratulations to them all! The Chamber is now accepting applications for its 2024 programs. Don't miss the chance to transform your ideas into thriving businesses. Visit [mbccmeansbusiness.com](http://mbccmeansbusiness.com) and apply to participate.

On Dec. 16, the Chamber invites the community to the new Holiday Black Bazaar, which celebrates the creativity, resilience and talent within our community. Shopping at the event contributes to the local economy and helps Black-owned businesses thrive.

The event will be held at the DOXA Event location at 2700 Novation Pkwy from 1–5 pm. This event not only signifies a celebration of creativity and innovation but also highlights the continuous support

the Chamber provides to Black entrepreneurs. Attendees can expect a diverse selection of products and services from local Black-owned businesses, showcasing the entrepreneurial talent thriving in the Madison area. The Chamber will host a short business meeting and members-only shopping period earlier that day. This meeting allows time to reflect on the organization's achievements, share future goals and recognize outstanding community contributions. This gathering will

serve as a platform for networking, collaboration and inspiration. Attendees will have the chance to meet and take photos with Black Santa, adding to the festive spirit of the occasion. Moreover, the Holiday Black Bazaar provides a unique platform to engage with the CEOs of Tomorrow — bright young entrepreneurs whose innovative ideas are reshaping the business landscape.

Learn more about this event and the organization at [madisoblackchamber.com](http://madisoblackchamber.com).



The Madison Black Chamber team and 2023 mayoral candidate Gloria Reyes gathered around recently retired executive director Colin Murray as they celebrated their Dane Buy Local Biz Awards.

From  
**Paula Severson**  
*Executive Director*



**Dane Buy Local**

The holiday season is a time of giving, celebrating, and spreading joy. One of the most meaningful ways to do this is by supporting local businesses. Buying local during the holidays not only adds a unique touch to your gift-giving, but it also brings a plethora of benefits to your community and the environment.

When you buy from local businesses, you are investing in the heart of your community. These businesses are often owned and operated by your neighbors, friends, and family members. The money you spend at local shops circulates within your community, helping to create jobs, boost the local economy, and

improve the overall quality of life.

A study done by Civic Economics last year showed that independent businesses recirculated 60.7% of revenue right back into the local economy versus 30.4% of national chains. The study estimated that a market shift of 10% from chains to independents would retain an estimated \$173 million in the local economy. Imagine what this 10% shift would mean for our neighborhoods, schools, and more!

The holiday season is an ideal time to reflect on the importance of buying local. By choosing to support your local businesses, you become an integral part of a larger ecosystem that benefits your community, the environment, and the economy. Moreover, you'll find unique gifts and create lasting memories that go beyond the exchange of presents. This holiday season, consider the impact of your purchases, and give the gift of local support to make the season truly special.

## Dane Buy Local Biz Awards honored local businesses and nonprofits

By Dane Buy Local

The Eighth Annual Dane Buy Local Biz Awards, which took place Oct. 11 at Holy Wisdom Monastery, was a momentous occasion filled with recognition and celebration. This event shone a spotlight on dedicated business leaders who have been making significant contributions to both the local Dane County community and the Dane Buy Local organization. The winners include:

- Above & Beyond Award**  
REAP Food Group
- Community Supporter Award**  
Abel Contemporary Gallery
- Family Wellbeing Award**  
Mentoring Positives
- Impressive New Member Award**  
Edgerton Hospital and Health Services
- Lemonade Maker Award**  
Ben Jackson Foundation

**Looking for the Helper Award**  
Migrants Restaurant

**Outstanding Innovator Award**  
Dane County Regional Airport

**Partnership Award**  
Metcalf's Market

**Sustainability Award**  
Slipstream Inc

**Under the Radar Award**  
Arcus Communication and Design

**Staff Pick Award**  
Badger Barter

**Rose Molz Local Legacy Award**  
Madison Black Chamber of Commerce

The recently retired executive director, Colin Murray, was accorded a well-deserved special recognition award, a heartfelt tribute to his years of unwavering service to the Dane Buy Local Association and support for local businesses in our community.



# FEED Kitchens

# HOLIDAY BAZAAR

SATURDAY, DEC. 16 • 9 AM–1 PM

Held at Door Creek Church – North  
1181 N. Sherman Ave.  
(Across from FEED Kitchens at NorthGate)

Buy local for the holidays!

Featuring  
baked goods, packaged goods,  
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Meet the Makers

<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">FEED Bakery Ernie's Kick Sauce Madame Chu's Delicacies</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Mango Man Sauces Mojo's Majik Soup's On!</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Country Gourmet Herbs And more ...</p>
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**BUSINESS**



Photos from FEED Kitchens



**FEED Kitchens Holiday Bazaar**

By Chris Brockel  
FEED Kitchens

Looking for local food to feature on your holiday serving table? Or, perhaps that favorite locally made hot sauce to slip into someone's stocking on Christmas Eve? We have the event for you!

The annual FEED Kitchens Holiday Bazaar will be held Saturday, Dec. 16, from 9 am–1 pm. The Bazaar will be held at Door Creek Church, 1181 N. Sherman Ave., across the parking lot from FEED Kitchens in the NorthGate Shopping Center.

This maker's market for food entrepreneurs will feature products made at FEED Kitchens. The Bazaar will feature a variety

of baked goods (cookies, muffins, Danish, breads, and more) as well as salsas, hot sauces, BBQ sauces, pesto, loose tea mixes, drink mixes and more. Besides the ability to purchase craft-made local food, the FEED Kitchens Holiday Bazaar is a chance to meet the food entrepreneurs who are working to bring you flavors from around the world while you hear their stories and sample their products.

Come out and show your support to the hard-working and creative entrepreneurs and vote with your spending dollars on local merchants. For a listing of vendors participating in the Bazaar follow FEED Kitchens on Facebook as they will be listed closer to the event.

**Dough Boy's delivers more than an ordinary pizza pie**

By Lauri Lee  
Northside News

On Oct. 2, the Northside dining scene welcomed Dough Boy's and their innovative pizza pie. Located at 1207 N. Sherman Ave. in the NorthGate Shopping Center, this new pickup and delivery pizza business brings a flavorful take on the Sicilian pie using a deep-dish cheese crust, outstanding ingredients and a century-old family sauce recipe.

The story behind Dough Boy's is as intriguing as its pizzas. When Keith Maggit, the owner of Falbo's Pizzeria, closed his Northside location last summer, he told his friend, Matt Draeger, about the business opening. Draeger had been making a special pizza for friends and family for years. Recognizing the potential of this unique recipe, Matt saw an opportunity to start a new entrepreneurial venture with his son, Matt (Junior), to bring this secret pizza creation to a wider audience and get his son setup in business.

At the heart of Dough Boy's concept is the Draeger family's 100-year-old tomato sauce recipe that simmers for two days, infusing the pizzas with rich, authentic flavors. Drawing inspiration from their travels to Detroit and Chicago, the Draeger's offer a round Sicilian deep-dish pie with a cheese crust that sets their pizza apart from the crowd. According to Draeger, "We haven't seen a pizza pie like ours anywhere else in Madison."

Dough Boy's is all about freshness and variety. Their pizza by the slice is kept warm and ready to go, with slices changing every hour. The cheese is shredded daily to ensure absolute freshness. The ingredients are locally sourced, offering a wide range of both common and unique toppings, allowing customers to create their own pizza masterpiece.

For those seeking more than just pizza, Dough Boy's offers a menu that includes a house mix salad, wings, curly fries, garlic cheese bread, fried mushrooms, onion rings, jalapeno poppers, fried pickles, and Kenny's XXX Wings, among other delectable options.

To try it out, call Dough Boy's at 608-467-3017 for pickup or delivery between 11 am and 8 pm.



Photo by Lauri Lee

Dough Boy's owners, Matt Draeger and his son Matt (Junior) Draeger

No indoor dining allows the business to focus on efficient takeout and delivery services and a more streamlined customer experience. This is a locally-owned business, not a franchise. Since the Draegers started the restaurant from scratch, they are still working on their website and marketing. When searching, don't be confused by former pizza businesses with a similar name which have closed their doors. Their future plans include contracting for outside delivery services such as Grubhub and Door Dash. Beat the rush to their door by trying the extraordinary pizza and savor the taste of tradition and innovation in every bite.

**DOUGH BOY'S**  
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**DOUGH BOY'S**  
1207 N. Sherman Ave. at NorthGate

**Lola's Hi/Lo Lounge opens on Northside to bring a unique blend of music, food and drinks**

By Lauri Lee  
Northside News

Lola's Hi/Lo Lounge, a new and exciting addition to Madison's Northside, opened its doors to the public Tuesday, Nov. 7 at 617 N. Sherman Ave. in the Lakewood Plaza. The lounge has been developed by Matt Gerding and Evan Dannels, the owner of Cadre.

With a cozy and inviting atmosphere, this lounge promises an enjoyable experience for patrons. Lola's Hi/Lo Lounge offers a comprehensive menu featuring an array of elevated tavern food. Diners can savor cracker crust pizza, a variety of noodle and dumpling dishes, and classic tavern baskets that include mouthwatering options like burgers with curly fries and chili dogs. On the beverage front, the lounge serves up classic cocktails and boasts an impressive selection of both classic and craft beers.

What sets Lola's apart is its unique twist on the HiFi bar concept, a trend gaining popularity across the country. The Hi/Lo Lounge experience revolves around excellent music and sound played on high-fidelity speakers, primarily featuring vinyl records. However, the volume is set at just the right level to ensure that you can enjoy great tunes and have a comfortable conversation, thanks to the acoustic treatment of the space.

The lounge's name pays homage to the original Lola's Tomcat Lounge, located in Tori's hometown of St. Nazianz, Wis. Lola Otto, the 86-year-old owner



Photo by Lauri Lee

Matt Gerding — Lola's Hi/Lo Lounge

of the original establishment, still bartends there nightly. This 60s era cocktail lounge has left a lasting impression on Lola's Hi/Lo Lounge, which strives to capture the nostalgic touch with the essence and vibe of the original Lola's.

Lola's Hi/Lo Lounge is all about creating a welcoming space where you can indulge in delectable food, refreshing drinks and the best of music in Madison's Northside. So whether you're in the mood for a unique dining experience, a relaxing night out with friends, or simply want to immerse yourself in a fantastic music scene, Lola's Hi/Lo Lounge is a must-visit destination.

**NBA Breakfast with Santa is fun for kids and benefits food pantries**

By Northside Business Association

A yummy hot breakfast, a visit with Santa and being able to go home with a goody bag makes children giggle and their eyes sparkle at the Northside Business Association Breakfast with Santa. The event will be held Saturday, Dec. 2, from 8–11 am at the Esquire Club, 1025 N. Sherman Ave., to benefit Northside food pantries.

Tickets are \$9 for adults and youth age 12 and up, \$5 for those age 4–11, and free for children under age 3. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or at DuWayne's Salon, Old National Bank,

Sherman Plaza Barbers, The Esquire Club and The UPS Store.

The first 300 children will receive a goody bag from Santa. The event raises funds for the Northside food pantries. The NBA has raised over \$50,000 and donated hundreds of pounds of food for the pantries over the years. Bringing a canned food item is appreciated. NBA volunteers plan and staff the event so more money can be donated. The NBA is looking for sponsors and extra volunteers this year. Please contact Steve Nelson at [steve@duwaynessalon.com](mailto:steve@duwaynessalon.com) to be a sponsor for the event or to volunteer your time.

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Save the date

**Breakfast with Santa**

**Saturday, Dec. 2**  
**8-11 a.m.**

**At Kavanaugh's Esquire Club**  
1025 N. Sherman Ave.

**Pancake breakfast, visit with Santa**  
First 300 children receive a goody bag

**Adults: \$9 • Ages 4-11: \$5**  
**Under age 3: Free**

Buy tickets at door or in advance at:  
DuWayne's Salon, Esquire Club,  
Old National, Sherman Plaza Hairstyling,  
The UPS Store

Proceeds go to Northside Food Pantries  
Please bring nonperishable food items.

COMMUNITY

# What's new at Willy North

By **Brendon Smith**  
Willy Street Co-op

## Thanksgiving Foods

Whether you need a whole turkey, a plant-based entree, a pie, side dishes — or everything — we've got you covered for Thanksgiving. During the week of Thanksgiving, our side dishes will be available on the hot bar and packed up in our Grab & Go case in the Deli. We've got vegan and gluten-free options available as well. Please see [willystreet.coop/thanksgiving](http://willystreet.coop/thanksgiving) for more information.

## Double Dollars Are Back

Willy Street Co-op is again issuing Double Dollars vouchers at the registers through March 5, 2024, as funds allow. For every \$5 spent using a FoodShare/QUEST card for any FoodShare/QUEST eligible items, the Co-op will give you one \$5 Double Dollars voucher, up to \$20, good for any fresh, frozen or canned produce, and seeds/seedlings for growing edible plants.

## Self-Checkouts Coming to North

We have already added self-checkout stations to Willy West and Willy East, and three self-checkout stations will be installed at Willy North in the near future (if they haven't already been by the time this article is published).

This change will not reduce current staff hours; cashiers who would have worked at a register lane will instead assist customers using the self-checkout stations. Even if you prefer checking out with a person, the self-checkouts help reduce lines at the registers: about 25% of our transactions at the other two stores go through self-checkouts.

## Help community food pantries

All November and December, Willy Street Co-op is matching contributions to the Double Dollars Fund up to \$10,000. The matched funds will be given to our five neighborhood food pantries: Goodman Community Center Fritz Food Pantry, Lussier Community Education Center, WayForward Resources (formerly Middleton Outreach Ministry), The River Food Pantry, and Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center.

The match will be provided in Co-op gift cards for the pantries to acquire fresh items that are harder to come by in the winter season. Like Wisconsin

# Neighborhood Indicators Project Community Data

By **Northside Planning Council**

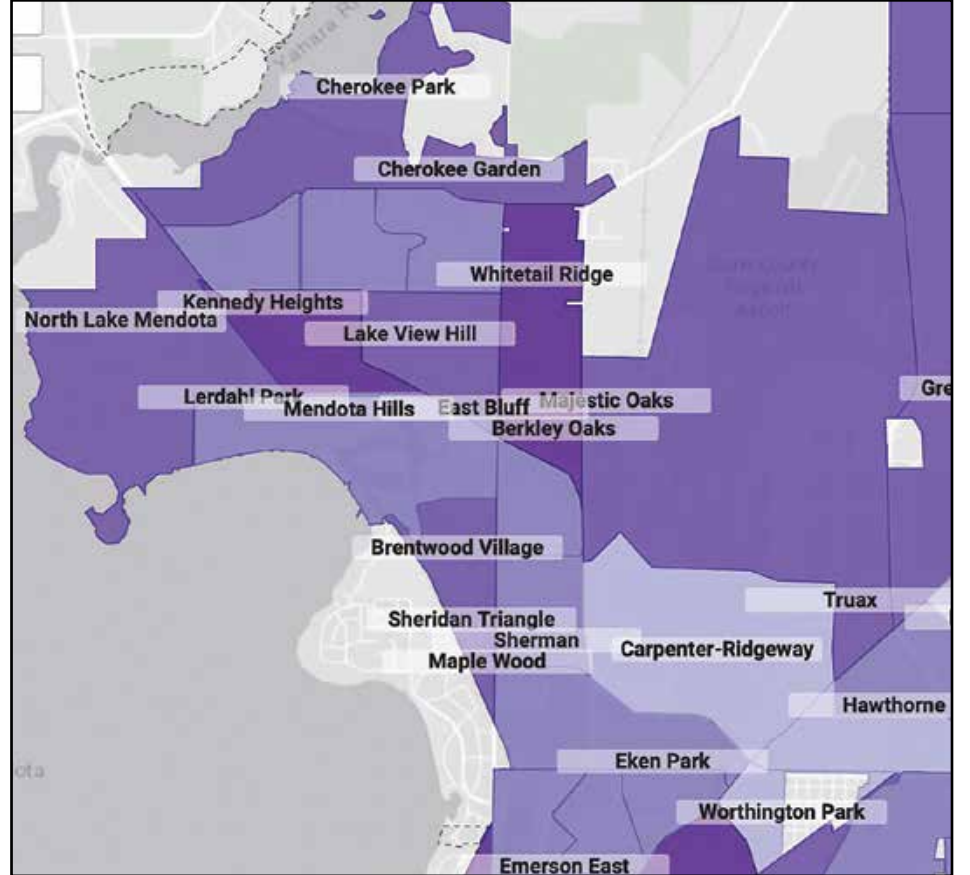
Interested in seeing a clearer picture of housing, safety, health, education and the overall wellbeing of the City of Madison? New data is now available on the City of Madison's Neighborhood Indicators Project (NIP) website ([Madison.apl.wisc.edu](http://Madison.apl.wisc.edu)).

NIP is a tracking system designed to follow communities' wellness over time, aiming to support better understanding of the changes within Madison communities. The use of indicators, along with local knowledge and other informational resources, can help all areas of Madison thrive.

NIP provides geographically detailed data for over 50 variables within seven topic areas. This includes measures such as total population, number of dwelling units and subsidized rental units, high mobility students and so on. It is supported by various data sources that range from city, county, state and federal data sources.

The 2022 Edition includes a significant improvement. Data is now provided at two commonly used Census geographies — Tracts and Block Groups. Using Tracts and Block Groups makes it easier to compare results for areas across Madison, since these geographies generally contain a similar number of residential units. Additionally, the NIP's local data can be considered within the context of other data reported at the Tract and Block Group geography.

Interested in learning more about NIP data and the NIP website? The



Map of Northside Neighborhood Populations from NIP website

City of Madison Planning Division offers free workshops to local organizations. If interested, please contact Urvashi Martin at [umartin@cityofmadison.com](mailto:umartin@cityofmadison.com) for more details.

The Northside Planning Council has scheduled two free community workshops to better understand and access this data-rich resource. The first meeting will take place Monday, Dec. 4, 6–7 pm, at Lakeview Library. The second

meeting will take place Thursday, Jan. 11, 10–11 am at Warner Park Community Recreation Center.

Both of these meetings are free and open to the public. They will each contain the same overview and content so attendance at one is sufficient.

NIP is a partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Applied Population Lab.

Source: City of Madison Website

FoodShare benefits, reliance on food pantries remains high due to COVID-19, and this is a great way to support shoppers using FoodShare and those who rely on other food sources at this time.

## Holiday Store Hours

- December 23, Christmas Eve: **OPEN** until 6 pm
- December 25, Christmas Day: **CLOSED**
- December 31, New Year's Eve: **OPEN** 8 am–9 pm
- January 1, 2024, New Year's Day: **CLOSED**
- January 2, 2024: **OPEN** at 10 am

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# Holiday

## FEED Bakery

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Pickup - 1219 N. Sherman Ave. at FEED Kitchens

### Pie Price List & Order Form

Name:				Phone:			
Date of pick up:				Time:			
Description	Price	Quantity	Total	Description	Price	Quantity	Total
Cherry Pie 9"	\$21.00			Caramel Apple Pie 9"	\$23.00		
Pumpkin Pie 9"	\$15.00			Coconut Creme Pie 9"	\$15.00		
Pecan Pie 9"	\$23.00			Chocolate Creme Pie 9"	\$15.00		
				Total:			

COMMUNITY

# Northsiders bring questions to information session on North-South BRT

By Anita Weier  
Northside News

More than 30 local residents came to the Warner Park Community Recreation Center on Nov. 2 to learn about the City of Madison's plans for Bus Rapid Transit on the Northside.

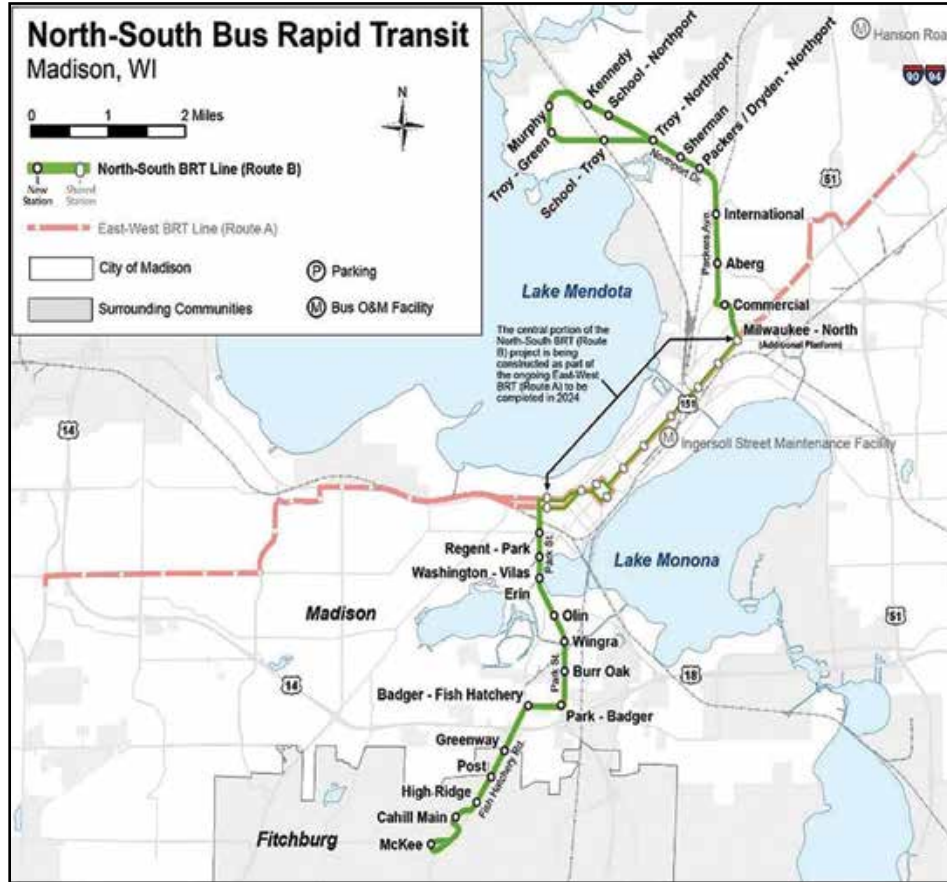
The East-West line is being constructed, but after it is completed, a North-South line will be added. It will make use of the downtown portion of the East-West BRT.

There will be 33 stations on the North-South BRT route, which will reach Fitchburg. The construction project will include the reconstruction of Park Street.

Bus Rapid Transit will use separate bus lanes, dedicated boarding stations and fast and frequent service between stations, according to Mike Cechvala, Metro Transit capital projects manager.

However, as one member of the audience pointed out, people will walk farther to get to a station compared to the current bus system.

The Northside portion of the BRT route will travel on Packers Avenue, which two other audience members questioned. More



people live on North Sherman Avenue, one noted. But Packers is wide enough to accommodate the new bus configuration.

Cechvala noted that regular bus service will continue on North Sherman Ave.

According to the current proposal, which may change after public input, stops on Packers will include Commercial, International, Packers-Dryden-Northport, North Sherman, Troy, School and Kennedy.

Cechvala stressed that several options are being considered for the Packers-Dryden-Northport area, where Packers meets Northport. The main problem with the Northport / Packers intersection is that it is very wide and fast, and there is no way for pedestrians to cross in any direction, he said.

One woman participant complained that little notice had been given regarding public meetings about the BRT plans – especially to businesses and people who live near the line. Cechvala said suggestions are welcome as to how to reach more people in affordable ways.

Those with questions or suggestions about that issue or other matters related to the North-South BRT are urged to contact [brt@cityofmadison.com](mailto:brt@cityofmadison.com).

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### Happy Holidays to all of our Northside friends and neighbors!

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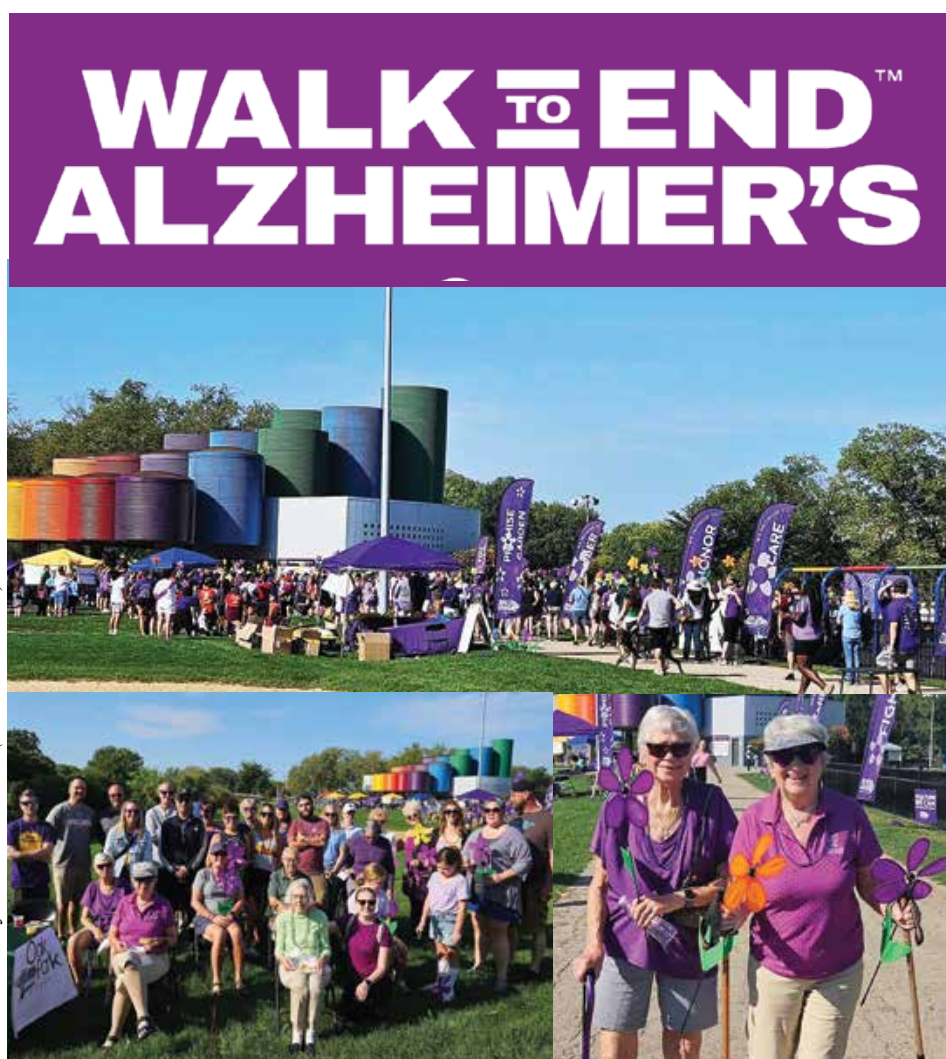
Erica Olsen, DVM   Meg Wright, DVM   Ali Shreve, DVM  
Emily Altkorn, DVM   Sarah Stock, DVM

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Saturday: 8:00 AM – Noon  
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**Alzheimer's Walk at Warner Park held Oct. 1**  
The walk to end Alzheimer's was a successful event held at Warner Park. Many businesses and individuals participated in the walk.

Photo by Claire Brakke – (Oak Park Place)



COMMUNITY

# The River Food Pantry purchases land for new, larger building

By Becca Carpenter  
The River Food Pantry

The River Food Pantry has purchased land on Madison's Northside for its new future home.

"We are thrilled to have been able to acquire half of the parcel across the street from our current location," said Rhonda Adams, executive director of The River. "As we've looked to The River Food Pantry's future, our priority has been to stay on the Northside. Not only is it a food desert, but we also want to minimize disruption to our clients, the majority of which live in the 53704 ZIP code."

The site is located on Packers Avenue, adjacent to Oak Park Terrace Mobile Home Park.

The River is now in the process of designing a larger, purpose-built facility — more than twice the size of its current building — to serve more Dane County households in need for many years to come. The new building would offer a drive-thru service and will increase

space for food storage, clothing, in-person dining, classrooms to share with community partners, and more.

"There is a lot of work to do before we break ground, but we want our neighbors to know that our dream for a new Northside food pantry is advancing," Adams said.

Since 2006, The River has leased an 11,000-square-foot warehouse on Darwin Road. Originally intended to serve about 100 Northside families per week, The River has grown to become Dane County's busiest food pantry, serving over 2,500 people every week — and counting. To date in 2023, 49% more new households have registered for services than the previous year.

"The only thing holding us back from helping more people who need us is our building. We're out of space, and the space we are using is inefficient and difficult to operate in," Adams said. "Owning our own land and our own building will allow us to expand our services to meet the growing community need."

# Packer Play and Learn offers early childhood learning

By Linda Hang  
Madison Metropolitan School District

Over the summer, Play and Learn moved from Northport Community Learning Center to Packer Community Learning Center. Play and Learn is now holding sessions in what used to be the Head Start classroom. The transition went smoothly, and we could not be happier with the new space.

What is Play and Learn? It is a Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) program under the Early Learning Department. The mission of the MMSD Play and Learn Program is to provide a quality environment where parents and caregivers can develop and strengthen skills to enhance their child's learning and growth in literacy, math and social skills.

At Packer Play and Learn, you will notice a high-quality early childhood learning environment. This space has been designed with the child and parent in mind to support, strengthen and extend the interaction for their child to reach their full potential.

We are committed to bringing an excellent program to the Northside community at Packer Community Learning Center. For questions about the program and how to register, please contact the Packer Play and Learn group leaders: Linda (lhang@madison.k12.wi.us) or Min (mzhou@madison.k12.wi.us).



Photo by Packer Play and Learn

Packer Play and Learn group leaders Linda and Min



Photos by The River Food Pantry

The River will provide fully-prepared holiday meals for clients to simply heat and eat together at home, in addition to holiday grocery items for households to prepare their own meals.

# Record numbers expected for holiday groceries and meals

By Becca Carpenter  
The River Food Pantry

With today's high cost of living, The River Food Pantry is expecting a record number of requests for holiday groceries and meals for Dane County residents in need.

Through community support of The River's HOPE (Help Other People Eat) Holiday Food Drive, each year the pantry provides a bountiful variety of holiday groceries and freshly prepared holiday meals to thousands of children, seniors, veterans and adults facing food insecurity leading up to Thanksgiving and the holidays in December.

"Last year, we served 4,715 holiday meals and holiday groceries for over 1,800 households through curbside pickup and delivery," said Rhonda Adams, executive director of The River. "Compared to 2022, 49% more new households have registered for The River's services this year, so we're gearing up for our busiest holiday season yet."

This year's Thanksgiving grocery offerings included a turkey, roasting chicken, or vegetarian option, as well as mixed vegetables, stuffing, potatoes, gravy, cornbread, macaroni and cheese, cranberry sauce, pie, dinner rolls, roasting pans and more. Holiday groceries were distributed at The River the week before Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving meals were distributed curbside Nov. 20-22.

The River will distribute holiday meals and groceries again in December in the week before Christmas during the normal pantry hours. The menu will be listed on The River's website. Clients are welcome to pick up a meal for each household member once before Christmas.

There is no need to sign up in advance for the holiday meals or groceries served curbside. However, sign-up is required as usual for online orders and delivery.

To make this possible, volunteers and monetary donations are greatly needed throughout the holiday season. Get involved at riverfoodpantry.org.

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COMMUNITY

# Support Ukraine refugees to prevent exploitation of women and children

By Lauri Lee  
Northside News

James Ferrett, a long-time resident of Madison's Northside, runs a local nonprofit, Ethical Trade Co (ETCo), that financially empowers artisans and farmers around the world to break free from poverty and exploitation. When war broke out in Ukraine Ferrett knew how this would put Ukrainian women at risk and looked for ways to use the mission of ETCo to practically stand with Ukraine and empower people there.

Ukraine has been at the heart of Ferrett's work for a good reason. In February 2023, he traveled to Moldova and Poland, then crossed over the border into Ukraine for a few hours. He got glimpse of the dire conditions faced by refugees from Ukraine. During the trip to the region, he worked with Ukrainian refugees in three different regions of Poland. He realized the pressing need for a shift from short-term relief efforts to long-term development, a sustainable solution to the enduring challenges faced by the Ukrainian population.

Ferrett, originally from England, has made it his mission to address the dire situation in Ukraine, where 15 million refugees are struggling to survive. Out of this staggering number, 8 million are located in Europe, with 5.4 million internally displaced refugees. Shockingly, 90% of these refugees are women and children, while most of the men are engaged in the ongoing conflict. A significant 58% of these refugees have been displaced for more than six months, highlighting the long-term nature of this humanitarian crisis.

While ETCo's initial efforts focused on



The Ethical Trade Co. partnership with Creating Comfort Lab is helping prevent poverty and exploitation of women and children in Ukraine with these everyday items.

relief, Ferrett soon recognized that long-term trade and business initiatives were essential to alleviate poverty and reduce exploitation. A lack of employment opportunities, education, and economic understanding has led to a 22.4% increase in poverty in Ukraine in 2022, further exacerbating the exploitation of vulnerable women and children.

To address these pressing issues, Ferrett set out to find a partner in the Ukraine who shared his commitment to making a difference there. He found a remarkable partner in Creating Comfort Lab, a Ukrainian-based business that specializes in crafting traditional Ukrainian stoneware. This unique enterprise donates a significant 40% of its profits to support Ukrainian relief efforts in the country. Creating Comfort Lab employs 12 artisan families in two towns in Ukraine, providing them with sustainable income and preserving traditional techniques and craftsmanship. By supporting these artisans, the likelihood of their exploitation diminishes, allowing them to continue to speak their native language and maintain their cultural heritage.



The commitment of Creating Comfort Lab extends beyond philanthropy; it's a long-term strategy to empower Ukrainian artisan families and refugees. Their products, crafted using traditional methods, have a dual purpose: they are both functional and beautifully designed, making them items that people use daily. As far as Ferrett could ascertain, Creating Comfort Lab is the only exporter of Ukrainian tableware to the United States.

In Madison, Creating Comfort Lab's exquisite tableware is available at the Ethical Trade store, which is located at the East Moreland Community Center on 3565 Tulane Ave. For those who wish to support the cause, orders for these unique stoneware sets can be placed, although the process takes 8-12 weeks due to the conditions in Ukraine, such as blackouts. Additionally, porcelain ornaments are available for purchase. Ethical Trade offers an online platform where consumers from all over the United States can order these products.

Ferrett, co-founder of ETCo, urges everyone to get involved and make a difference. Donations to support Ukraine-based efforts can be made through their website,

ethicaltradeco.com. The contributions will directly impact the lives of those in need in Ukraine. All the products can be seen at [ethicaltradeco.com/collections/ukrainian](http://ethicaltradeco.com/collections/ukrainian).

Ferrett's commitment and ETCo's partnership with Creating Comfort Lab is not just a short-term effort; it's a long-term strategy to support Ukraine. This initiative aims to break the cycle of poverty and exploitation, providing hope for a brighter future for the refugees in Ukraine. As the nonprofit continues to shine a light on the dire situation in Ukraine, they invite everyone to join in this mission. By supporting the purchase of Creating Comfort Lab's traditional Ukrainian stoneware, people across the United States can play a vital role in improving the lives of Ukrainian refugees, ensuring that they have the sustainable income they need to rebuild their lives.

The global community, particularly consumers in Madison, has a responsibility to help alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable in Ukraine. By purchasing products from Creating Comfort Lab through ETCo, you are not only acquiring beautifully crafted stoneware but also contributing to a brighter, more sustainable future for Ukraine and its refugees.

In a world filled with challenges and crises, Ferrett and ETCo remind us that we all have a role to play in making a difference, even from thousands of miles away. Their work stands as a testament to the power of compassion and the belief that small actions can have a monumental impact on the lives of those in need. Together, let us support Ukraine and stand against the exploitation of women and children, ensuring a brighter future for all.



Some of your favorite local restaurants are making soup! A variety of freshly frozen quarts are available including vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options.

Place your order in advance online [danebuylocal.com/soups-on](http://danebuylocal.com/soups-on)  
Order weekly Wednesday 8 am-Saturday at midnight  
Pick up the following Tuesday evening 4-5:30 pm at FEED Kitchens (1219 N. Sherman Ave.) drive-thru  
Or, select delivery when ordering

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COMMUNITY

# Henry came a long way to find a home for the holidays

By Anita Weier  
Northside News

Henry is a very small dog who came a very long way from Texas to Madison to find his forever home.

A chihuahua mix, Henry was a stray in the past, but is now settled into the home of Wendy and Jeff Murkve at Esch and Delaware. He is enjoying a large basket of dog toys, his new Packers jersey and many long walks in the neighborhood. He has not met all the neighborhood dogs yet, but he has encountered several squirrels.

The Murkves found him through Brown Paws Rescue. "We fell in love with his picture and write-up, met him, and came home with him that night," Wendy said. "He has a really good disposition, not like the image of chihuahuas," Jeff added.

Henry is about four years old and weighs 12 pounds. He is intrigued by the family's two birds, a cockatoo and a parrot, one of whom speaks and imitates quite well.

"Our two older dogs died in the last year, and we really missed having them here," Wendy said. "Henry is very good with everybody. He shakes hands and is learning 'stay' and 'leave it.' We're working on the training. He knows where home is." He also knows where to sleep — in their bed.

"Next year, we plan to take him for a bike ride in a basket," Jeff said.



Photo by Anita Weier

Wendy, Jeff and Henry Murkve

Though the human family — the Murkves and their offspring — will enjoy Thanksgiving and Christmas feasts, Henry will not be getting table food, just food intended for dogs. But gifts may be forthcoming.

His name when he came to them was Whiskey Jim, but that was changed to Henry, in respect to the J. Henry & Sons bourbon distillery near Madison.

Wendy stays active with photography, and Jeff does some woodworking. They also bike and kayak and belong to the Friends of Rock Island State Park. Wendy is on the board of the Friends of Cherokee Marsh.

Henry enjoys a small crate, with a warm blanket inside. It is not for punishment, but as a safe space where he feels comfortable.

# Stay safe this winter with these tips

By Madison Gas and Electric

Safety has been and continues to be our top priority at Madison Gas and Electric (MGE). We are committed to meeting our fundamental responsibility of providing safe, reliable energy to those we serve. Follow these tips to stay safe this winter.

### Natural gas safety

We add a distinctive, harmless chemical odor to the natural gas we deliver to you. This smelly (rotten egg or rotten cabbage), sulfur-based odor will help you detect gas leaks that might occur in your home, business or neighborhood. If you smell natural gas, evacuate the area immediately and call MGE's Emergency Response Line at 608-252-1111.

### Other important gas safety tips

Do not touch anything that might create a spark (light switch, telephone, cell phone, garage opener, etc.)

If your pilot light is out, read the manufacturer's instructions so you know what type of ignition is on the furnace or appliance. Be sure to check the instructions and follow them exactly as described. If you aren't sure what to do, call a qualified service technician.

### Carbon monoxide safety

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a clear, odorless gas produced by burning fuels like natural gas, propane, oil, wood, kerosene or charcoal. At high levels, CO can kill a person in minutes. Fetuses, infants, older adults and people with anemia or a history of heart or respiratory disease can be especially susceptible.

### Common CO causes include:

- Fuel-burning appliances that are not vented properly or that are used incorrectly, including gas ranges/ovens, water heaters, furnaces, clothes dryers, etc.
- Gasoline-powered snow blowers, emergency generators, lawn mowers, etc.

- Idling cars.
- Charcoal or gas grills.

### Symptoms of CO poisoning are:

- Low levels of CO poisoning may cause shortness of breath, nausea or headaches.
- Moderate levels can cause severe headaches, dizziness, confusion, nausea or fainting.
- Moderate levels of exposure over a long period of time can cause death.

Many of these symptoms are similar to those caused by the flu, food poisoning or other illnesses. If you think you have symptoms caused by CO poisoning, leave the house to get fresh air immediately and be sure to call 911 and seek medical attention.

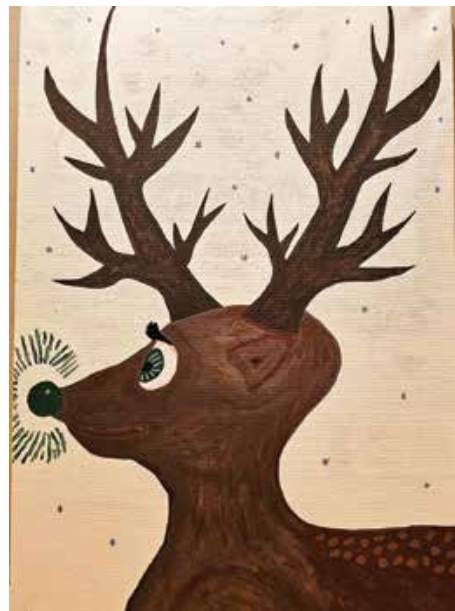
### Steps to prevent CO poisoning:

- Have appliances and equipment that burn fuels such as natural gas, propane, oil or wood inspected by a trained professional at the beginning of every heating season. This includes your furnace, water heater, range, oven, dryer, space heater and fireplace.
- Purchase and install CO alarms that are Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approved. Do not use an alarm as a substitute for proper use and maintenance of your appliances and equipment.
- Make sure the exhaust vents, flues and chimneys in your home are working properly.
- Don't use a gas oven to heat your home, even for a short time.
- Don't use a charcoal grill indoors, even in a fireplace.
- Don't ignore symptoms, especially if more than one person has them. If you do nothing, you could lose consciousness and die.

### Keep vents and meters clear of ice and snow

We want you to be safe when the snow piles up. That's why we recommend you keep the area around gas meter equipment clear of snow and ice. Be sure to carefully remove heavy snow and ice by hand to avoid damaging the meter. Blocked vents also can cause furnaces and water heaters to shut down, potentially leading to a build-up of carbon monoxide or a costly service call. Use a long screwdriver to clear snow and ice carefully from the end of the pipes.

Visit [mge.com](http://mge.com) for more information on gas and electric safety.



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### Roxanne

By Jason R. Van Pelt  
Northside News

Lo! The green nose reindeer  
Spreads family friendly cheer  
All year especially December  
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COMMUNITY

# Student loan expertise available for free with My Way to Repay campaign

By Ascendium Education Group

With all the recent student loan changes, it's no wonder borrowers are confused. After a three-and-a-half-year payment pause that started with the COVID-19 health crisis in 2020, federal student loan borrowers were



Photo provided by Ascendium

Brooke B. is an Ascendium employee and Northsider.

required to make payments again beginning in October 2023. However, the transition to repayment has been challenging due to servicer changes, a newly introduced income-driven repayment (IDR) plan, and millions of borrowers making payments for the first time.

Alleviating borrower confusion was a key motivation for Madison-based

Ascendium®, a leading postsecondary education and workforce training philanthropy, and Savi™, a social impact technology startup in Washington, D.C., to team up. Combining their nearly 60 years of student loan expertise, they've launched the My Way to Repay campaign. This campaign helps borrowers overcome student loan repayment challenges and find the best plan and forgiveness option to save them the most money.

**And it's all free. No catch. Seriously.**

The goal is to help as many borrowers as possible get on a successful repayment path, especially low-income borrowers, borrowers of color, and recent graduates.

**Here's how it works:**

- Visit [mywaytorepay.com](http://mywaytorepay.com)
- Register to attend an informational webinar or sign up for a Savi™

- account and get a savings estimate.
- Learn how the tool makes it easy for borrowers to navigate complex decisions and choose the best repayment plan and forgiveness option to save the most money. Options are presented side-by-side to help borrowers narrow it down.
- Get personalized support from one of the expert Success Coaches available through a toll-free hotline.

Brooke B., a Northside resident and Ascendium employee, plans to get assistance from Savi and Ascendium. "I'm a Northside resident with federal student loans. I'm enrolled in the Income-Contingent Repayment plan, but my friend encouraged me to use the Savi tool to see if the benefits of the new IDR plan called SAVE would save me money. I'm going to

sign up for a Savi account and see where it goes. I'm excited to learn more, especially since it's experts providing student loan services for free. Thank you Ascendium and Savi!"

My Way to Repay is brought to you by Savi and Ascendium. They have partnered with national nonprofit organizations that serve communities and support those who may not have services and resources available to help them. If you belong to such an organization and are interested in sharing My Way to Repay with your employees or members, our communications toolkit will make it easy to spread the word. Visit [mywaytorepay.com](http://mywaytorepay.com) to learn more.

**Police Captain to retire**

Continued from page 1

focus resources on areas with increased criminal activity," she explained. Another success was gaining approval for a body-worn camera pilot project in the North District.

Auto theft is not as big a problem as in the past year, but speeding and reckless driving are still major concerns.

Overall in her career, she has focused on officer wellness. "I am mindful of the toll this job can take on people," she said. "We have improved as a department in focusing on wellness."

Donahue is also proud that Madison has one of the highest percentages of female officers in the nation, at 28% last year. "Other departments see what we do to recruit and retain," she said.

She has been working with the person who will take her place to familiarize him with the job. Like Donahue, Capt. Jamar Gary, who currently heads the East Police District, was raised in this part of town and "is a Purgolder like me."

Donahue also plans to continue volunteering with a statewide organization that supports families and coworkers of officers who died in the line of duty. She will also volunteer at The River Food Pantry and travel with her husband, who also plans to retire from the Madison Police Department.

"We met in the Police Academy, and we will head out the door together," she said.

**MGE**

Continued from page 1

that grow into and touch a high-voltage electric line can cause a short circuit, electrical outage or fire. Installing new underground high-voltage electric lines in the area will enhance reliability and reduce the need for tree trimming.

And, as part of this project, MGE also will be installing enhanced electric grid monitoring and control technology to help reduce the duration of storm-related outages when they do occur.

**How will this project impact me?**

**Easements**

To reduce the impact to private properties, MGE will coordinate with the municipality to use public right-of-way areas wherever practical to access the lines and equipment being upgraded.

Because many of the overhead lines are located along the rear lot lines of private homes, we will be requesting easements from some property owners. MGE will contact those property owners individually.

Not all properties will require an easement.

**Planned Outages**

Electric service outages will occur throughout the project, but they are expected to be minimal.

We will communicate planned outages in advance.

**Tree Pruning**

Not all properties will require tree pruning, but it may be required in some areas to create safe clearances for the

new wires and equipment.

An ISA Certified Arborist from MGE will contact property owners before any work is performed.

**Overhead Service Lines**

This project does not include the conversion of overhead electric wires to individual meters on customers' homes. If you'd like to bury your electric service lines to your home, please visit [mge.com/bury](http://mge.com/bury) to learn about the process and estimated costs.

Please visit [mge.com/electricupgrade](http://mge.com/electricupgrade) for more information. If you have additional questions, please email MGE at [NorthMadison@mge.com](mailto:NorthMadison@mge.com).

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### FEED KITCHENS



Afghan Kabul Cuisine



The Walking Jerk



Cafe Costa Rica



FEED Bakery Training



Building community with food, FEED Kitchens held a small plate eating event, Taste the Future, Friday Nov. 3 at Warner Park Community and Recreation Center. Ten vendors working out of FEED Kitchens each offered two small plates of food representing their menu and culture. Cuisine from Afghanistan, Costa Rica, El Salvador, India, The Gambia, along with Afro-Indigenous plates and American cuisine was offered. Tickets to the event were free to ensure accessibility to anyone who wanted to join us.

A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all.



Bombay Fast Cafe



Mexsal Mobile



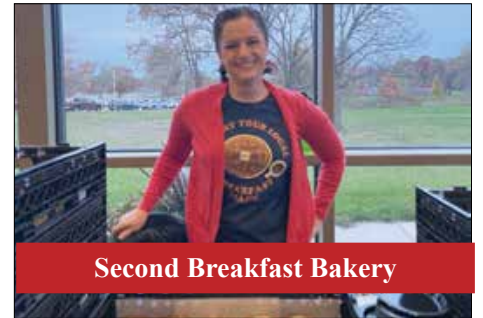
KC Taste Asian Cuisine



Kerr Fatou Catering



Trade Roots



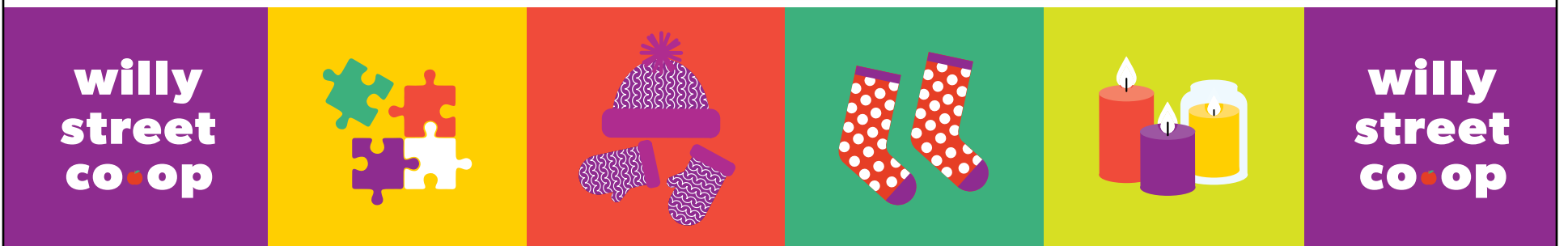
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ENVIRONMENT

# Paul Noeldner receives 2023 Educator of the Year Award

By Gene Kroupa

Bluebird Restoration Assn. of Wisconsin

Paul Noeldner, of Maple Bluff, has received the 2023 Educator of the Year Award from the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW).

According to BRAW President Steve Sample, “Noeldner has led bird education efforts through Madison Friends of Urban Nature (FUN) workshops and Bird Buddies programs to establish bluebird box trails.”

Interest in birds started at a young age. Noeldner said “as a young farm kid, I used my little binoculars to identify different species of birds. Later on, as a student at UW-Madison, I learned about doing field research and the power of data in understanding our environment.”

Now, Noeldner shares his expertise by helping put on “Learn to Make a Bluebird Box” workshops. “Our Madison FUN partner groups and Bird Buddies team are key to educating the public,” he explained.

According to Noeldner, “The Madison Parks Department, Badgerland Bird Alliance, Friends of Cherokee Marsh, Wild Warner, BRAW and Friends of UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve help support bluebird trails and educational outings.” Noeldner feels that humankind can help birds by “connecting with environmental and conservation groups to support ethical actions on birds’ behalf.”

In accepting his award, Noeldner noted



Photo by Barbara Noeldner

Paul Noeldner received the 2023 Educator of the Year Award from the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin.

that he was especially grateful for help from his wife, Barbara, and BRAW members Pat Ready and Stephen Lang.

Established in 1986, BRAW’s 900 members manage and monitor nest boxes statewide which annually produce as many as 18,000 bluebird fledglings and a like number of other native cavity nesters. More information about bluebirds, starting and monitoring nest box trails, and BRAW is available at [www.braw.org](http://www.braw.org).



Photo by Jan Axelson

A new trail at Cherokee Marsh provides views of the wetlands and woods.

## New trails at Cherokee Marsh

By Jan Axelson

Friends of Cherokee Marsh

With trails through woods, prairie and wetlands, Cherokee Marsh is a popular destination for exploring nature on the Northside. Now there is even more to enjoy as Madison Parks has added new trails to Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park’s North Unit, 6098 N. Sherman Ave.

The new South Hill trail takes you to the top of a drumlin (a glacier-formed hill) and offers views of the wetland expanses to the north and east.

Another new trail is an unnamed spur at the north end of the trail system. The trail ends at the boundary with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Cherokee Marsh Fishery Area. The Fishery Area extends north along

the upper Yahara River and Token Creek and borders Dane County lands to the north. The Fishery Area has no established trails, and you may walk anywhere within it, but take care not to stray onto bordering private land.

The Parks crew also recently rerouted two existing trails to protect ancient conical mounds constructed by Native peoples. The previous trails passed very close to the mounds, while current city policy is to locate trails at least 25 feet from mounds. The rerouted trails still offer excellent views of the mounds. Please use the new trail routes to help protect and show respect for these ancient earthworks.

The trail map on the Madison Parks website (see link at [cherokeemarsh.org/visit](http://cherokeemarsh.org/visit)) shows the new trails and the mound locations. The maps on the kiosks will be updated as well.



Photo by Paul Noeldner

Volunteers show off orchids rescued from a development site

## Volunteers rescue orchids from Hartmeyer development site

By Jan Axelson

Northside News

Sometimes, surprising things show up in unlikely places. That was the case when Jeff Steele, a member of the Friends of Hartmeyer Natural Area, discovered a population of a rare prairie orchid on a piece of land slated for development near the former Oscar Mayer plant.

According to Jeff, “Most people don’t realize that Wisconsin has native orchids. In fact, there are dozens of species across the state in a variety of habitats — none of which are common and all of which are threatened by human development. These special plants need our protection so they can be appreciated for generations to come.”

The site, a flat, gravelly expanse of grasses and other plants typical of abandoned urban property, isn’t where you would expect to find rare orchids. Yet in

the fall of 2020, Jeff documented 130 plants, which Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff identified as Great Plains lady’s-tresses orchids.

The plants have fragrant, cream-colored flowers that spiral up the stem. The DNR lists the orchids as Species of Special Concern, which means that attention is needed to prevent the species from becoming threatened or endangered.

The orchid site, located south of Roth Street south and east of Kavanaugh’s Esquire Club on North Sherman Avenue, is slated for development as apartments. In 2023, Jeff received permission to rescue the orchids for rehoming.

On the day of the rescue, over a dozen volunteers showed up with shovels and buckets. About 30 plants were found and flagged for removal in advance of the rescue. Volunteers also formed a line and methodically walked the site and found a couple more.

Because orchids depend on soil fungi for nutrients, each plant removed included a large shovelful of soil. DNR staff rehomed the orchids on a DNR property in Dane County.

Unfortunately, the original orchid site had been repeatedly mowed, which may have reduced the number of plants found. If development of the site is delayed, there may be a chance to find and rescue additional plants in 2024.

How did the orchids get there? Have they been present for hundreds of years and only recently discovered? Did the tiny seeds blow in from a nearby population? The answer will likely remain a mystery.

Transplanting orchids is tricky work. But thanks to Jeff’s sharp eye, cooperation from the landowner and the DNR, and the efforts of volunteers, the orchids will have a chance at surviving and thriving in their new location.



Photo by Jan Axelson

Over 130 Great Plains lady’s-tresses orchids have been found on the Hartmeyer development site.

ENVIRONMENT

Photo by Marcus Brown



Snowy Owls sometimes visit Wisconsin in winter.

Photo by Mick Thompson—Madison Audubon



Look for Northern Shrikes in open areas in winter.

Photo by Kathleen Wolf



Tim Nelson of Wild Warner and Megan McCrumb from the City of Madison Parks Division apply herbicides to prevent regrowth of buckthorns.

Photo by Kathleen Wolf



Volunteers gathered this fall to remove the invasive buckthorns from Old Warner Woods.

## Winter birds can be found in Madison natural areas

By Paul Noeldner  
*Friends of Urban Nature*

Our featured birds of the season are two special Wisconsin winter birds: the Northern Shrike and the Snowy Owl. While not common in city neighborhoods, these “far north” birds can sometimes be found in parks and natural areas around Madison.

The Northern Shrike is a small grey Blue Jay-sized, hawk-like bird that looks like a superhero wearing a distinctive black mask. The Latin name is “*lanius excubitor*,” which means “butcher watchman.” They live up to their name by perching on low branches and posts near open areas to hunt for mice that they impale on thorns and fences to eat later.

Another “far north” bird that can sometimes be seen in this area in winter is the Snowy Owl. These majestic-looking owls are about two feet tall with golden eyes and all white plumage or white with beautiful dark flecks. Their Latin name “*bubo scandiacus*” means “owl of

Scandinavia.” Their home is usually in arctic regions, but they sometimes visit Wisconsin in winter.

Like Northern Shrikes, Snowy Owls like to perch on low posts or a low mound on the ground to hunt for mice and other small creatures in open areas. Their feet are covered with fluffy white feathers to protect them from the cold.

Good locations to look for these birds around Madison are Cherokee Marsh, Pheasant Branch Conservancy and the UW Arboretum.

Seeing a Northern Shrike or Snowy Owl is a special experience if you love birds. You can check for Madison area bird sightings on the web at ebird.org and on Facebook at Badgerland Bird Alliance, BIPOC Birding Club, Madison FUN, Friends of Cherokee Marsh and other local nature groups.

Enjoy and help support birds and nature in Madison all year round with Bird and Nature Adventures and other nature group activities. Check out the Calendar of Events in this issue.

## “Buckthorn Blitz” held this fall in Old Warner Woods

By Kathleen Wolf  
*Wild Warner*

Northsiders who love Warner Park and all of its wildlife gathered together this past September to begin the ambitious work of removing invasive buckthorns from the Old Warner Woods. After the Wild Warner board voted in spring of 2023 to focus on this single species in the coming year, Wild Warner reached out to the City of Madison Parks Department, our Scouts BSA troops, and the community at large, to start a four-day volunteer project called the “Buckthorn Blitz.”

Buckthorns are one of the most damaging invasive species in the Old Warner Woods, second only to emerald ash borers. Their roots are “allopathic,” meaning that they secrete chemicals that harm the plants around them. Birds eat the seeds and spread them in their droppings, giving the invaders a boost as they travel throughout the understory of our most precious woodlands.

Buckthorns block the sunlight that once reached the forest floor, nearly eliminating the next generation of oak trees, and thinning the understory plants to just a few, more shade-tolerant species. Their presence even causes amphibian populations to drop significantly and makes the soil more receptive to invasive earthworms, garlic mustard and dame’s rocket, each of which takes an additional toll on the ecosystem.

Meeting on two Wednesdays and two Saturdays, volunteers came together with loppers and saws in hand, and we worked our way around the western edge of the woods, letting in the

sunshine and clearing the way for native plants to return. While volunteers lopped branches and cut down small saplings, then dragged them out of the woods, Madison city employees Megan and Jay used chainsaws to fell the larger trees. As the saplings and trees fell, the stumps were treated with an herbicide to prevent their return.

The amount of work done each day was impressive. Inspired by the work on the Old Warner Woods, we held another Buckthorn Blitz in October, clearing invasive trees from the shoreline of Warner Lagoon along Forster Drive.

Eradicating the buckthorns entirely may not be possible, and there’s a great deal of work remaining to be done, but with the help of wildlife-loving neighbors of Warner Park, the restoration to a close approximation of its natural state can be accomplished in the coming decade.

Wild Warner wishes to thank our many community volunteers, our Scouts partners, and the City of Madison employees, for helping us to begin working on our goal of transforming the Old Warner woods back into the open oak woodland it once was.

You can become a Wild Warner volunteer in several ways: email [info.wildwarner@gmail.com](mailto:info.wildwarner@gmail.com), or join us at our monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of every month, from 6–7:30 pm in the Warner Park Community Recreation Center. Future Buckthorn Blitz events will be announced by email, on our website, [wildwarnerpark.org](http://wildwarnerpark.org); the City of Madison Parks volunteer website [cityofmadison.com/parks/volunteer](http://cityofmadison.com/parks/volunteer), the social media site Nextdoor, and the Wild Warner Facebook page.

## New group seeks volunteers for nature areas of dog park

By Kathleen Wolf  
*Warner Dog Park Nature Volunteers*

Warner Dog Park Nature Volunteers is a new group with the goal of adding native plantings to the natural areas of Warner Dog Park and eliminating

invasive weeds.

Please join us on Facebook at [facebook.com/groups/warnerdogparknaturevolunteers](https://facebook.com/groups/warnerdogparknaturevolunteers) or email [warnerdogpark.naturevolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:warnerdogpark.naturevolunteers@gmail.com) for more information.

Look for a meeting schedule in the next issue of the Northside News.



# Northside Electric

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## ENVIRONMENT



Photo by Justin Markofski

Implementing the Warner Lagoon Water Quality Plan will enhance recreational opportunities, environmental benefits, and equity.

## Warner Lagoon

*Continued from page 1*

then presidents Kathleen Wolf and Phil James, respectively, speaks to the asset that Warner Lagoon is and the importance of maintaining the lagoon and its fishery:

“Increasing fish habitat and shore fishing opportunities in the lagoon will help restore an important environmental, recreational, and for many, food resource in a diverse and economically challenged neighborhood. As part of its commitment to social equity, our groups believe the City of Madison should pursue all feasible opportunities to restore environmental resources in neighborhoods and communities that need them most.”

Fast forward to the present and the status of this Warner Lagoon Water Quality Plan is getting fresh attention and interest by residents and community members with a growing desire to see the implementation of the clear priorities and objectives laid out in the 2021 report. There are concerns that investment into the implementation of this well-made and long-sought plan is being diverted and postponed to other areas of the city and other projects.

Recently, local experts Kurt Welke and Pat Hasburgh, who have been involved in the Warner Lagoon effort for around a decade, drafted a letter to help stakeholders understand more of the history of both the lagoon itself and the still relatively recent planning process. Here are some excerpts from their letter:

“The Warner Park lagoon was added to the Madison Parks properties in the mid-1960s. A wetland was dredged to create a 28-acre lagoon with the initial objective of providing fish spawning habitat. With development, it became

the primary storm water management feature for the expansion of housing and retail occurring on the Northside of Madison. Now, some 60+ years later, the form and functionality of the lagoon has diminished significantly. Currently, the lagoon is a low-quality water body characterized by high sediment and nutrient loading that is mostly only suitable for carp and blue-green algae blooms. Sometimes winter fish die.

“Given the challenges of urban life, residents need high quality open spaces more than ever. Improving the lagoon meets larger stormwater, water-quality, social equity, and access goals consistent with what makes Madison such a great place to live. Additionally, the Warner Park Lagoon is poised to offer excellent recreational opportunities in the form of accessible food to folks in a part of town that needs it most.

“For over 20 years, citizen advocacy and partnerships to rehabilitate the lagoon resulted in an approved restoration plan published in 2021. Warner Lagoon Water Quality Plan provides an excellent path towards a brighter future for the lagoon. However, 10 years after the planning process began, too little of the plan has been implemented and commitments keep getting pushed further back.

“A planning investment has been made and a plan has been completed, vetted, and approved. Now is the time to stop the delays and commit to the spirit, intent and actions called out in the plan with a more substantial and timely budgetary commitment from the City of Madison to move this important project forward.”

An anonymous public comment in the appendix of the Plan expresses the same call to action and timely investment in implementation, “Appreciate the slog this has been — now we need

to see the package presented as a budgetary request with a schedule. Let’s get going — action is needed to maintain momentum...”

Our two Northside alders, Amani Latimer Burris of District 12 (which officially contains Warner Park and Lagoon) and Charles Myadze, have both been interested to learn more and are active in giving this important issue attention by following up with city staff, past alders, and Northside residents and groups to represent this issue adequately and substantially within the city.

Principal City Stormwater Engineer Janet Schmidt is listed as the project contact on the city website where the full report is published as a pdf document ([cityofmadison.com/engineering/projects/warner-lagoon-water-quality-plan](http://cityofmadison.com/engineering/projects/warner-lagoon-water-quality-plan)). Schmidt responded to questions asked about the status of the plan and its implementation in a recent email:

“We have funding to start the initial design for some of the Castle Creek water quality improvements. We have done some prep work to get tree assessments, wetlands identified, and topographical

survey work done. We are hoping to have a public informational meeting sometime this winter/spring to officially kick this off to the public.

“Additionally, the following parts of the plan have already been implemented: An accessible fishing pier in 2020. Stormwater quality catch basins installed on Forester in 2021 to control sediment loading. Carp Barrier installed 2022 (by friends’ group with \$5,000 contribution by Engineering). Fall 2022 dredging the channel from the lake to Woodward Drive at the request of the Friends group was completed.”

Actions are being taken at the time this article goes to press that may have an impact on the timelines and future trajectory of this Warner Lagoon Water Quality Plan and its complete implementation. We will continue to follow this story and provide updates as they occur.

Please reach out directly to [director@northsideplanningcouncil.org](mailto:director@northsideplanningcouncil.org) if you have comments to share and feel free to let the city know your wishes regarding this project as well.

**By Jan Axelson**  
*Northside News*



Photo by Mary Binkley

Last summer, Mary Binkley spotted this queen rusty-patched bumblebee at Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park’s South Unit. (The queen has no rusty patch.) The sighting was confirmed by the Wisconsin Bumblebee Brigade, a citizen-based monitoring project coordinated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Rusty-patched bumblebees are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.





## NORTH STAR AWARDS 2023

North Star Awards 2023  
Photos by Krystal Images Photography



### HIGH IMPACT AWARD – Police *Captain Kelly Donahue*



**North Star Awards**



**19TH ANNUAL NORTH STAR  
HIGH IMPACT AWARD**

For outstanding contributions and service to the Northside community. The  
Northside Planning Council presents this recognition on October 13, 2023 to:

*Captain Kelly Donahue*

North District Madison Police Department

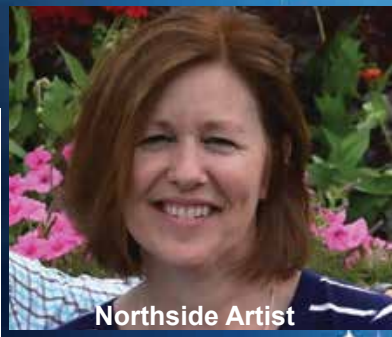
*Justin Markofski*  
Justin Markofski, NPC Executive Director

*Lauri Lee*  
Lauri Lee, NPC Chair

#### Appreciation for Captain Kelly Donahue from a fellow North District MPD staff:

“I want to express my gratitude for everything you have done for the Northside of Madison and the Madison Police Department. You are truly valued, and you have had a positive impact on your colleagues and the community that you serve. You continue to go above and beyond to ensure successful outcomes for each task or assignment that you are involved in. I see the care and dedication that you have for this side of town through your actions and community discussions. It is clear you have a deep passion for this area, and you are proud to have grown up on the Northside. I am appreciative of your mentorship and each of the opportunities you have provided me over the last few years. Thank you for being such an inspiration to me and others around you.”

## NORTH STAR AWARDS 2023



Northside Artist  
Janine Bessenecker



Paintings by Janine Bessenecker



Paintings by Alice Traore



Northside Artist  
Alice Traore



## North Star Award Winners 2023



Yasar Noorivestani



Matenin Camara



Kyndra "Oly"  
Kidd-Kirby



Nimrod "Nim"  
Hilliard III



Zach Watson



James Xiong

### Yasar Noorivestani Northport Community Learning Center

"Yasar has been a major contributor to the Northport Community Learning Center. He joins field trips often, participates in activities and programs and is one of the better young athletes here. He represents his pride in family, religion and country. He's a pleasure to be around, humorous and able to chat with anyone, he's also quite inquisitive! His engagement in the classroom is superlative. Yasar continues to challenge himself in many ways, through the classroom and into the after school activities and summer programs. Oil painting is another challenge he has patiently taken on, where he has displayed his love for his country, using his Afghanistan flag and Afghanistan Common Myna bird as inspiration in his work. Where he really excels is on the sports field. As a second grader, he plays alongside kids in middle school and does extremely well. Constant hustle and excellent sportsmanship allows him to compete in any sport. Be it soccer, football, cricket and baseball, he is who you would want on your team. This summer, he has shown other kids how to play cricket, a sport his family has brought over from Afghanistan.

### Matenin Camara Northport Community Learning Center

Matenin Camara has been a wonderful human to have around The Northport Community Learning Center. Her personality and sense of humor are delightful. She is always striving to better herself. Matenin has become a leader to the center, including joining the staff during the summer program, while working at Troy Gardens. Having two jobs has really brought out her best! She continues to push herself to learn everything she

can. She is the oldest sister of four so her responsibilities to them are first and foremost. And she does it with happiness. That happiness comes out in many ways, in her art, involvement in the center and participation in sports, including soccer, where she has earned sportsmanship and competition medals at Amigos en Azul, a police-sponsored soccer program. Matenin has several passions, including arts and crafts and cooking, where she is always willing to contribute. During her years at Blackhawk Middle, she had her art on display in her own showcase. Matenin has matured a lot over the last year, as she prepares for high school and her pursuits to further her education.

### Kyndra "Oly" Kidd-Kirby (they/them pronouns) Sherman Middle School

Kyndra "Oly" Kidd-Kirby is a true leader here at Sherman Middle School on Madison's Northside. They have been involved in multiple extracurricular activities, including Black Girl Magic, The Links "Yes I Can!, Yes I Will" Leadership Conference, MSCR after-school programming and Sherman's Black Student Union. Oly comes to school with uplifting, positive energy every day and commits to being an amazing scholar, and genuinely kind and loving human. They support many peers through difficult social, emotional and various personal situations, while navigating the sometimes challenging realms of middle school for themselves as well. As a passionate advocate for youth mental health and wellbeing, Oly is often seen as many student's "safe person," who consistently welcomes others of all backgrounds and abilities. Academically, Oly is always willing to take on a new challenge, including participation in Wisconsin Project Soapbox Competition, a public speaking program that calls young people to speak out on issues that affect them and their

communities. These powerful speeches have lasting, transformative impacts on classrooms, schools and communities. Oly's speech on Body Positivity last year led them to become a District finalist and being able to share their message on multiple platforms. As an 8th grader and role model, we are fortunate to have such a strong leader not only in our school, but on Madison's Northside. We know Oly will continue to be an agent of change and a source of strength and love in our community and beyond!

### Nimrod "Nim" Hilliard III Warner Park Community Recreation Center

Nimrod Hilliard's consistent commitment to supporting youth and young adults attending WPCRC's KNOW Program, plays a key role in WPCRC's capacity to provide a safe space for Northside teens to participate in a variety of sports and sporting events, arts, workshops, live music, performances and a meal, while hanging out with friends. Nim strives to ensure any and everyone who comes through our doors, feels welcome and regularly goes above and beyond the duties listed in his job description to do so. Nim is a staple of the Northside Community and we are so thankful to have him as apart of our WPCRC family.

### Zach Watson Warner Park Community Recreation Center

Zach has done an excellent job collaborating with community partners to enhance the facility's programming experience. Specifically, Zach has worked with the Madison Parks Foundation (MPF) to secure a \$94,000 grant from the 100 Men of Dane County to purchase a van for the Kids Need Opportunities at Warner

(KNOW) program partnership with the MPF to reduce transportation barriers to accessing WPCRC services and increase connection to the Greater Madison community. Additionally, Zach has worked with the MPF to secure approximately \$175,000 in grants to build program capacity and sustainability for the WPCRC's youth programming, reducing reliance on tax levies. Further, Zach has created youth employment opportunities through the Basketball Referee Apprenticeship Program, connecting 50-plus Northside teens to good-paying officiating and scorekeeping opportunities at the WPCRC and across Dane County in response to the nationwide shortage and decline in attracting new, younger officials. Lastly, Zach created the Youth Leadership and Evaluation Team (YLET) that serves as WPCRC youth ambassadors for the KNOW program and provides youth perspective in Parks Planning and Development projects and community initiatives. Zach is a strong collaborator and regularly works with 30-plus Northside agencies to expand access to the WPCRC. A lifelong Northsider, Zach is a valuable asset to the community and a champion for the community's most vulnerable populations.

### James Xiong East Madison Community Center

I have been the supervisor of James Xiong for the last three years where he has served as a youth counselor during East Madison Community Center's after school programs and our 8-week Summer Day Camp. The majority of the students he works with come from low-income, single-parent homes. Over 50% of the youth have learning or emotional disabilities. James excels in developing positive relationships with students and in many cases, he serves as one of the only positive male role models in their lives. James has great listening skills and

## NORTH STAR AWARDS 2023



### North Star Award Winners 2023



Helen Osborn-Senatus  
The River Food Pantry



Nicole Dotson  
Sherman Middle School



Tricia King  
Sherman Middle School



Nkaujnou "Nou" Vang-vue  
Lake View Elementary School



Eve Ropel  
Lake View Elementary School



Rachel Schramm  
Shabazz City High School

always takes time to listen to students and give positive feedback when needed. He has been able to connect with some of the most challenging middle and elementary students in the school district which is a gift that is hard to duplicate. James has a very calm demeanor with the youth and is consistent in all areas when working with youth. He uses excellent techniques and judgment to redirect youth's behavior when they become distracted or lose focus on their assignments. When it comes to being a role model to children, he is one of the best. James is eager to try new learning strategies to assist the youth to grow and reach their goals. James's professionalism is excellent, he is always on time and many times stays late to finish his duties or help a student. James is a great team player but not afraid to seek out help from other staff if needed.

#### Helen Osborn-Senatus The River Food Pantry

Helen Osborn-Senatus is a dedicated supporter of the Northside community, where she lives with her husband, Lu, and daughters, Anora and Alina. Helen has made a tremendous difference to the Northside through her work at The River Food Pantry over the past three years. Hired as a program manager and promoted to director of operations, Helen brings an incredibly valuable perspective to The River. With her background in political science, social work and child welfare, Helen has a pulse on what our neighbors need and how the pantry can help. Helen oversees 20 staff in operations. Under her leadership, The River has added five innovative programs to better meet our community's needs. The River now provides food in more ways than ever before, including curbside groceries, to-go meals, delivery, online grocery orders, mobile meals, emergency food lockers, a

Saturday pantry session and community partnerships. This network of programs that Helen has helped build ensures that our neighbors can access free meals and groceries 24/7/365. Each day, Helen creates a nourishing environment for staff and volunteers to grow and support the pantry's mission. From operating pallet jacks and stuffing peppers in the kitchen to giving tours and representing The River, Helen is always willing to step in. In all her hard work, Helen brings her welcoming nature, warm smile, and high level of professionalism. Helen deserves to receive a North Star Award for making our community a better place for all.

#### Nicole Dotson Sherman Middle School

Ms. Nicole's involvement with Sherman Middle School scholars goes above and beyond, despite the many challenges. She is brave, kind, generous and firm as she forges a solid bond with kids in a unique and priceless way. She genuinely cares about the success of Sherman scholars, and it is evident that her involvement in their lives is pivotal.

#### Tricia King Sherman Middle School

Ms. King works tirelessly with some of the most challenging aspects at Sherman Middle School, with a smile, while waiting for months for hip surgery. She provides extra resources for Sherman scholars, is solution-focused, and looks out for coworkers and even neighbors.

#### Nkaujnou "Nou" Vang-vue Lake View Elementary School

There is no one more deserving of this award than Lake View's very own principal, Ms. Vang-Vue! Nou has been at Lake View for six years and has transformed this school community both inside and out. Nou is an exceptional leader and advocate for both our staff and scholars.

She will step into any role when it's needed whether it is picking up trash, mopping up bodily fluids or stepping in to teach. Nou is approachable, trustworthy, compassionate and dedicated. She shows up every day with a passionate energy that radiates throughout the school building. Overall, Nou is a superhero to this Northside community, and we are so lucky to have her lead Lake View!

#### Eve Ropel Lake View Elementary School

Eve is the most incredible person ever! She always goes above and beyond! She is a great resource for our Pashto speaking families. When we had several of Pashto-speaking families come to our school, she went above and beyond to reach out to individuals in our community to search for resources to help support the families financially, emotionally and mentally. It can be hard when families come to the U.S and they do not speak English or know what to do next. Eve is amazing and she deserves this reward. If it was not for her, we would be searching for a Pashto speaking staff member (BRS) in addition to the services that Eve provided to the best of her ability. Thank you, Eve, for all you do!

Eve is a Northside gem. She is bubbly, enthusiastic and helps the entire community. She is the family liaison at Lake View Elementary. Lake View is a diverse community. She works tirelessly to help our families. Some of the things she does is to enroll them in school, get to Lake View elementary safely, walking with students on the "Walking School Bus," and helps disseminate information that benefits our families. She has such a wonderful relationship with families. Additionally, she proactively thinks, learns and grows. She us on the health services team to assist our families gain access to health care, dental care, and immunizations. She spends much time

with our families and using the language line to communicate with with our non-English speaking families. We are so lucky to have her in the Lake View and Northside community.

#### Rachel Schramm Shabazz City High School

Rachel Schramm is currently the Art teacher and Instruction Coach at Shabazz City High School. As an art teacher she involves multiple modes of artist expression and inspires scholars to take risks to share and know themselves. She creates a warm safe community in all her classes. This safe environment allows scholars to express their personal and world views while remaining open to new ideas and new growth. You will often find rich conversation among peers while they are working on digital art, pottery and much more. She builds relationships across the community by pairing her students with elementary students resulting in an illustrated book for each elementary child. This has become one of the many traditions Rachel has started at Shabazz.

Have you driven by Shabazz lately? Take a look at the new mural that was created by her and her students. As the instructional coach, Rachel supports all the Shabazz teachers by facilitating professional development rooted in her commitment to equity. You will often find her in the classroom modeling best practices. Rachel goes above and beyond in her role. She participates and leads multiple committees, steps out of her role to do whatever is needed to support staff and students, and is always reliable. She embodies what it means to be a life-long learner and continues to grow and refine her own teaching practices while inspiring others to do the same.

#### Yahara Fishing Club

The Yahara Fishing Club is organized

## NORTH STAR AWARDS 2023



### North Star Award Winners 2023



Yahara Fishing Club



East Madison Community Center



Harper's Hair Culture



Kicks4Kids



Affordable Dental Care

and operated for charitable and educational purposes under 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code. The club has been promoting fishing rights and responsibilities since 1945 in the Madison area. Specific purposes of the club are to introduce and educate youth and adults in Dane County to fishing skills and techniques. The club provides education, fishing opportunities, resources/equipment, scholarship support and waterways/habitat renovation and improvement, including collaboration/funding to the Wisconsin DNR and Dane County.

The corporation supports and provides for environmental and sustainability efforts related to the Dane County watershed. Listed below include ongoing efforts on behalf of the Northside for the past five years. Madison Northside Club residents include Kurt Welke, Jim Krause, Patrick Hasburgh, Jack Hurst, and Paul Zoch. Design,

- Design, installation and maintenance of CarpGate, an invasive species preventative device to protect the Warner Park Lagoon ecosystem;
- Grant awarded to YFC, funded by City of Madison Engineering;
- Warner Park Lagoon Renovation Project: Advocacy and input to Wisconsin DNR, City of Madison Parks and City Parks Board of Supervisor;
- Annual Kids Summer Fishing Event, donation of fishing rods/gear, instruction, and education on fishing and protecting our waterways (300 children each year);
- Jack Hurst Handicapped Fishing Pier Installation/Signage at Warner Park Rainbow Shelter;
- Advisor to Northside Alder Charles Myadze on Science and Environmental issues, including PFAS education and mitigation;

- Input to City of Madison Monona Terrace Development Plan Committee: focus on water quality/habitat maintenance/improvement and public health.

#### East Madison Community Center

Since 1966, the East Madison Community Center has been a focal point for thousands of low-income families on Madison's Northeast side. EMCC's priority is at-risk minority youth. Services include education, nutrition, life skills, job readiness, college prep, social-emotional learning, multicultural art and various wellness activities. These programs, offered nearly 40 hours a week, assist underserved youth in achieving their full potential and have been recognized with 70 national, state, and local awards. Many of these students graduate from college, including Stanford, Howard, and the University of Wisconsin. Some graduates serve or have served on EMCC's volunteer board of directors as president, treasurer and secretary.

The center also provides wrap-around services for adults, seniors and families seven days a week. Programs include the Literacy Network, food pantry, arts, garden club, yoga, family field trips, preschool support, legal assistance, computer lab, health services and more. EMCC staff have developed over 50 ongoing community partnerships to help programs maximize expertise while minimizing expenses.

All of EMCC's comprehensive services are provided at no cost and have been free for nearly 60 years. A unique aspect of EMCC and a primary reason for the center's favorable impact on the Northeast side is the continuity of its small staff. EMCC's six regular team members have worked at EMCC for a total of 140 years and been a stabilizing community resource.

EMCC remains committed to helping area residents build capacity, eliminate barriers, reduce racial inequities and achieve independence, fully supporting community members on their mission of self-sufficiency.

#### Harper's Hair Culture

Harper's Hair Culture offers exquisite services, while keeping culture at the forefront of their vision. They educate their clients on at-home curl care, while making their hair goals come true! Harper's offers a welcoming environment for clients of all ages and does particularly great work with their Curly Kids offerings. Innovating hair culture by offering a Curl Exclusive salon is what makes Harper's Hair Culture a visionary business in the Northside community.

#### Kicks4Kids Sterlyn Woods & Terrance Morris

Sterlyn Woods and Terrence Morris are two young gentlemen who have made both waves and ripples for our youth and families in need on Madison's North and East Side. They both were instrumental in leading community organizing to create and offer two different Kicks4Kids events, where they volunteered countless hours collecting donated shoes and clothes to give to families in need.

The first event occurred over the 4th of July 2023, where both Mr. Woods and Mr. Morris drove around Madison in a U-Haul, stopping in various neighborhoods to give the donated items away. This idea and effort eventually blossomed into a larger back to school community event, where on Aug. 27 Kicks4Kids' back-to-school special included various food carts, donated ice cream from the Chocolate Shoppe, several local barbers offering free haircuts and a treasure chest of clothes and shoes to give back to those in need.

We are honored to have been able to assist with supporting these two for the events and we look forward to continuing to support their future endeavors.

#### Affordable Dental Care

Affordable Dental Care (ADC) is an organization that provides quality and compassionate care to the uninsured and under-insured populations on Madison's Northside. Oral problems can be a heavy burden to bear, and for many they have no choice but to just live with the pain because of a lack of access to care or inability to pay for care. Affordable Dental Care provides these services at 50% to 70% less than regular, for-profit clinics. They are continuously looking for ways to implement new technology to improve patient experience and diagnostic capabilities, including through 3D and digital x-rays and crowns made on site.

There has been such a demand for ADC's services that they are planning an expansion to be completed by the spring 2024 to increase their capacity. ADC started a new initiative to reach out to people, not only to inform them of their services, but to help educate adults and children about the importance of oral health. Developing and maintaining healthy oral hygiene habits is key to preventing disease or worsening of existing conditions. Oral health has been shown to be connected to our overall health too.

Through quality care, implementation of technology and dental health education, Affordable Dental Care is serving to provide access to needed care in a healthcare desert, making sure that people who are receiving care have the best experience possible, and ensuring that people are informed and are taking an active role in maintaining their oral health.

# NORTH STAR AWARDS 2023

## North Star Award Winners 2023



Lauri Lee, Anita Weier and Jan Axelson represented the Northside News team



Lauri Lee presented with Lifetime Achievement Award by NPC Board members Shaunté McCullum and Areli Estrada

Board of Directors and staff honor and acknowledge Lauri Lee as a North Star for Life, granting her with this, Lifetime Achievement Award. Congratulations and thank you Lauri Lee for going above and beyond in all the ways you have served the work of NPC, its programs, and the Northside of Madison. Well done.”

Lauri will continue to be very involved with the Northside and NPC as still current Editor of the Northside News, leader of the Northside Economic Development Coalition, Board member of the Northside Business Association and Dane Buy Local Foundation and much more. Next time you see Lauri congratulate her and tell her thanks for her part in making the Northside a special place to live, work and play.

### Northside News staff Team Award

The Northside News team, comprised of dedicated journalists, editors, and contributors, work tirelessly and go over and beyond to bring timely and relevant news to the community. The Northside News newspaper is by and for the Northside of Madison. It's an embodiment of community, connecting the people of the Northside to foster unity and empowering them to shape a better future for all. The stories of our neighborhood are told by its people, for its people.

The newspaper, now in its 29th year, serves as a vital source of information and connection for the diverse Northside community. The Northside News is a window into our community showcasing local voices, stories and events to highlight the essence of this culturally diverse neighborhood to foster a sense of belonging and shared responsibility within the community and unify the residents and businesses. It helps each of us to understand our neighbors better, learn about local issues and discover opportunities to get involved.

Distribution of the Northside News ensures that every resident has access to the information they need to stay informed, engaged, and empowered. It is distributed bimonthly by every household bulk mail to over 12,000 households and more than 1200 go into local businesses to distribute to their customers. Nonprofit leaders are regular contributors.

The team works hard to bring you the bi-monthly newspaper with a variety of news. Meet the team:

**Publisher Justin Markofski** is new to the team in 2023. He's been quick to learn the ropes of newspaper publication.



**Editor Lauri Lee** has over 30 years of experience as an editor and publisher of newspapers and newsletters through her Communication Concepts business. She's served in many capacities from 2009–2023 including editor, ad manager, submissions manager, writer, proofreader and design work.



**Designer John Dyerson** worked 34 years for DeGolier Printing with prepress, digital and commercial presses, networking and graphic design. Prior to that, he owned Typetronics for 16 years doing prepress, camera work, films, electronics and typesetting.



**Advertising manager Colin Murray** has 16 years of ad manager experience with the Madison Times, Brava Magazine and Isthmus newspaper. He has been involved with Dane Buy Local since its inception in 2004 and its executive director from 2013–2023. He is also currently the president of the Dane Buy Local Foundation.



**Submissions manager Rita Lord is also our copy editor and a proofreader.** She began her career of 32 years with the Supreme Court for Wisconsin from 1980-2012. She was a legal assistant for the supreme court for Wisconsin and worked as a clerk, then as an assistant for a Justice Court of Appeals judge. During her time as clerk, she proofread court opinions before they were released.



**Anita Weier** is a writer and proofreader. She holds degrees in journalism as well as library and information studies. Her professional experience includes working as a journalist and editor at the Capital Times. She started with the Northside News from 2009-2011 while serving on the Northside Planning Council. She served two terms as an alder for District 18 from 2011-2015. She has active involvement in environmental, economic and neighborhood issues.



**Jan Axelson**, our environmental writer and proofreader, was an active contributor to the newspaper before changing roles. She has been an environmental volunteer with the DNR, Dane County, City of Madison Parks and Friends of Cherokee Marsh. She has been president of Friends of Cherokee Marsh for 15 years. During her career, she was a technical writer and author of computer content.



**Jason R. Van Pelt** is our Northside News poet and new cartoonist. He is a product of our Northside schools with aspirations to be our city's Poet Laureate. He is a children's book author and illustrator with many titles which are available from online book sellers.



### Kenya Moses – Margaret's Fund Scholarship Winner

Kenya Shaundel Moses is the 2024 recipient of Margaret's Fund: A Northside Scholarship. Kenya is attending UW-Milwaukee pursuing a bachelor's degree in business finance. This follows having attained an associate degree in culinary arts. Kenya and her children have been Northside residents since 2016, with her youngest child recently graduating from East High School and now a freshman at UW-Whitewater. Kenya is elated and grateful to return to college to complete her degree. We wish her great success in reaching her educational goal!





# EXCELLENCE IN DENTISTRY

Relationship Based Dentistry

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## Local Northside Dentist

*“Come Meet Your Neighborhood Dentists”*

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DR. EILIS  
PURATH



DR. JEREMIE  
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Give our office a call or visit our website for online scheduling.







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1001 N. Sherman Avenue  
Madison, WI 53704



## LIBRARY

**Library Hours**

Monday–Friday, 10 am–8 pm  
Saturday, 9 am–5 pm  
Sunday, 1–5 pm

Closed: Dec. 24–25, 30–31, Jan. 1, 15

See all library hours at madpl.org/locations. All events are at Lakeview Library unless otherwise indicated. Check madisonpubliclibrary.org/calendar for the most up-to-date information on programs and services.

**Making Mornings Marvelous**

*Saturday, Dec. 2, 10–11 am*

Are you oh so exhausted from the rigamarole of terrible mornings with your little one? The crying, feet dragging, whining, fighting. What if we could transform the worst part of your day into the best? Bring your little one (ages 3 and up) to the library and join Debi Kennedy for an uplifting time to discuss and create a plan to reinvent what mornings can look like. A one-hour investment and you will leave with a master plan ready to be implemented the very next morning. Call the library to register.

**Baby Play Date**

*Wednesdays, Dec. 20 and Jan. 17–31, 10–11 am*

Join other neighborhood families for a casual library playdate for babies ages birth to 17 months and their caregivers. We'll feature open-ended play materials and lots of books! Siblings are welcome.

**Multi-age Storytime**

*Thursdays, Dec. 7, Jan. 18, Jan. 25, 10:30–11:30 am*

Read and play together with children ages 5 and under. Engaging with books, songs and playful experiences all help children develop communication skills, patience, empathy, and pre-reading skills and helps to build a lifelong love of reading. Siblings and childcare groups are welcome.

**Art for Little Ones**

*Thursday, Dec. 14, 10:30–11:30 am*

Join artist Amy Mietzel for hands-on art activities inspired by picture books. We'll start by doing a read-aloud of the book, then create art using unique materials and fun supplies. Additional books that fit the theme will also be available for caregivers and youth to read together and check out. For children ages 2–5. Siblings and groups are welcome.

**Preschool Storytime Chefs**

*Tuesday, Dec. 19, 10:30–11:30 am*

Join Chef Lily Kilfoy for this new, hands-on cooking experience for preschoolers ages 3–5. Participants will learn about food through storytime and by helping to prepare a simple recipe. Children will need adult assistance. Recipes will be nut-free and vegetarian.

**Music + Movement**

*Saturday, Dec. 9, 10–11 am*

Join us for a preschool music and movement program with singing, dancing, playing and bubbles. For children up to age 5, with their caregivers.

**Minecraft Club**

*Mondays, Jan. 22 and 29, 4–5:30 pm*

This program is open to all teens and tweens. Stop in to play Minecraft with other teens and tweens. There is a limited number of computers, so participants will be taking turns as needed.

**Cooking with Chef Lily**

*Tuesdays, Dec. 5–19 and Jan. 9, 23, and 30, 4:30–5:30 pm*

*Saturdays, Dec. 9 and Jan. 20, 1:30–2:30 pm*

Join The Kids Chef, Lily Kilfoy, for a series of cooking classes 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 tools. Food is generously provided by Willy St. Co-op – North.

**We Read to a Dog**

*Mondays, Dec. 18 and Jan. 22, 3–4 pm*

Read aloud to a furry friend from Alliance of Therapy Dogs at Lakeview Library. Bring a favorite book or try a new one from our collection. First come, first served.

**LEGO Club**

*Saturdays, Dec. 16 and Jan. 20, 9:30–11:30 am*

Are you a kid who loves LEGOs? Do you enjoy engineering and designing LEGO creations? Come join us for LEGO Club. The library provides lots of LEGOs, and you provide the imagination. No registration is required. LEGOs will have to stay at the library, so bring a camera to capture your creations.

**Teen Cooking Club**

*Fridays, Dec. 1 and 15, Jan. 5 and 19, 4:30–5:30 pm*

Tweens and teens are invited to cook with Chef Lily. Participants will prepare and enjoy a wide variety of recipes, while learning about meal planning, following recipes, and using kitchen gadgets and tools.

**Tween + Teen Time**

*Fridays, Dec. 8 and Jan. 12, 4–5:30 pm*

Drop-in and join other tweens and teens for all sorts of games, snacks, art projects and community. This event is free and open to tweens and teens, 10 years and older.

**Munch Mobile Lunch Van**

*Saturdays, Dec. 2–30, 12:40–1 pm*

*Saturdays, Jan. 6–27, time TBD*

The Munch Mobile Lunch Van will make a stop at Lakeview Library. All people in and around the library can get a free lunch.

**Chess at the Library**

*Second and fourth Mondays, Dec. 11, Jan. 8 and 22, 6–8 pm*

All ages and skill levels are welcome.

**First Friday Films**

*Fridays, Dec. 1 and Jan. 5, 6–8 pm*

Join us for a film night on the first Friday of each month. Selections include feature-length films, documentaries, and shorts. In December we will watch “Belfast” and in January “Dos Estaciones.” Snacks and drinks are provided.

**Cookie Exchange**

*Saturday, Dec. 2, 1–2 pm*

Some cookies are traditionally made only during the winter holidays. We'll discuss how a few basic cookie recipes can be turned into a wide assortment of different cookies: lemon pinch, pecan fingers, Linzer, pressed and many more. All of the doughs and cookies can be done ahead and frozen to make your holiday baking fun and easy. Samples will be provided. Bring your own cookies to exchange with others. Call the library to register.

**Memory Screening**

*Monday, Dec. 4, 1–3 pm*

Memory screening is an important part of overall health and much like other routine health screenings. The Aging & Disability Resource Center of Dane County is offering free and confidential 15-minute memory screening appointments, including educational materials about memory concerns and brain health. Call the library to register.



Photo by Dorothy Borchardt

Maximus (clown), Teddy (tiger) and Roxy (ladybug) are dressed up for Halloween.

**Lakeview Library Read to a Dog****Friends of Lakeview Library**

The volunteer therapy dog teams at Lakeview Library hope you will stop by and say hello. The program provides a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere for children to read or just see a friendly face.

These certified therapy dogs are great

listeners who are non-judgmental, calm and loving. In the above photo, the dogs are dressed up for Halloween. They brought smiles and joy to children and adults who stopped to say hello.

Read to a Dog is the fourth Monday of every month, unless it's a holiday. Upcoming dates are Dec. 18 and Jan. 22.

**Chair Yoga and Gentle Movement for Older Adults**

*Mondays, Dec. 4 and 11, 10:30–11:15 am*  
*Jan. dates TBD*

Join Kim for a chair yoga and gentle movement class focusing on range of motion, breathing and balance. Movements will be performed either sitting in a chair or standing. Go online or call 608–246–4547 to register two weeks before each program date.

**Fourth Friday Poetry Group**

*Fridays, Dec. 8 and Jan. 26, 1–2 pm*

Come to read; come to listen; come to celebrate poetry with this group of fellow poets and poetry aficionados.

**COVID Vaccine Clinic**

*Wednesdays, Dec. 13–27, 3–5 pm*

COVID-19 vaccines will be administered by Public Health Madison & Dane County while supplies last. Those ages 6 months–17 years need a parent or guardian present. Eligibility is limited to those with no insurance or those who have limited insurance that does not cover vaccination.

**Cooking with Chef Paul: Shabu–Shabu**

*Thursday, Dec. 14, 6:30–7:30 pm*

In cold weather, making stock will warm our dwellings and our hearts. In this class, you will learn how to make stock. Chef Paul will also demonstrate how to utilize trimmings from produce and meat. Once the stock is made, shabu-shabu can be served. It's a great way to entertain by gathering your friends and family around the hotpot on a cold winter day. Registration begins Nov. 30.

**Board Game Café**

*Monday, Dec. 18, 6–8 pm*

Join friends and neighbors for a game night. Revisit old favorites or try something brand new from the library's collection of board games and card games. Beverages and snacks will be provided.

**Scrabble at the Library**

*Wednesdays, Dec. 6–Jan. 31, 10 am–12 pm*

Attention word lovers: exercise your brain by playing Scrabble with other adults.

**Knitting at the Library**

*Wednesdays, Dec. 6–Jan. 31, 6–8 pm*

Drop in knitting: learn a new craft or work on that unfinished project with other neighborhood knitters.

**Application Assistance**

*Tuesdays, Dec. 5–Jan. 30, 11 am–5 pm*

In partnership with the City of Madison and Madison Public Library, The African Center for Community Development provides assistance with filling out applications and forms related to jobs, housing, immigration, food, health and other

community support services.

**One-on-One Computer Assistance**

*Thursdays, Dec. 7 and 14, Jan. 11 and 25, 6–7 pm*

Questions about your laptop, tablet or phone? Need help with basic computer or Internet skills? Looking for assistance downloading library eBooks and audiobooks? We offer free one-on-one computer assistance.

**BOOK DISCUSSIONS**

Read the book and join the discussion. New members are always welcome. Check the library calendar or call for details. Some discussions are online events.

**NewBridge Book Discussion**

*First Wednesdays, 10–11 am*

Dec. 6 – “Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand” by Helen Simonson

Jan. 3 – “At Home in Mitford” by Jan Karon

**Lakeview Book Discussion**

*First Thursdays, 6:30–8 pm*

Dec. 7 – “Firekeeper’s Daughter” by Angeline Boulley

Jan. 4 – “How Minds Change: The New Science of Belief, Opinion and Persuasion” by David McRaney

**Daytime Book Discussion**

*Second Thursdays, 12–1 pm*

Dec. 14 – “All The Single Ladies” by Rebecca Traister

Jan. 11 – “Sea of Tranquility” by Emily St. John Mandel

**Mystery Book Group Discussion**

*Third Thursdays, 5:30–7 pm*

Dec. 21 – “A Flicker in the Dark” by Stacy Willingham

Jan. 18 – The Last Heir to Blackwood Library by Hester Fox



Photo by Lakeview Library Staff

Hello, I'm Jon Warnick, a UW-Madison social work intern at Lakeview Library. I'm here to listen and help connect people to resources in the Madison area. These could be application assistance, food resources, housing/shelter, substance abuse, or anything else you might think of. I am available every Monday, 11 am–5 pm, and alternate Fridays, 1–5 pm.

### SCHOOL AND YOUTH

Photo by Andy Posselt



Cub Scouts at Cherokee Marsh

## Northside Cub Scouts have adventures for all seasons

**Matt Meyer**

*Cub Scout Pack 127*

Cub Scout Pack 127 is our own Northside adventurer's club for families with girls and boys in kindergarten through fifth grade. We are well into our program year, with scouts working hard on their grade-level den adventures and meeting as a pack for fun and games.

In the fall, we had a campfire with entertainment provided by the scouts in the form of jokes and ghost stories, along with a meal cooked over the fire by our 4th grade Webelos scouts. We also had a great Halloween party hosted by our friends in the Scouts BSA troops 127 and 7127, where we showed off our costumes and played games organized by the older scouts. We met with local police officers and firefighters to learn more about their roles in the community.

Fall activities also included a nature hike to learn about local wildlife, a night

at a local school gym for fitness and games, and serving our community by raking leaves at Sherman Church.

Winter will see us taking a trip to Manitowoc to sleep overnight on a World War II submarine. Our older scouts will join in our council's Klondike Derby, a fun winter event that will test their scouting skills. We'll also be building and racing our Pinewood Derby cars, and continuing our learning and fun at den meetings and pack parties. Other outdoor activities might include ice fishing, sledding and ice skating.

Do you know a child in kindergarten through fifth grade who is ready to join in the fun? New families are welcome to join us at any time. We meet most Mondays at 6:30 pm at Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church.

For more information, call or text Cubmaster Derek Kruzicki at 608-571-7161, or email [info@cubscoutpack127.com](mailto:info@cubscoutpack127.com).

**NORTHPORT ART DEPT.**  
PRESENTS  
**GALLERY NIGHT 2023**  
WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER 6TH 5-8PM  
NORTHPORT COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER  
1740 NORTHPORT DRIVE  
MADISON WI 53704  
**SAVE THE DATE!**

*Maikan's Basquiat's "Grillo" (1984)*  
Featuring art from Northport Apartments children, including student studies of Jean-Michel Basquiat

We will have about 100 pieces of art on display. From Button Trees to City Scapes, African Masks to Afghanistan Flags, our young artists have a lot to share. Food made by Northport residents will be available. Hope to see you Dec. 6..

Photo by Diane Meadowcroft



The EMCC Bowl-a-Thon raised over \$60,000.

Photo by Northport CLC



Another adventure with the Northport Community Learning Center

## Learning is fun at Northport Community Learning Center

**By Linda Hang**

*Madison Metropolitan School District*

My name is Linda Hang, and I am the Learning Activities Coordinator for the Northport Community Learning Center. It's been fun working with all the students in the afterschool program. I have taken students on tons of fun, educational and interactive field trips. We explored parks and nature centers, engaged in activities at the libraries, worked with an author at the Overture Center, cooked delicious food, and learned some songs on the djembe.

Students come in for homework help

from staff in the center. I'll be there to help students with homework and reading. Even if there's no homework, that's okay. Students can engage in reading and learning activities to strengthen their skills. On Fridays, it's Friday Fun Day. Each week we do fun activities like baking apple pie, making keychains with perler beads, and many other arts and crafts.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers, Ms. Stacie and Ms. Lauren, for helping throughout the summer and school year. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at [pwongkit@icloud.com](mailto:pwongkit@icloud.com). Thank you.

Photo by Regina McConnell



Melissa Gundlach, former Program Coordinator at EMCC, Pat Hadden, Truax Neighborhood President, and Gary Lothe, EMCC participant

## The EMCC Fall Festival and Bowl-a-Thon benefit all ages

**By Regina McConnell**

*East Madison Community Center*

The East Madison Community Center (EMCC) Fall Festival, held Oct. 21, brought the community together for an afternoon of fun activities. All ages enjoyed traditional pumpkin decorating, caramel apples, fall-themed crafts and some action with corn hole and a bounce house. Project Babies brought activities for young children and resources for families. Special thanks to TNA President Pat Hadden, who coordinated the volunteers and activities for the event.

On Nov. 4, the EMCC 27th Annual Bowl-a-Thon raised over \$60,000 for the Center's Academic Improvement through Minority Mentors (AIMM) program. Special guest Mackenzie Davis of NBC15 was the co-host with EMCC Executive Director Tom Moen. Bowlers enjoyed bowling with guest mascots.

EMCC thanks the 100+ bowlers, volunteers, event sponsors, guest mascots and prize donors for their commitment to making the bowl-a-thon a success. A detailed shout-out to supporters can be found on our website [eastmadisoncc.org](http://eastmadisoncc.org).

SCHOOL AND YOUTH

# Shabazz students benefit from Northside internship

By Brian Counselman and Erik Shager  
Shabazz City High School

As an alternative high school in the Madison Metropolitan School District, Malcolm Shabazz City High School (Shabazz) draws students from all corners of the city. The school's appeal lies in its history of fostering a strong sense of belonging among students and staff, as well as its dedication to project-based learning, utilizing the surrounding community as a classroom.

Although the majority of students come from areas outside the Northside, their sense of unity and connection, fostered in collaboration with community partners, makes them feel like lifelong members of the Northside.

Three current Shabazz seniors who exemplify this community-centered approach to teaching and learning are Avril Ramirez, Dominic Angeletti and Leon Freeman.

As a junior, Avril Ramirez participated in Work It!, a class that allows students to explore careers through internships and work-based learning. Avril completed internships at two Northside organizations: ARTS for ALL and the Madison Public Library's Lakeview Branch.

At ARTS for ALL, which provides programs in the arts for children and adults with disabilities, Avril lent her talents as an artist to help the staff prepare for the classes they offer. Avril was a huge help to the organization, undertaking and completing projects with little to no supervision.

At Lakeview Library, Avril assisted the youth services librarian with "facing" books, book reviews, decorating the Teen Room, and helping organize youth activities. In a short time, she became a vital part of the youth services team. Avril used her experience in these internships to secure employment as an afterschool program leader with Madison School Community Recreation (MSCR). After graduation, Avril plans to attend college.

Another student who has reaped the rewards of Northside community partnerships is senior Dominic Angeletti. Dominic also opted for an internship through Work It! and quickly became an indispensable member of The River Food Pantry team. Dominic thrived in this role, finding common purpose with community members who share his commitment to addressing food insecurity in the local area.

When the Friends of the Lakeview Library sought volunteers for its spring



Photo by Erik Shager

Leon doing prep work at his internship at The Delicouser

and fall book sales, Dominic stepped in, helping move hundreds of books from storage to the library. His efforts contributed to record-breaking sales during the fundraiser.

Looking ahead, Dominic has ambitious plans, including attending Madison College in January to complete certified nursing assistant coursework before enlisting in the U.S. Army after graduation or pursuing a career as a nurse.

Leon Freeman's passion for the food industry has guided his learning at Shabazz, where he has taken every culinary-themed class offered and has participated in field experiences at The River, Willy Street Co-op North and Troy Gardens. Leon recently began a culinary internship at The Delicouser, where he is learning from some incredible chefs, including Patrick O'Halloran.

After graduation in June, Leon plans to enroll in the culinary arts program at Madison College. He will get a head start by completing a culinary course this spring at Madison College.

The students and staff at Shabazz are always on the lookout for new community partners. This could include internships, workshops, mentors, guest speakers, tours or other forms of engaged learning. If you or your organization would like to collaborate, contact Brian Counselman (bcounselman@madison.k12.wi.us) or Erik Shager (eshager@madison.k12.wi.us).

# Mendota Elementary welcomes inspirational new principal, Lindsey Jones

Photo by Mahmoud Hegazy



Principal Lindsey Jones

By Mahmoud Hegazy  
Mendota Elementary School

Mendota Elementary School is now home to a new beacon of leadership and inclusivity with the arrival of Lindsey Jones, who embarked on her journey as Mendota principal this year. Her unwavering dedication and passion for serving our diverse community are already creating ripples of positive change.

A second-grade teacher, Christine Pietruszka, praised Jones's leadership as "supportive, empowering and community-driven." She emphasized Jones' commitment to fostering an inclusive climate within the school and her knack for

empowering teachers to develop leadership skills. Pietruszka commended Jones for her adept utilization of data and resources to elevate student achievement while keeping expectations high.

Joe Guzaldo, the school psychologist, used descriptors like "reassuring, understanding and flexible" to portray Jones' leadership style. He praised her active presence within the school, her consistent engagement with both staff and scholars, and her receptiveness to feedback.

Another second-grade teacher, Dawn Stovall, noted Jones' hands-on leadership approach stating, "Ms. Jones leads by example." She emphasized how Jones can frequently be seen interacting with staff, students and families throughout the school.

Jones has rapidly emerged as an effective and beloved leader at our school. Her vision for a collaborative, inclusive and community-driven school is already becoming a reality, making her truly deserving of the recognition she receives from both staff and students.

As the school year progresses, we eagerly anticipate witnessing her continued positive influence on Mendota Elementary School and its diverse and vibrant community.

# Students asked, who is Ms. Jones?

Students interview their new principal

By Aubrey T., Josiah M., Dantrell D., Hailee N.

Have you heard the name Ms. Jones in your Northside conversations? Ms. Jones is the new Mendota principal, and we are going to introduce her to you in this article.

Ms. Jones has been working in schools for 17 years. Not only has she worked in Madison, but she also taught in New York and Sun Prairie. This is Ms. Jones' first year as principal of a school. Before this, she taught her students to read and loved doing projects with older scholars. She came here because this is the community where she lives, and she wants to be a part of the community school her own children attend.

Ms. Jones grew up in a large family and has many hobbies and interests. She has four siblings — three older brothers and a sister. One thing that is unique about her is that her sister is an identical twin. As a child she enjoyed learning math and science. Currently, she lives on the Northside with her daughter, son, husband and dog.



Photo by Mahmoud Hegazy

Students interviewed Principal Lindsey Jones for this article

Ms. Jones likes to take any free time she has to spend with her daughter and son. Her hobbies include reading, biking, kayaking, swimming, running, gardening and spending time with family.

Ms. Jones is excited to be here. Her favorite thing about Mendota is the scholars, whom she describes as brilliant and capable. Another reason she wants to be here is because of the amazing staff. Always feel free to let her know if you have questions or concerns about Mendota.

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SCHOOL AND YOUTH



Madison Crossing Guards provide safer school zones.

## Crossing guards ensure safer crossings for students

By Jason Van Pelt  
Northside News

Everybody can feel safer — without crossing their fingers — while walking within a crosswalk on a street staffed by a Crossing Guard. The City of Madison Traffic Engineering Division employs trained and highly visible Crossing Guards in school zones. Crossing Guards are deployed during the school year and summer school. The Northside is home to elementary and middle schools.

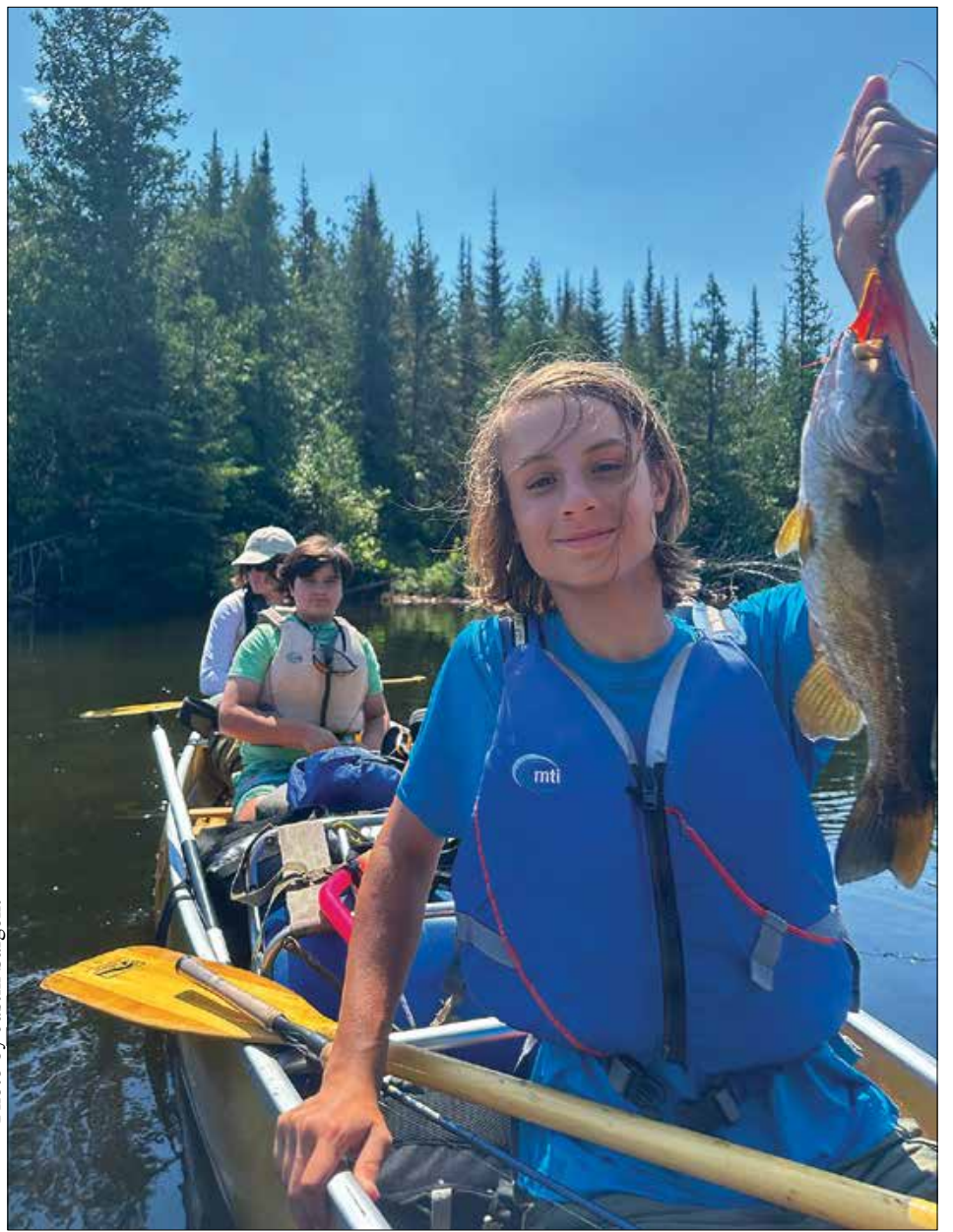
As the seasons change and the school year continues, there will be more hazardous crossing situations where Crossing Guards safely step up. The snowfall accumulates added risk whenever crossing a street due to it being slippery, icy and

unpredictable. Snowbanks might pile up taller than students, so Crossing Guards hold up official stop signs to create safer crossings. They lower the risk of unsafe situations by applying sand to the crosswalks and giving traffic enough stopping distance.

The City of Madison keeps our neighborhoods safe, and that goes for our Crossing Guards, too. They are given high visibility traffic vests, raincoats and parkas for personal protection.

There are attention distractions for most everyone nowadays. Crossing Guards are looking out for a pedestrian who is focused on an electronic device or a motorist misusing a device. All things considered, society is much safer with attentive Crossing Guards controlling the flow.

Photo by Justin Sargent



Fishing was amazing in the Boundary Waters. R-L: Lukas Kubasik, Trystan Sargent, Keanan Sargent in a 3-person canoe.

## Scouts enjoyed amazing trip in the Boundary Waters

Lukas Kubasik  
BSA Troop 127

With fall's passing, Troop 127 is looking forward to cabin camping during the winter months.

This summer, our scouts were super active. We had one scout achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, the most prestigious rank in scouting. All summer, we met weekly for fun and cool activities. We had some great weekend camping experiences, and adventured on a 7-day paddle and portage trip in the Boundary Waters, which earned us unforgettable memories and great life lessons.

We had two crews paddle nearly 50 miles. For those who have enjoyed the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northern Minnesota you will appreciate that we paddled from Seagull Lake to Saganaga Lake, skirting the Canadian border. We worked with Tuscarora Outfitters and used their light Kevlar canoes.

We had a blast fishing, paddling, swimming, and enjoyed nights around the campfire, listening to wolves howl, and seeing star-filled skies. We had a lot of excitement, too, when a giant snapping turtle devoured some of the fish we caught. It was a monster and ate a huge fish in the blink of an eye. We drove it off without harming it and saved the rest of our dinner. The water is some of the

cleanest in the world and tastes of fresh, pure wilderness. The trip was the kind of high adventure experience that scouts offer, one we trained for and carefully prepared for.

We also had a week-long summer camp experience at Tesomas Scout Camp, where both first-year scouts and older members did a lot of cool activities. We will remember that camp for a long time to come.

Our troop also had five of our older scouts work at the Ed Bryant Scout Reservation for a good portion of the summer. We worked at the waterfront, Scoutcraft, handicraft and the climbing tower. As summer jobs go, this one rocked. From sharing outdoor adventures, making lifelong friends, and getting great day-to-day leadership experience, it was awesome.

Thank you to all our neighbors who have supported our scouts. Your support makes incredible experiences possible and enables us to help and serve our community better. Whether it's donating food or buying popcorn, flowers and wreaths, our scouts could not do the great things we do without the help of our neighbors and community.

Are you interested in joining the fun or do you know someone who is? We meet every Thursday, 6:30-8 pm. Contact our scoutmaster, Justin Sargent, at Troop127Wisconsin@gmail.com or via phone at 608-220-2342 for more information. Come along on our next adventure!

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## HEALTH AND SAFETY

From  
**Captain Kelly Donahue**  
North District Police



Well, the time has come for me to write my last column for the Northside News. To this wonderful community; it really is hard to comprehend all the joy and tragedy I have experienced over the last 26 years.

To be called to help friends and neighbors during some of their greatest trials is an inviolable honor to be sure. My only

regret is I didn't recognize the depths of that a bit earlier in my career. It has allowed me to become a more patient, compassionate, empathetic person and, I hope, leader.

To my amazing co-workers; you are the bravest, kindest and most caring people I know. Thank you for risking your safety for those we serve. You do it well, and I am proud of you. To my colleagues at the 911 Center, thank you for being my guardian angel on many occasions.

Policing can be difficult. Whenever you introduce individuals into a group dynamic, whether 2 or 20, there is a risk that things may not go as well as you would hope. Add to that high stress, high


emotion and high stakes, and the propensity for things to go poorly goes up dramatically.

I ask that you remember officers are human. They are asked to do, see and hear things that are often beyond comprehension, and they do it repeatedly. Madison is blessed with a very educated and highly trained police force with people who

are truly called to serve. Thank you for trusting us, for trusting me.

The North Police District will be in great hands. Beginning at the end of December, Captain Jamar Gary will be taking my position at NPD. I'll let him introduce himself when he arrives, but I will say it's great to usher in another Madison East Purgolder!

From  
**Captain Jamar Gary**  
North District Police



**A few words from incoming North District Police Captain Jamar Gary**

My official start date as the North District captain will be Dec. 24. I have been the captain of the East District since December of 2020. Before I was promoted to captain, I was the detective lieutenant in the North District. Prior to that I was a sergeant and spent time in the North District as a patrol supervisor. Before becoming a sergeant, I was a detective.

My last assignment as a detective was in the Criminal Intake Unit. Prior to my promotion to detective, I was a Criminal Intelligence Section Officer (CIS). Before going to CIS, I was assigned

primarily to the East and Central Districts as a patrol officer.

I have been a member of MPD's Special Events Team (SET) since 2006 and currently serve as a SET Deputy Commander.

I started at MPD in 2001 as an intern assigned to the Budget Office. I worked under one of my mentors, retired Chief Noble Wray, during the internship. I began my career with MPD as an officer in the spring of 2002.

I grew up in the North District. When I was a kid, my family lived on American Ash Drive, and I spent many hours in Cherokee Marsh. I attended Lindbergh Elementary School, Gompers Middle School (now Blackhawk) and East High School.

When I am not working, I'm usually spending time with my wife and two kids. Golf is my preferred outdoor activity, and I am currently a proud board member of the First Tee South Central Wisconsin Chapter.

From  
**Taiya Bach**  
MPH, RD, CD, CSP



**Recreating holiday spirits**

The holidays are here and with them come overindulgence and unwanted pounds. Blame is often put on rich desserts and carb loaded meals, but drinks are often overlooked. To lessen the blow of holiday merry making, give these tips a try:

- Watch the alcohol. One shot (1.5 oz.) of booze can add 70-100 calories. Make a "mocktail" or cut the shot size in half.
- Whip the toppings. Eliminate or reduce drizzles or dollops. Try sugar-free syrups or low-fat whipped cream. Use mini marshmallows instead of large ones. Skip the maraschino cherries, and garnish with fresh fruit, cinnamon sticks or shaved dark chocolate.
- Sub-out. In creamy drinks (Tom & Jerrys), use skim milk versus whole, half and half versus heavy cream. Consider non-dairy alternatives. Almond or soy nogs are tasty and have less fat and calories than eggnog. For extra fizz, try flavored sparkling water.

- Enhance the flavor. Try dry spices (nutmeg, cinnamon, cloves), extracts (a drop of vanilla, almond, amaretto or hazelnut) or muddled fruit.
- Don't want to skimp on the added "punch" of holiday drinks? Try these:

**Crock Pot Apple Cider Punch**

- ½ gallon apple cider, unsweetened
- ½ gallon sugar free/low sugar cranberry or cranapple juice
- 2 tablespoons mulling spices in a tea infuser ball
- 4 cinnamon sticks

Add ingredients to a 5-quart or larger slow cooker, heat on low for 4 hours. For an added kick, place optional bottle of fireball whiskey or cinnamon schnapps with shot glass on side.

**Spiced Hot Chocolate**

- ½ oz. coffee flavored rum, such as Kahlua
  - ½ oz. peppermint schnapps
  - 1 packet sugar free cocoa mix
- In a mug, add hot water or nonfat milk to cocoa mix. Stir in alcohol. Serve with crushed peppermint or mini candy cane.

Taiya Bach is a registered dietitian with the UW-Department of Nutritional Sciences.




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ELECTED OFFICIALS

From  
**Satya Rhodes-Conway**  
Mayor



**2024 city operating budget stretches limited resources**

In this year's operating budget, the financial challenges facing the City of Madison come into sharp relief. Madison's population is growing rapidly. And as has been the case for over two decades, Madison's

operating budget is constrained by burdensome state laws that restrict the ability of local governments to raise revenue. That's why, in this budget, I am requiring every department to reduce their budgets by 1%, even as we serve a growing city.

• It is in this context that my 2024 operating budget prioritizes prudent strategies to maintain the services our growing city relies on. Changes in this budget include:

• \$3.2 million for polling places, poll workers and materials to ensure that all residents who are eligible to vote have access to the ballot, and that their vote will be counted.

• A civilian Emergency Medical Services (EMS) coordinator in the Fire Department.

• A \$100,000 contract to transport people to Wisconsin's secure mental health treatment facility, allowing us to allocate police officer time where it should be spent — in our neighborhoods.

• A city-wide public information officer to help engage and respond to residents about City services.


• A combined park ranger/parking enforcement officer to provide better overnight enforcement year-round, helping us retain staff while providing efficient service.

• New positions in Metro Transit will support operations for rapid transit and a fully electric bus vehicle fleet, while also meeting the demands of increased ridership and expanded service.

• A 6% pay increase for general municipal employees to keep up with inflation and ensure the wages of the city workers not allowed to unionize by the state keep pace with the city's unionized workers.

• A 5% cost-of-living adjustment to help community organizations recruit and retain key staff and respond to the effects of higher inflation.

From  
**Charles Myadze**  
District 18 Alderperson



As we enter into the final deliberations over the City of Madison 2024 budget, I thought I'd let you know how I've been working on your behalf. Constituents have spoken loud and clear about some priorities for our district. My proposals have received approval by the Finance Committee and will head to the full Common Council.

**Scholarships for Driver's Education**

Driver's Education classes are no longer offered at school, and they've become pretty expensive! The cost prohibits some of our youth from receiving safe driving instruction. I'm happy to report that the Finance Committee approved my request to add \$10,000 to the Parks Division to provide 15 scholarships to students from low-income neighborhoods for Driver's Education. Parental involvement will be a requirement for participation in the program.

I had a few wins adding these projects to the Horizon List:

**Cherokee Marsh Shelter and Amenities**

This project will fund adding a shelter and amenities to Cherokee Marsh, including a renovated and upgraded restroom facility and space to host picnics, gatherings, and nature activities. City staff will prioritize and plan its feasibility and add it to the Capital Improvement Plan.

**Warner Park Splash Pad**

This project will give kids something to do on hot summer days, and we're long overdue for an accessible pool or splash pad in our district.

In 2015, the city budget included \$850,000 to construct a splash pad at Warner Park in 2017. The project and related funding were modified in the 2016 budget for the expansion of the Warner Park Community Recreation Center. The implementation phase was to begin this fall, but inflation threw a wrench into the system. I'm sponsoring a resolution to close this funding gap and bring this project to fruition. An amendment to put a stand-alone Splash Pad on the Horizon List received initial approval.

From  
**Amani Latimer Burris**  
District 12 Alderperson



I've been a serial entrepreneur since I was just beyond a knee high to a duck. In 6th grade, when I was just about 11, I eagerly dove into my first business adventure deciding, on my own and of course without my parent's knowledge, that I would schedule a bus trip to take 40 kids to Great America.



Luckily for me, it was my friend Connie's mom, who in the background, quietly and carefully guided me through the process after noticing that perhaps I needed support. I can't believe we made it. Just as I can't believe the Public Market finally passed to cut ground.



I realize now that Connie's mom probably doesn't know how much her support and encouraging me to type up permits, reminding me to do this or that,

keeping faith in the process even when I lost some of the checks that I had collected on the way home from school.

Rather than discounting or killing the project, she created a supportive space for me to bud and grow. I'm so grateful for that small act of difference.

As I think about the Public Market ground breaking this month I know this too is an act of difference. I know that future entrepreneurs, artists and makers will forever hold the same unexpressed gratitude for the support that so many worked relentlessly for years to create what I know will be a world-class event space, artist cove, a needed and inclusive space. A place that when tendered and cultivated will undoubtedly serve as an entrepreneurial incubator and food hub. And when done right, will generate millions of dollars for the city and create unseen opportunities for local businesses, entertainment and placemaking. A place of entertainment for all of us with the potential to create local-family sustaining jobs and generational wealth.

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## ELECTED OFFICIALS

From  
**Melissa Agard**  
State Senator



**Legislative Democrats work to prevent senseless gun violence in Wisconsin**

We all know that preventable gun violence plagues our nation. Tragically, firearms recently became the number one cause of death for children and teens in the United States, surpassing motor vehicle deaths. I know that we can all agree that this is not a category we would like our country leading.

We must also acknowledge that suicides have long accounted for more than half of gun deaths in the United

States. Recent data from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) explains that of the 48,000-plus gun deaths in 2021, more than half were suicide.

We must take action. Legislative Democrats and I have recently introduced a number of pieces of legislation that would take sensible steps to prevent gun deaths, while also honoring the Second Amendment. From implementing universal background checks and creating an extreme risk protection order (ERPO) process to incentivizing safe and responsible gun storage, we can and should do more to improve the safety and security of our communities.

In October, I authored legislation to restore the 48-hour waiting period on handgun purchases and create a voluntary self-exclusion program. These proposals are proven and effective ways to

mitigate deaths by firearm. The measures stop individuals from possessing lethal weapons in moments of crisis, preventing both suicides and crimes of passion.

I firmly believe that every individual

deserves to be free from gun violence, regardless of where they live, work and play. My Democratic colleagues and I will continue working tirelessly to make that a reality for every Wisconsinite.

From  
**Joe Parisi**  
Dane County Executive



**2024 budget bolsters Dane County's social safety net**

This fall I joined partners from across the Dane County community to introduce my 2024 budget proposal. It makes investments in the emergency food supply, mental health, services for the most vulnerable, and more to bolster our community's social safety net.

Millions in new support is included for local food pantries, as they continue to see an increase in services demand. Dane County's popular Farm to Foodbank program, which links local farmers and growers with the area's network of food pantries and is administered by Second Harvest Foodbank of South-Central Wisconsin, will continue in 2024. The budget also includes funding for Badger Prairie Needs Network to expand a food storage warehouse and for Extended Hands Pantry to focus on providing ethnic


and culturally appropriate foods.

These funds are in addition to a grant program that will expand the CARES mobile crisis program to communities outside Madison. My 2024 budget also creates a new pilot team of crisis counselors directly embedded in Dane County's 911 Center to help work with those experiencing a behavioral health emergency. This new team will provide frontline behavioral health support to those in crisis, reducing the need for in-person responses by mobile crisis teams or law enforcement.

Anticipated funds from the national opiate settlement will be allocated to confront the ongoing scourge of opiate and fentanyl addiction in our community. I'm also setting aside \$1.5 million in county funds to support the City of Madison in constructing a purpose-built emergency overnight shelter for men experiencing homelessness. The funds bring Dane County's total investment in the facility to \$10.5 million.

In 2024, Dane County will build on past successes and invest in new opportunities to make a substantive difference for our residents. You can earn more about the county's budget at [www.countyofdane.com](http://www.countyofdane.com).

From  
**Samba Baldeh**  
State Representative



It was an honor to join hundreds of Northside residents at Warner Park as they congratulated the Northside Planning Council, Justin Markofski, Chris Brockel and all the North Star Award recipients. I also want to extend my congratulations and appreciation to Northside News editor, Lauri Lee, for her many years of dedicated service.

I often write about concerning developments in state politics; things that should not be happening. I appreciate hearing from community members about your thoughts on these issues and I hope you will continue to contact me.

I continue to be vigilant regarding the

threat to impeach Judge Protasiewicz and the issue of redistricting. However, I also want to encourage attention to what is good. We should nourish the positive spirit that came through so clearly in the North Star Awards.

While some things appear to be out of our immediate control, there is much that we can do right here, where we live, to take care of each other and address community needs. We never know for certain what will be the positive impact of our actions, but I do know that all the efforts we make to provide for the people of this community are important and good. I came away from the event feeling inspired and prouder than ever to represent the Northside in the Assembly.

Note: We still have FREE Blue Books and state highway maps. Contact my office at [Rep.Baldeh@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Baldeh@legis.wisconsin.gov) or call at 608-237-9148.

From  
**Michele Ritt**  
District 18 Supervisor



**Are you or someone you love pregnant? There are many free services for you in Dane County.**

We now have Reproductive Health Nurse Navigators ready to help. You can meet with one and discuss all of your options — abortion, adoption, and pregnancy/parenting resources. Your conversation will remain confidential. You can meet in person, on the phone, or virtually — the choice is yours. This is not an emergency hotline; Navigators are available weekdays from 8 am-4:30 pm. Call or text 608-690-0893 to get connected. See [publichealthmdc.com/health-services/getting-health-care/get-help-with-pregnancy-birth-control-options](http://publichealthmdc.com/health-services/getting-health-care/get-help-with-pregnancy-birth-control-options) for more details.

The Nurse-Family Partnership Program is also a free service for those who income-qualify. It is for people

pregnant with their first child. It provides personalized support in accessing healthcare as well as information about pregnancy, parenting and chest-feeding. You must be enrolled before the end of the 28th week of pregnancy. The nurses will work with you until your child is 2 years old.

The Prenatal Care Coordination Program is another free option for those who income-qualify. You do not need to be in your first pregnancy. The nurses will work with you and your family until your baby is 2 months old. This program also offers personalized support and connection to other services.

For more information or to apply to either of these programs, please visit [publichealthmdc.com/health-services/pregnancy#NFP](http://publichealthmdc.com/health-services/pregnancy#NFP).

You do not need to be a legal resident to access any these services. In Dane County, there is support available for any pregnancy option you choose. You are not alone.

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or issues. I can be reached at 608-335-6827 or [ritt.michele@countyofdane.com](mailto:ritt.michele@countyofdane.com).

**Strengthening the Fabric of Our Community.**  
**Kerri Mallien, Banking Center Manager**  
NMLS #1872673 | 608-237-0758 | [kerri.mallien@oldnational.com](mailto:kerri.mallien@oldnational.com)  
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**Chico's Villa Tap**

**Lunch Specials**  
*Lunch specials are served 11 am-2 pm*

**Tuesday**  
Blue gill sandwich with fries and coleslaw

**Wednesday**  
Nueske's bacon cheeseburger with fries

**Thursday**  
Jenifer Street ribeye steak sandwich with fries and coleslaw

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**Hours**  
Monday-closed | Tuesday-Thursday 11 am-close  
Friday 2-8 pm | Saturday Noon-close

**Chico's Villa Tap | 2302 Packers Ave. | 244-9627**

### SENIOR

From  
**Jim Krueger**



**NewBridge Executive Director**

I want to take a moment to thank everyone in our community for helping your elderly parents, grandparents and neighbors. It means so much to them when you:

- clear their walk every time it snows.
- ask if they need anything from the store when you are going shopping.
- take a few minutes out of your day to spend some quality, uninterrupted time with them.
- take them out every once in a while, and when their health permits take them on short drives and/or long trips.
- watch fun movies along with them.
- have your children interact with them on a regular basis.
- Include them in gatherings with your friends and relatives.
- surprise them with a meaningful gift, one that is sensible and helps them in their daily lives.
- are patient and listen to (and appreciate) all their precious wisdom and knowledge.
- encourage and help (teach) them to learn new things.
- ask them what *they* want and help them to get or do it.
- volunteer at NewBridge or another facility that serves older adults.
- donate and support nonprofits like NewBridge, which helps older adults access the resources, care and support (medical, dietary, emotional and physical) they need.

Any amount of time you can spend with your senior loved one or helping them makes a difference.

Wishing you all a happy holiday season and a wonderful new year.

# SENIOR Activities

NewBridge–North | 608-512-0000 ext. 3000

To register for classes or to learn more about activities that are happening in the community, visit our website ([newbridgemadison.org](http://newbridgemadison.org)) or contact Deenah Givens at 608-512-0000 ext. 3002 or [deenahg@newbridgemadison.org](mailto:deenahg@newbridgemadison.org)

#### SPECIAL EVENT

**Holiday Lights Tour & Reception:** Tuesday Dec. 5, 6–7:30 pm, cost is \$5. Catch the holiday spirit as we tour Olin Park’s Holiday Lights display. Vans leave from Goodman Community Center at 6 pm. Afterward, we will return to Goodman to enjoy a holiday reception of cookies and hot chocolate. Register now, seating is limited. To register, contact Deenah Givens at 608-512-0000 ext. 3002 or [deenahg@newbridgemadison.org](mailto:deenahg@newbridgemadison.org).

#### ONGOING NORTHSIDE ACTIVITIES

Activities take place at Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Drive, unless otherwise specified.

**Bingo:** Fridays, 10:15–11:15 am; the first Friday is bilingual Bingo. Starting in January.

**Book Club (Zoom):** First Wednesday of each month, 10–11 am.

**Bunco:** Mondays, 2–4 pm

**Card Making Club:** Second Wednesday of each month, 1–3 pm

**Chair Yoga with Kim:** Mondays 10:30–11:30 am at Lakeview Library, and Thursdays, 10:30–11:30 am at WPCRC

**Euchre:** Tuesdays, 1–3 pm

**Mahjong:** Thursdays, 1–3 pm

**Mindfulness Movement for LGBTQ Folks, Friends and Allies:** Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:15–11:45 am, in collaboration with Madison School Community Recreation

**Ping Pong:** Mondays, 9 am–12 pm; Wednesdays, 1–3 pm

**Sassy Steppers:** Tuesdays, 2–3 pm

**Sewing Club:** First and third Thursdays, 9 am–12 pm

**Stretch & Strength (Zoom):** Mondays and Wednesdays, 9–9:45 am

#### COMING IN FEBRUARY 2024

**SPARK!2:** Mark your calendar now. Starting in February, we will meet the first Tuesday of each month, 11:30 am–1 pm for SPARK!2. This is an art, music and culture program for people with early- to mid-stage memory loss and their care partners. This 90-minute program is designed to keep participants actively engaged in their communities by providing experiences that stimulate conversations, provide peer support, and inspire creativity through engaging workshops. This is a collaboration with Arts for All.



Join us on Sundays at 9:30 am in person or on Facebook.  
[www.shermanaveumc.org](http://www.shermanaveumc.org)

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## WARNER PARK COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER

Written by

**Zach Watson**

608-245-3690



**Facility Manager**

Well, winter is here, so mark your calendars for the 24th Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair, which will be happening Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9 am–3 pm at the WPCRC. We will host 80-plus vendors just in time for the holiday gift giving season. We at WPCRC will again be hosting an arts and craft fair with an array of unique items to purchase

from artisans all across the state of Wisconsin.

The WPCRC's Youth and Family Programing, also known as KNOW (Kids Need Opportunities at Warner) has continued to expand program offerings and events. This winter we will pilot a program to assist underserved youth attending our programs with assistance in earning their driver's license, with hopes of growing the program in 2024 and beyond. Although this is a small pilot, we hope to have a big impact on the youth we serve.

WPCRC now offers Silver & Fit and Active & Fit memberships,

providing eligible members access to the exercise room at no cost by reimbursing eligible health plans. Call 608-245-3669 to see if your health plan is eligible for membership.

WPCRC is also available for

birthday parties, weddings, baby showers and other community event rentals. Check out our programs and stay connected by liking our Facebook page at WarnerParkCRC.



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**1625 Northport Rd**

View the Winter & Spring 2024  
 Program Guide & Register  
 at [mscr.org](http://mscr.org)

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# NORTHSIDE NEWS - Calendar of Events

Sponsored by Madison Gas and Electric

December 2023/January 2024

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

### **Breakfast with Santa**

**8-11 am, Esquire Club, 1025 N. Sherman Ave.**

Enjoy a yummy hot breakfast, a visit with Santa and a goody bag. Tickets are \$9 for adults and youth age 12 and up, \$5 for age 4-11, and free for children age 3 and under. Purchase tickets at the door, DuWayne's Salon, Old National Bank, Sherman Plaza Barbers, Esquire Club and the UPS Store. Hosted by the Northside Business Association, proceeds benefit Northside food pantries.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

### **Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair**

**9 am-3 pm, WPCRC**

We will host 80-plus vendors offering an array of unique items from all across the state, just in time for the holiday gift giving season.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

### **Bird and Nature Adventure: Architecture of Trees**

**2:30 pm, Tenney Park Beach**

Join Naturalist JoAnn Riecke for a free family-friendly guided walk to find deciduous trees (with leaves that fall) and evergreens. Learn about different tree shapes and branching patterns. Try drawing what you see. Visit [tinyurl.com/MadisonFUNAdventures](http://tinyurl.com/MadisonFUNAdventures) for fun facts about trees. Contact: 608-698-0104

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

### **Bird and Nature Adventure: Winter Native Plant ID**

**1:30-3 pm, Cherokee Marsh North Unit, 6098 N. Sherman Ave.**

Join Naturalist Eva Roos for a guided walk to look for native Wisconsin plants. Learn how to identify plants even in winter. Contact: 608-698-0104

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

### **Neighborhood Indicators Workshop**

**6-7 pm, LL**

The City of Madison's Neighborhood Indicators Project (NIP) is a tracking system designed to follow communities' wellness over time, aiming to support better understanding of the changes within Madison communities. The NPC is hosting a free community workshop to better understand this data-rich resource.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

### **Senior Lunch and Euchre Tournament**

**11 am-2 pm, Lakeview Lutheran Church, 4001 Mandrake Rd.**

Our theme is "Happy Birthday." The church will provide ham, hash brown casserole, green beans and rolls. Please bring your favorite Christmas cookie to share and a nonperishable food item for the food pantry. There is a free-will offering for lunch. To RSVP contact the church office at 608-244-6181.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

### **Family Fun Night**

**5:30-8 pm, WPCRC**

Join us for a night of art projects, games, gym activities, movies and more. The cost is \$5 per family. Sign up online for email reminders of monthly themes. Kids aged 11 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

### **American Red Cross Blood Drive**

**12-5 pm, Lakeview Lutheran Church, 4001 Mandrake Rd.**

For an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter Sponsor Code "LakeviewLutheran" or contact the church office at 608-244-6181.

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

### **Wild Warner Meeting**

**6 pm, WPCRC (or as posted)**

The public is welcome. Help support nature preservation, restoration, recreation and education in the wild side of Warner Park. See the Wild Warner Facebook page for updates and more information. Contact 608-698-0104.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

### **FEED Kitchens Holiday Bazaar**

**9 am-1 pm, Door Creek Church, 1181 N. Sherman Ave.**

This maker's market for food entrepreneurs will feature products made at FEED Kitchens. You'll find various baked goods, hot sauces, salsas, pesto, tea and drink mixes and much more.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

### **Bird and Nature Adventure: Winter Solstice Walk**

**1:30 pm, Warner Park Rainbow Shelter**

Join Naturalists Robin Kling and Kathleen Wolf for a guided walk to learn about solstice traditions and the phenology of what's happening in nature at the cusp of the new solar year. Visit [tinyurl.com/MadisonFUNAdventures](http://tinyurl.com/MadisonFUNAdventures) for fun facts about the Winter Solstice. How did ancient cultures celebrate the Solstice? Contact: 608-698-0104

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

### **Senior Bird and Nature Adventure: Gifts for the Wild**

**1:30 pm, WPCRC meeting room**

Senior citizens are invited to join Naturalist Kathleen Wolf for a free, fun and educational hands-on nature crafts activity. Create gifts to help wildlife survive the winter months, then share your creations with our furred and feathered neighbors. Seniors are welcome to bring a family member or friend. Senior groups are welcome. No registration is required. Contact: 608-698-0104

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

### **Friends of Cherokee Marsh board meeting**

**5:30-7 pm, WPCRC**

The public is welcome. Support restoration of Madison's largest conservation park. To confirm the time and place, contact [janaxelson@gmail.com](mailto:janaxelson@gmail.com). [Cherokeemarsh.org](http://Cherokeemarsh.org)

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

### **Coffee with a Cop**

**9 am, WPCRC**

Please come and enjoy free coffee, free cookies, and great conversation with your officers on the Northside of Madison.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

### **Friends of Hartmeyer Natural Area meeting**

**5 pm, WPCRC Meeting Room**

The public is welcome. Help preserve and restore Madison's newest conservation park behind the old Oscar Mayer plant. Contact: 608-698-0104

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

### **Senior Lunch and Euchre Tournament**

**11 am-2 pm, Lakeview Lutheran Church, 4001 Mandrake Rd.**

Our theme is "Say Yes to Pizza." The church will provide various kinds of pizza, including a vegetarian option. There is a free-will offering for lunch. To RSVP contact the church office at 608-244-6181. Senior lunches for 2024 will be held the first Thursday of the month.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

### **Bird and Nature Adventure: First of Year (FOY) Birds**

**2:30 pm, Tenney Park Beach**

Join bird guide Paul Noeldner to look for brightly colored winter birds in the trees and water. What's your FOY bird — a mallard, cardinal, chickadee, blue jay? Did you know some robins stay all winter? Visit [tinyurl.com/MadisonFUNAdventures](http://tinyurl.com/MadisonFUNAdventures) for fun facts and a Winter Bird Bingo Card. Contact: 608-698-0104

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

### **Bird and Nature Adventure: My Nature Resolutions**

**1:30-3 pm, Cherokee Marsh North Unit, 6098 N. Sherman Ave.**

Join Naturalist Sheila Leary and Friends of Cherokee Marsh for a refreshing winter walk. Contact: 608-698-0104

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

### **Wild Warner Meeting**

**6 pm, WPCRC (or as posted)**

The public is welcome. Help support nature preservation, restoration, recreation and education in the wild side of Warner Park. See the Wild Warner Facebook page for updates and more information. Contact 608-698-0104.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

### **Neighborhood Indicators Workshop**

**10-11 am, WPCRC**

The City of Madison's Neighborhood Indicators Project (NIP) is a tracking system designed to follow communities' wellness over time, aiming to support better understanding of the changes within Madison communities. The NPC is hosting a free community workshop to better understand this data-rich resource

## THURSDAY, JAN. 11

### **Warner Park Community Recreation Center: Free community workshop**

**10-11 am, at WPCRC**

Interested in seeing a clearer picture of housing, safety, health, education and the overall wellbeing of the City of Madison?

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

### **Family Fun Night**

**5:30-8 pm, WPCRC**

Join us for a night of art projects, games, gym activities, movies and more. The cost is \$5 per family. Sign up online for email reminders of monthly themes. Kids aged 11 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

### **Senior Bird and Nature Adventure: Favorite Bird Stories**

**1:30 pm, WPCRC meeting room**

Senior citizens are invited to join Naturalist Paul Noeldner for a free, fun and educational indoor presentation about the beautiful Wisconsin birds we love. If weather permits, we may take a short walk outside to look for birds. Seniors are welcome to bring a family member or friend. Senior groups are welcome. No registration is required. Contact: 608-698-0104

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

### **Friends of Cherokee Marsh board meeting**

**5:30-7 pm, WPCRC**

The public is welcome. Support restoration of Madison's largest conservation park. To confirm the time and place, contact [janaxelson@gmail.com](mailto:janaxelson@gmail.com). [Cherokeemarsh.org](http://Cherokeemarsh.org)

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

### **Coffee with a Cop**

**9 am, WPCRC**

Please come and enjoy free coffee, free cookies, and great conversation with your officers on the Northside of Madison.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

### **Friends of Hartmeyer Natural Area meeting**

**5 pm, WPCRC Meeting Room**

The public is welcome. Help preserve and restore Madison's newest conservation park behind the old Oscar Mayer plant. Contact: 608-698-0104

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

### **Candlelight Hike**

**6-8 pm, Warner Park Shelter**

Limited snowshoes are available, or bring your own, or hike in winter footwear. We will have a campfire, hot cocoa and marshmallows. This free event will take place with or without snow, but may be cancelled if conditions are icy or otherwise unsafe. Visit [Cityofmadison.com/parks/calendar](http://Cityofmadison.com/parks/calendar)

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

### **Bird and Nature Adventure: The Art of Winter**

**1:30 pm, Warner Park Rainbow Shelter**

Join Wild Warner Naturalist Kathleen Wolf for a guided walk to enjoy contrasts in the landscape, fallen leaves exposing the shapes of trees, dried summer plants creating snow-capped sculptures, and ice and frost creating fantastic scenes. Visit [tinyurl.com/MadisonFUNAdventures](http://tinyurl.com/MadisonFUNAdventures) for fun facts about winter and winter nature activities. Contact: 608-698-0104

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

### **Friends of Cherokee Marsh Annual Meeting**

**10 am-12 pm, WPCRC**

Learn about frogs and toads and the new citizen frog and toad surveys with special guest Jessica Hua, Associate Professor of Forest and Wildlife Ecology at UW-Madison. [Cherokeemarsh.org](http://Cherokeemarsh.org)

LL = Lakeview Library

WPCRC = Warner Park Community Recreation Center



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