

## Clinic providing affordable dental care on Northside is expanding

By **Lauri Lee**  
*Northside News*

Affordable Dental Care (ADC) has emerged as a vital lifeline for those who find themselves without access to essential dental services. To better meet the needs of those who are uninsured or underinsured, plans are underway to relocate from Fordem Avenue to a larger facility at 1709 Aberg Ave. in the NorthGate Shopping Center. Driven by a desire to better serve the community, this move will enable the clinic to serve more patients, reduce wait times, enhance emergency care capabilities, integrate advanced dental technologies for improved patient outcomes and allow them to add to the clinical team. The remodeling of the new clinic space will begin in upcoming months with a projected move-in date of fall of 2024.

Founded in 2010 by Tim Buck, a seasoned veteran of the dental industry, ADC has since been dedicated to providing quality and compassionate care to the uninsured and underinsured communities across Wisconsin.

At ADC, the commitment to affordable care runs deep. With fees set at 50% to 70% lower than standard dental offices, the clinic ensures that financial barriers do not stand in the way of individuals seeking essential dental treatments. This commitment to accessibility is further underscored by the clinic's bilingual services, catering to the diverse linguistic needs of its patient base.

From diagnostics to restorative procedures, ADC offers a comprehensive range of dental services, addressing

the diverse needs of its patients. With a focus on preventive care alongside treatment, the clinic aims not only to alleviate dental issues but also to empower individuals to prioritize their oral health.

Over the years, ADC has seen a steady increase in patient visits, reflecting the growing demand for affordable dental care in the community. Notably, there has been a 15% rise in Spanish-speaking patients, highlighting the clinic's efforts to reach out to underserved populations.

"While our growth is a positive step forward, it is a reminder of the pressing need for accessible dental care in our communities," said Areli Estrada, executive director. "Our relocation represents a commitment to bridging the gap and ensuring that quality dental services are within reach for all."

Affordable Dental Care of Madison is hosting its inaugural gala, Sparkles and Smiles, at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, Saturday, April 20 from 5-10 pm. The gala looks to raise awareness of affordable dental care in the community.

The evening will include networking, dinner, live music, dancing and a silent auction. Tickets for the event are \$120 and can be purchased at [adcticketspice.com/sparkles-and-smiles-gala](http://adcticketspice.com/sparkles-and-smiles-gala). As ADC prepares to embark on this next chapter, its mission remains devoted to restore hope, health, and opportunity through quality dental care. With every smile transformed and every barrier overcome, Affordable Dental Care continues to make a tangible difference in the lives of those it serves.



Affordable Dental Care provides accessibility to those who seek dental treatments.

## Raemisch Farm development controversy continues

By **Anita Weier**  
*Northside News*

The Green Street company's plans for residential and commercial development on the Raemisch Farm property between Sherman and Packers avenues was approved by the City of Madison in 2022 after months of debate. But then, the Dane County Regional Airport stepped in, and a new controversy erupted.

It turned out that a deed restriction from 1949 contained height restrictions in the area, though rules have since changed. Another potential problem was whether the FAA would require that the airport receive payment for releasing restrictions on development that would have benefited the airport.

"The FAA told us that we have to receive payment" to end the restrictions, said Michael Riechers, airport director of communications. Airport officials have

since been trying to determine the fair market value of lifting the requirement.

Then, on Dec. 18, 2023, legal representatives of the Raemisch family, owners of the property, sent a notice to Dane County Executive Joe Parisi asking him to sign a statement stating that the county, as owner of the Dane County Regional Airport, release all rights and interests it holds in the Raemisch Farms Property.

"If Dane County does not sign the release, after 120 days of delivery of this Notice of Claim, the Claimants intend to file a lawsuit quieting title to the Raemisch Farms Property," the notice stated. That would require action by April 23, 2024.

District 18 Common Council member Charles Myadze said that attorneys for the parties had been scheduled to meet, but after that notice, Airport Director Kim Jones said the conversation was off. Jones said she could not comment

once possible litigation was announced. Green Street Development spokesman Joel Oliver also avoiding speaking during a legal controversy.

A contact at the Dane County Executive's Office previously stated that neither the airport nor the county executive can sign away this title restriction because there is a Department of Defense restriction on the property and the federal General Services Administration handles such issues for the DOD.

However, the legal notice sent to Parisi stated that Dane County is not entitled to receive payment for releasing its interests. "Besides, the citizens of Dane County would already benefit from a release of the Deed Restriction because it will gain much needed attainable housing, including 716 apartments, 76 single family homes and 112 townhouses, along with over 10 acres of urban agriculture and some commercial development."

Myadze agreed that housing is very much needed and said a multi-million-dollar investment by Green Street would also benefit the area.

City Planner Colin Punt noted that the Common Council approved a preliminary plat for the Green Street development, that would expire if no action occurs prior to Sept. 5, 2025.

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

From Lauri Lee



Editor

As the days grow longer and the chill of winter slowly fades, it's hard not to feel a sense of renewal in the air. With spring's arrival, we're reminded that just as the flowers bloom anew each year, so too can our hopes and aspirations be revitalized.

One of the most beautiful aspects of spring is the way it encourages us to become more involved in our communities and surroundings. Whether it's volunteering for a local charity, participating in neighborhood

clean-up efforts, or simply spending more time outdoors, springtime presents countless opportunities to make a positive impact.

But let's not forget that true change often begins with small, humble actions. It's not always about grand gestures or sweeping transformations; sometimes, it's the little things that make the biggest difference.

As we embrace the warmer weather and the sense of renewal that comes with it, let's remember to approach each day with a spirit of humility and gratitude. Let's cherish the simple joys of life and find ways to spread hope and positivity wherever we go.

So as you step outside and feel the warmth of the sun on your face, take a moment to appreciate the beauty of this season and the endless possibilities it holds. And remember, no matter what challenges may come our way, hope truly does spring eternal.

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### NORTHSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL

From  
**Justin Markofski**  
NPC Executive Director



Greetings Northside Neighbors. I hope this current Northside News finds you well. Modern life and our culture have its pace and pressures, and it is important to find ways to intentionally choose connection. Healthy relationships and social connections are significant for our well-being.

British Journalist Johann Hari was recently quoted in Madison for saying, “the opposite of addiction is not sobriety, it’s connection.” Robert Weiss in Psychology Today goes further, “addiction is not a substance disorder, it’s a social disorder.” Robert Putnam speaks of the value of social capital in the 2023 documentary, “Join or Die.”

Reflecting on 2024 and some of what it entails for us here at the Northside Planning Council (NPC), I realize part of how we fulfill our mission to improve the quality of life and foster equity on the Northside is by offering and promoting the power of


connection via hospitality and celebration. Hospitality is defined as the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers (add neighbors). Celebrations create opportunities for fun, entertainment and recreation, which can help reduce stress, tensions and anxiety.

In the months ahead, NPC (including our FEED Kitchens work) will continue to gather Northsiders for various events and celebrations (see this Northside News issue for details about those happening soon); Taste the Future, NPC-FEED Storage Sale and Giveaway, North Star Awards and our FEED Holiday Bazaar. We will also collaborate with others like the Madison Black Chamber for Food Taste Jamboree and Willy Street Co-op and the Madison Mallards for the Northside Festival.

We join and support neighborhood and community center parties, Parks Alive and many smaller gatherings to make connections and receive the hospitality of others. Hospitality and celebration can be both offered and received by each one of us. Let’s not stay isolated. Let’s connect.

Contact Justin at: 608-444-6640 or [director@northsideplanningcouncil.org](mailto:director@northsideplanningcouncil.org)

From  
**Chris Brockel**  
NPC Food Systems Director



Most of us in Wisconsin know that spring has arrived when we spot our first robin, but for us at FEED Kitchens spring is heralded by the arrival of food cart operators to FEED. While a few brave folks stick around for the winter and hit the streets when the weather cooperates, most leave us in November for other jobs, vacations or just a winter rest. Mid-April marks the start of a new licensing year for food carts, so that date, combined with warm weather, will have folks back and gearing up for the season.

From observing our parking lot and the bevy of colorfully decorated and branded trailers parked there, you may know FEED as “the food cart place.” While FEED Kitchens is much more than its food carts, it is true that more food carts call FEED Kitchens home than any other single facility in our region. Food carts have always been a

popular and fun way to get a meal, but what is it about them that makes them an important piece of our local culinary scene?

- They offer cultural diversity as they showcase the cuisine of the operator.
- They preserve the culinary traditions of the operator.
- They offer an easier and affordable path to business ownership than buying a restaurant, giving folks without deep access to capital a way to start.
- They offer affordability and accessibility.
- They are a significant draw for tourists by enhancing our culinary scene.
- They provide the food for our many festivals and street fairs.
- They bring people together; wherever you find food carts you will also find a community or social gathering place.

For the multifaceted role food carts play in our local food scene, they are an integral part of our community and FEED Kitchens is proud to have so many of them call us home.

From  
**Areli Estrada**  
NPC Vice Chair



During my childhood (up until the age of 7), I lived in a small village in Nayarit, Mexico. I recall how we didn't have running water or electricity. Fast forward to many decades later, I find myself being a part of supporting organizations such as the Northside Planning Council (NPC)

that aim to improve the quality of life and foster equity for everyone on the Northside. I'm proud to be a part of this work.

I am inspired by everything that the Northside has to offer through community organizing and economic development. It is a privilege to be able to serve as vice chair of an organization with such a critical mission of moving our community forward. For many years, NPC has been behind bringing the Public Market to our community. I am excited to look ahead and build a stronger and healthier community through the delivery of many resources and services including the strategic vision of the NPC board.

## The Northside Planning Council is grateful to the 2023 supporters.

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### NORTHSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL

# FEED Kitchens' Taste the Future provides regional tastes and flavors

**Chris Brockel**  
*FEED Kitchens Manager*

After getting the event restarted last November, Taste the Future has returned to its rightful spot on the spring calendar for 2024. To be held Friday, April 5 from 4:30 to 7:30 at the Warner Park Community and Recreation Center, Taste the Future will give attendees a chance to sample menu items from businesses working out FEED Kitchens. The timing of the event in the spring is purposeful in order to give the eating public a preview of menu items and tastes that they will find throughout our region in the coming summer and beyond.

The mix of entrepreneurs at Taste the Future features some tried and true offerings that already have a following, and new startups that are looking to be discovered and are excited to bring their offerings to the public. The entrepreneurs have been chosen so that there is representation of cuisines from all over the world to showcase, in a small way, the even wider variety of cultures preparing food at FEED Kitchens.

As well as small plate tastings of food from around the globe, Taste the Future will feature information tables from community partners who support local food businesses and entrepreneurs.

Tickets to Taste the Future are free but are limited to 400 attendees. Tickets can be secured by visiting FEED Kitchens website at [feedkitchens.org](http://feedkitchens.org).

**Here are this year's Taste the Future vendors:**



**Devine Grilling** Featuring smoked meats and southern sides, Devine Grilling food cart has been operating out of FEED Kitchens since last summer. Like many newer food cart businesses, Devine Grilling is still looking for their anchor spot in Madison.



**MexSal Mobile** New to FEED Kitchens in 2023, MexSal Mobile is a family run food cart featuring pupusas from their native El Salvador. Because "everybody loves tacos," they serve Mexican cuisine as well. MexSal Mobile started, and still operates, a catering business in the Bay area in California and their offerings are quickly gaining popularity in Madison.



**Thailand in a Truck** Member of FEED Kitchens since 2022, Thailand in a Truck is starting their third season operating out of FEED Kitchens. Vending on the UW Library Mall during the week, you can also find Thailand in a Truck at street fairs and events throughout the season. They are also available for catering jobs.



**Jamie's Cookies II** Jamie's Cookies II is the child of Jamie's Cookies, a small cookie shop that did business on State Street. Pedram, Jamie's owner, is the son of the original Jamie's Cookies proprietors and sell his baked goods at the Dane County Farmer's Market on Saturdays.



**Moonhalf** New to FEED Kitchens in the fall of 2023, Moonhalf features Indian food. Moonhalf hopes to package affordable Indian meals to sell on campus. They are also available for cartering meals and parties.



**The Smiling Coast Cuisine** Operating out of FEED Kitchens since 2022, The Smiling Coast Cuisine features food from the West African country, The Gambia. The Gambia, known as The Smiling Coast, is known for its wonderful cuisine. The Smiling Coast Cuisine offers catering and you can find them at events throughout the summer.



**3D Mediterranean** 3D Mediterranean features flavors from all around the Mediterranean region and just got their start at FEED Kitchens last fall. Available for catering 3D Mediterranean looks to bring authentic Middle Eastern/Mediterranean flavors to Madison.



**Propa Jerk & BBQ** Featuring flavors from Jamaica and the Caribbean, Propa Jerk and BBQ food truck has been operating at FEED since 2021 and can be found at street fairs and events throughout the area.



**Pollen & Platter** Brand new to FEED Kitchens, Pollen and Platter is an offshoot of one of the most successful catering businesses operating out of FEED Kitchens, Twisted Radish. Pollen and Platter catering takes pride in featuring fresh local ingredients in their menus.



**The Walking Jerk** New to FEED Kitchens in the fall of 2022, The Walking Jerk features vegan jerk tacos and vegan desserts and has been doing take-out orders from FEED Kitchens as well as catering trying to systematically build their business. Look for The Walking Jerk to open and operate a food cart for the 2024 season.

## Northside Planning Council 2024



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## BUSINESS

## Business resources available to Northside businesses from City of Madison

By Ruth Rohlich – City of Madison  
Office of Business Resources

Businesses and the jobs they create are of vital importance to creating a strong and attractive city. The City of Madison Office of Business Resources (OBR) is a partner to the business community. OBR is committed to growing strong, diverse and sustainable local enterprises throughout the city.

A number of programs are available that may be of interest to your business. My contact information is [rohlich@cityofmadison.com](mailto:rohlich@cityofmadison.com).

- KIVA is a 0% no-fee crowd funded loan of up to \$15,000 for small businesses in Wisconsin. If your business is in the City of Madison, you may qualify for a “KIVA Match” which

will help you reach your crowd funding goal faster.

- The Building Improvement Grant provides grant funding up to \$50,000 for businesses that are making interior and exterior improvements to their retail spaces. The funding is limited and only available in certain parts of the city. One of these areas covers

much of the Northside.

- Façade Grants help offset costs of upgrading and improving the street facing business facades throughout the city.
- The best way to learn about programs for Madison businesses is to subscribe to the OBR newsletter at [Cityofmadison.com/obr](http://Cityofmadison.com/obr).

## Cool Bikes North: A friendly community bike shop with a saddle library

By Lauri Lee  
Northside News

Madison’s Northside is about to welcome a new business addition with the opening of Cool Bikes North, a dream realized by Zach Kmiec (pronounced kuh-MECK). Located at the Northside TownCenter at 1861 Northport Dr. between Kingdom Restaurant and Harper’s Hair Culture, this bike shop isn’t just about selling and repairing bikes; it’s a celebration of community and a love for biking.

For Kmiec, Cool Bikes North is more than just a business venture; it’s a culmination of years of dreaming and dedication to his craft. “I’ve had the dream to open a bike shop for many years,” Kmiec shares, reflecting on his journey. “But this year, I decided to go for it.” His passion for biking was instilled in him by his mother, who saw his hesitancy at giving the bike a try. She not only taught him how to ride, but also helped him find his first job at a bike shop. Since then, biking has

been more than a hobby; it’s been a way of life to bike during all seasons and all occasions.

No matter where he has called home over the years, Kmiec has always worked for bike shops. He grew up on Madison’s eastside, then moved out of state for 14 years. When he returned to Madison in 2017, he moved to the Northside and has had his eye on an open retail space at the Northside TownCenter for quite awhile. “I’ve always wanted to own my own bike shop,” he explained. “And now, I’m excited to offer a service that is unique for Madison and most bicycle shops.”

A distinctive service that Cool Bikes North offers is the innovative “saddle library” – a concept that allows bikers to try out different bike seats until they find their perfect fit. With a nominal deposit, customers can take a seat for a test ride, ensuring they find their “Cinderella slipper” bike seat before making a commitment. When they find one they like, it is mounted onto the bicycle.

But Cool Bikes North isn’t just

about innovative services; it’s about fostering a sense of community. “I want to be a family bike shop,” Kmiec emphasized. “I want people to want to come by just to say hi.” Located in an accessible spot within a 10-minute bike ride or a 15-minute walk for many residents, the shop aims to be a dependable hub for service and repairs, tune-ups, and flat repairs.

What sets Cool Bikes North apart is not just its services but its character. “The Northside already boasts two other bike shops,” Kmiec notes. “But each serves a different function in the bike ecosystem. The work each shop does will complement that of the other rather than running over toes.” With this collaborative mindset, Cool Bikes North seeks to enhance the biking experience

for all residents of Madison.

The grand opening of Cool Bikes North will take place later this spring or early summer. With a diverse lineup of saddles to accommodate various body types and riding styles, the shop is poised to become a go-to destination for biking enthusiasts. Whether you’re in search of the perfect saddle or simply want to connect with fellow bikers, Cool Bikes North promises to be more than just a bike shop – it’s a community hub where passion meets purpose.

For more information on Cool Bikes North or to watch for details of the upcoming grand opening celebration, visit [coolbikesnorth.com](http://coolbikesnorth.com) or reach out via email at [info@coolbikesnorth.com](mailto:info@coolbikesnorth.com). Stay updated on events by following Cool Bikes North on Instagram @coolbikesnorth.

## Erawatech strives to help clients make peace with technology

By Lauri Lee  
Northside News

In a world where working with technology can often feel like a struggle, one Madison-based company is striving to change the narrative. Erawatech, founded by Northside resident James Phetteplace, is on a mission to bring harmony between businesses, nonprofits and the digital realm. “I’ve found many organizations experiencing frustration and distraction due to lack of training and understanding. Technology should be helping them move their missions forward, not holding them back.”

The name “Erawatech” holds significance beyond mere phonetics for Phetteplace. “Pronounced as ‘air-ah-wah-tek,’” the name I’ve chosen for my technology business draws inspiration from the olive branch, a timeless symbol of peace. There is a word for olive tree in ancient Mycenaean that has been translated and spelled as erawa. My decision to use this emblem of tranquility reflects my deep-seated belief in the importance of finding peace with technology. We don’t just say this — we seriously mean that we want to help transform your technology experience into one that is positive. While it’s a coincidence that erawa spelled backwards is aware, I’ve embraced “aware” as a business value to stay focused on our customer’s needs and preferences.”

Specializing in website design, development, managed hosting, and an array of tech-driven projects including video production media services, Erawatech is not just another tech firm — it seeks to help businesses and nonprofits navigate the digital world. Erawatech is ready to help them through the challenges so they can move forward with their business goals and mission of the organization.

With over 25 years of experience in IT, Phetteplace brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the table. Having worked across diverse markets, overseeing large projects, conducting trainings,

and providing consulting services, he understands the frustrations and challenges that technology can pose.

Erawatech’s principles revolve around accessibility and customer service. Phetteplace and his team are dedicated to ensuring that clients no longer view technology as a hindrance but rather as a tool for enhancing productivity and efficiency.

Despite starting Erawatech as a side gig for many years while maintaining a full-time job, Phetteplace’s passion for empowering others through technology eventually led him to take the leap and establish Erawatech as a full-fledged business in March 2022. After working in the technology sector since 1995, this wealth of experience provided a successful business launch.

What sets Erawatech apart is its commitment to serving both for-profit businesses and nonprofit organizations, particularly those making a difference in their communities. Phetteplace finds deep satisfaction in solving tech problems that were once insurmountable for his clients.

Erawatech’s services extend beyond website design and hosting. From technical consultations to digital marketing strategies, Phetteplace provides tailored support to address each client’s unique needs.

In a world where technology often feels overwhelming, Erawatech offers expertise, support and peace of mind. As businesses and nonprofits navigate the complexities of the digital landscape, Erawatech stands ready to be their trusted partner in achieving harmony with technology.

According to Phetteplace, the time to seek help is now. He encourages businesses and organizations to schedule a free consultation and discover how Erawatech can guide them toward peace with technology, unlocking their full potential in the digital age.

Visit [erawatech.com](http://erawatech.com) to learn more about the services and the company to unleash your business possibilities.



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BUSINESS



FEED Kitchens is often referred to as home of the food carts.



FEED Kitchens members are busy prepping for the day.

Photos from FEED Kitchens

# FEED Kitchens continues as \$2.3 million economic engine for region

**Chris Brockel**

Each year, FEED Kitchens (FEED) conducts a survey of business activity with its members that results in telling the story of what is happening inside the facility. Our survey of 2023 activity is a great barometer

This past November FEED celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary so a survey at this time assists us in looking back to measure the efficacy of FEED and whether we've accomplished its mission now that we have a decade of history behind us.

The big successes at FEED come in a variety of measures, but the one single meaningful measure for businesses is the ability to move out and be on their own. We are proud to say that over the last 10 years, 31 businesses have moved to their own brick- and-mortar facility or have entered into contracted manufacturing arrangements, where a processor

makes their product and the entrepreneur's job becomes marketing and sales. Being a facility that draws entrepreneurs from across the region, the businesses that have graduated from FEED have set up shop not only in Madison and Dane County, but also surrounding towns and counties. These businesses add to the local flavor, create jobs, and drive economic development where they exist.

Businesses that remain at FEED Kitchens are an economic engine for our region as well. Total revenue reported by businesses operating out of FEED Kitchens in 2023 was over \$2.3 million, bringing the 10-year total of gross revenue created by FEED businesses to over \$12 million. These dollars are important to our economy as they stay in our region and spent locally supporting a wide circle of suppliers and other businesses connected to the local food processing world.

FEED businesses created 29 full-time and 59 part-time jobs in 2023 at an average hourly wage of \$18.80; this wage is up over \$3/hour from 2021. Despite this, a full third of businesses operating at FEED reported difficulty in finding and retaining employees.

FEED Kitchens finished 2023 with 92 commercial businesses operating at some point in the year out of the facility. Of these businesses 70% of them are owned by people of color, while 50% are owned by women. These are important indicators for FEED Kitchens as our mission is to make production space available to folks who have traditionally lacked access to the spaces and supports we offer. If we have room to operate, we will enroll anyone with a desire to start a food business which works well in helping create a wonderful mix of culturally and economically diverse entrepreneurs working

together to support the success of each of their businesses.

Besides facing a labor shortage and rising wages, the other factor most negatively affecting businesses at FEED Kitchens in 2023 was both the inability to source ingredients and supplies and the high price of those items when they were available. Supply chain issues created by the pandemic and exacerbated by climate and political events continue to create higher prices and plague food processing businesses much the same as they do retail consumers.

Entrepreneurs are a hardy bunch and are driven to achieve success. Despite any roadblocks or bumps in the road to navigate, FEED Kitchens members remain optimistic with 80% of businesses here reporting that they hope their business becomes their family's primary source of income in the future. 25% of them are there already.

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Willy Street Co-op and the Madison Mallards

BUSINESS

# Free legal help available for Wisconsin learners

By Ascendium Education Group

Did you know that Wisconsin learners can get free, confidential help for legal issues that create a barrier to education and employment?

Supported by Ascendium, Lawyers for Learners has connected over 4,000 people with help since 2019. By partnering with colleges, Lawyers for Learners has connected learners across Wisconsin with legal professionals. These legal professionals provide advice, general assistance, referrals and full representation, depending on the legal matter.

Lawyers for Learners' goal is to ensure that a legal obstacle doesn't prevent someone from earning a credential (like a college degree or certificate) or pursuing a career. That goal can take many different forms. The top legal issues they encounter are family, housing, criminal records, finances and immigration. They also work with clients on driver's license recovery, public benefits and many other legal issues.

Lawyers for Learners recently helped a client get their driver's license reinstated so they could drive to school and continue their education. Another client got their

only arrest removed from their background check. Now, their background check report reads, "No records found." Lawyers for Learners even helped a client get a non-criminal ticket reopened and dismissed. This client can now apply to medical school and pursue their dream career.

### Frequently asked questions

**Do you need to be enrolled in a college to request free legal help from Lawyers for Learners?** No, you do not need to be enrolled in a college, school, university or workforce training program. Lawyers for Learners also helps past and future learners. However, Lawyers for Learners can only help learners who live in Wisconsin or whose legal problem is based in Wisconsin.

**How can I request free legal help?** Visit [lawyersforlearners.org/get-legal-help](http://lawyersforlearners.org/get-legal-help) and fill out the online form. You will need to answer a few questions about yourself and your legal problem.

**Is the online form available in Spanish?** Yes, the "Get Free Legal Help" form is available in Spanish. At the top of the form, click "versión en español."

**I've submitted the online form. Now what?** Lawyers for Learners will contact

you within five business days to schedule an appointment. The appointment can be virtual or in person. Both daytime and evening appointments are available.

**What are some situations Lawyers for Learners may not be able to help with?** Lawyers for Learners may not be able to help with the following: A legal matter another lawyer is helping you with; an open

criminal case; a case in which you expect to be awarded financial compensation (examples: personal injury, medical malpractice, workers' compensation); a case in which someone suffered loss or harm and is suing for damages.

**Where can I find more information on Lawyers for Learners?** Visit [lawyersforlearners.org](http://lawyersforlearners.org).



### Clever ways to save money while supporting local businesses

In today's economy, supporting local businesses is more important than ever. Not only does it help boost the local economy and create jobs, but it also fosters a sense of community and connection. It's understandable that many people may feel hesitant about spending extra money. The good news is that you can support local businesses without breaking the bank.

Here are five clever ways to save money while supporting your community:

- **Shop local sales and promotions:** Many local businesses offer sales, promotions and discounts to attract customers. Keep an eye out for flyers, email newsletters or social media posts advertising deals to save money.
- **Join loyalty programs:** Some local businesses have loyalty programs

that reward frequent customers with discounts, coupons or exclusive offers to provide savings on purchases over time. Whether it's a punch card or a digital rewards system, loyalty programs can help you stretch your dollars.

- **Buy in bulk or bundle deals:** Some local businesses offer discounts when you buy in bulk or purchase bundled products or services. This can be beneficial for items you use regularly, such as groceries, toiletries or household goods.
- **Attend community events and markets:** Support local diverse entrepreneurs and artisans to find unique locally made products at competitive prices.
- **Support local online marketplaces:** Many communities have local online marketplaces where residents can buy, sell or trade goods and services. These platforms often feature items from local businesses at lower prices than traditional retail stores.

By shopping smart you can save money while contributing to the success and vitality of your local economy in your own backyard.



Photo by Willy Street Co-op Staff

Kathryn Kuntz (Director of the Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change), Ben Becker (Willy Street Co-op Project Manager), and Jenny Skowronek (Willy North Store Director).

## What's new at Willy North

By Brendon Smith  
Willy Street Co-op

### Update about EBT and our online store

In the last issue, we mentioned we had upgraded our online store ([shop.willystreet.coop](http://shop.willystreet.coop)), but we could not yet accept payments with EBT Foodshare/QUEST cards. By the time this issue is published, we expect to be able to accept this payment method.

### Climate Champions

In late 2023, Willy North and the Willy Street Co-op Production Kitchen were named Climate Champions by the Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change (OECC). These Co-op sites were declared as Climate Champions in the "Energy Use" category because of the relatively low amount of energy used. OECC Director Kathryn Kuntz told us Willy North uses about one-quarter of the electricity of an average grocery store.

### Want to work at the Co-op?

In 1974, a group of people who wanted to provide quality food for their families began Willy Street Co-op. Now we have over three hundred employees working at three stores, a production

kitchen, and a business office to serve almost 34,000 Co-op Owners.

Are you hard-working, friendly and excited to learn about the food and products we sell? We look for employees who want to make a difference, are passionate about serving our customers, and strive to make a difference in our community.

Co-op staff members have access to excellent benefits, a positive work environment, and room for growth; entry-level pay starts at \$16.90/hour. Learn more and see current job openings at [www.willystreet.coop](http://www.willystreet.coop).

### Not an Owner? Not a problem!

Stop in our store and give us a try. If you like what you see, you may be interested in becoming a Co-op Owner. It only takes five minutes to sign up to become an Owner, and you start receiving the benefits that day, including: weekly and monthly Owner-only sales, discounts on classes, a 10% discount on most products when you pre-order a case, and a voice in how your Co-op is run.

Stop at the Customer Service desk in the store for more information, or visit [willystreet.coop/start-here](http://willystreet.coop/start-here).

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COMMUNITY

# ATHENA Awards ceremony recognized 13 Madison women

## The River Food Pantry

Rhonda Adams, Executive Director of The River Food Pantry, was honored as one of 13 nominees for the ATHENA Award at a ceremony held Thursday, March 14 at the Monona Terrace.

The ATHENA Award event is sponsored each year by The Business Forum, a local professional women’s organization that fosters the personal and professional growth of its members and other women through networking, scholarships, mentoring and community involvement.

The 2024 ATHENA Award® recipient at the 27th annual ATHENA Award Celebration was Dr. Roxie Hentz, the founder and CEO of CEOs of

Tomorrow, where she fosters creativity and passion in young children and teaches them how to get their business off the ground. Hertz received an ATHENA sculpture and will be invited to join the ATHENA International Foundation, which works to create leadership opportunities for women.

ATHENA Award nominees must demonstrate excellence, creativity, and initiative in their business or profession, provide valuable service by devoting time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community and assist women in reaching their full leadership potential.

Congratulations to Adams for being nominated for her community work that garnered this prestigious honor.



Photo by Elijah Adams

Front-L: Rhonda Adams, Lisa Fiala, Dr Liz Gross, Melanie Thompson-Ruelas, Dr Roxie Hentz (Athena winner), Joy Kurber, Andrea White and Leigh Mills from WMTV 15. Back-L: Dr Christina Outlay, Kristi Moe, Nicki Vander Meulen, Devine Nzegwu, Rachel Hanson and Amy Newton.

# Women’s Softball coming to the Duck Pond at Warner Park

By Rita Lord  
Northside News

In January, the Madison Mallards announced establishment of Madison Softball, a team that will play in the new Northwoods League Softball (NWLS) summer collegiate league at Warner Park. The league will showcase the best female collegiate softball players from across the country. The inaugural NWLS season will feature three other teams: La Crosse, Wisconsin; Mankato, Minnesota; and Minot, North Dakota.

Raquel Savoy has been named the team’s first head coach. Savoy has over a decade of coaching experience at the collegiate level. In her new role, Savoy



Raquel Savoy, head coach

has been recruiting the team and hiring assistant coaches to complete her staff.

“She possesses leadership, experience, and great softball knowledge. Bring on women’s collegiate softball to Madison! It’s going to be the best summer ever,” said Madison Softball Owner, Steve Schmitt.

“My goal as the head coach of Madison Softball is to bring in a group of athletes that are fiery and fun to watch, but most of all that really want to grow the game. The Northwoods League is doing something really awesome. Any time we can grow the game for fans and for kids, I think it’s phenomenal. I’m really looking forward to being a part of that and being a part of the Madison community this

summer,” Savoy said.

Madison Softball has been conducting a “Name the Team” competition where fans voted on the team name. The winning name will be unveiled Saturday, April 20, at the Orpheum Theater, 216 State St. Doors open at 5 pm; the announcement will be made at 5:30 pm. Free snacks, games, live animals, and merchandise will be available. RSVP at Madisonsoftball.com.

The Madison Softball 2024 schedule can be found at madisonsoftball.com. Group outings, season ticket packages, and eight ticket flex plans are now available by calling the Madison Softball office, 608-246-4277. Fans can reserve season tickets for \$50.

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COMMUNITY

# Dane County preparing Noise Compatibility Plan for the Dane County Regional Airport

By Jan Axelson  
Northside News

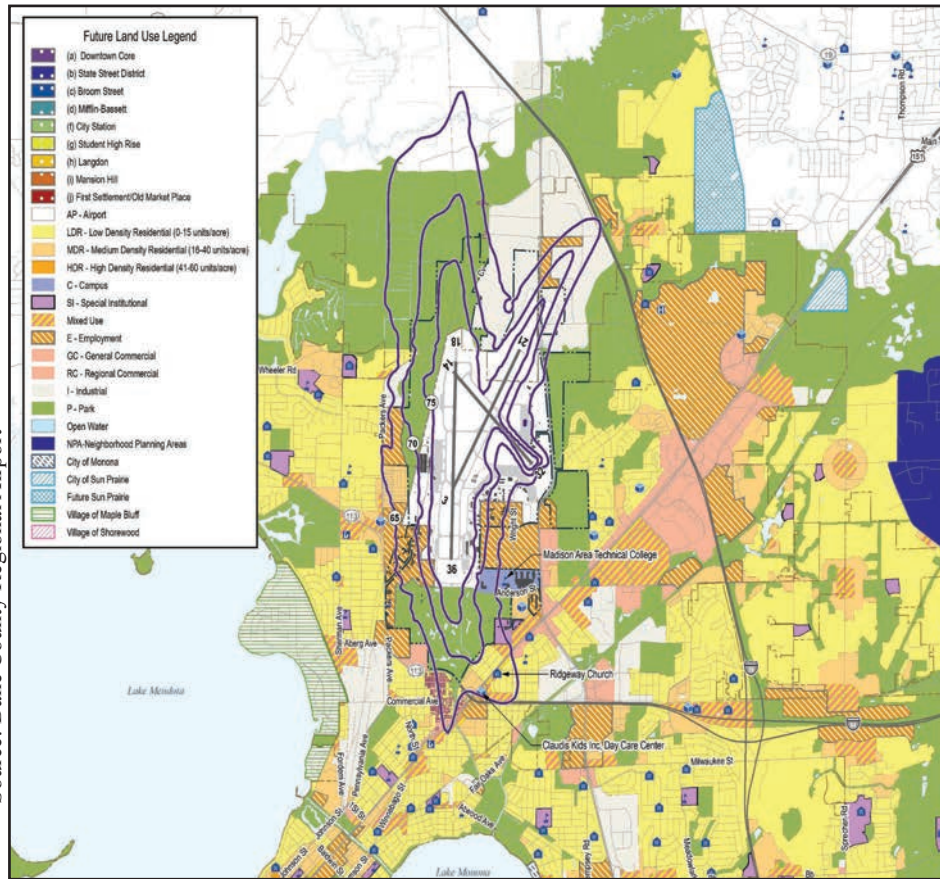
Dane County is preparing an update to the Noise Compatibility Plan for the Dane County Regional Airport. The plan, known as the Part 150 study, has two elements, a Noise Exposure Map and a Noise Compatibility Program.

The Noise Exposure Map documents existing and forecasted noise from aircraft operations. The map has been updated and approved by the FAA. The map doesn't show peak noise levels but instead shows expected noise levels as a day-night average level (DNL) with greater weight given to noise from 10 pm–7 am.

The FAA considers land with a DNL of 65 or greater to be incompatible with residential use. The map shows 1,250 residential units and four noise-sensitive parcels exposed to a DNL of 65 or greater.

The area incompatible with residential use has expanded since the previous map was approved in 2022. On the Northside, the boundary runs just east of Packers Avenue. The noise-sensitive parcels are Claudi's Kids Inc-Day Care Center, Ridgeway Church, Spence Motel, and Madison Area Technical College.

The Noise Compatibility Program will



The 2027 Noise Exposure Map shows expected average noise levels from aircraft operations, with levels of 65 or greater considered incompatible with residential use.

recommend ways to reduce land uses that aren't compatible with aircraft operations. The program focuses on three strategies: noise abatement, land use, and program management.

For noise abatement, proposed measures encourage (but don't require) aircraft to use flight paths that minimize noise to residential neighborhoods and schools. Another proposal encourages the Wisconsin National Guard to limit F-35A aircraft operations to 7 am–10 pm except for emergencies.

Possible land use recommendations include voluntary land acquisition, including at Cherokee Marsh and Token Creek. Program management recommendations include maintaining a noise advisory committee and improving the noise complaint response program.

On Feb. 20, airport staff and consultants hosted a public hearing and workshop on the draft program at the Dane County Airport. Members of the public viewed maps and other elements of the draft program, asked questions of the study team, and provided comments.

You can view the draft document at the airport offices, 4000 International Lane, and the Madison Public Library – Lakeview Branch, 2845 N. Sherman Ave.

# Planning continues for Bus Rapid Transit on the Northside

By Liz Callin  
City of Madison

Metro Rapid, the area's new bus rapid transit system being built by the City of Madison, is a new fast and easy way to travel in Madison opening later in 2024. A bus rapid transit system uses enhanced stations, dedicated bus lanes, direct routes, and other features to provide high quality transit service along heavily traveled bus routes.

The longer electric buses that will serve the route are quieter, better for the environment, and can carry more passengers.

Metro Rapid will have service every 15 minutes, dedicated bus lanes, fewer stops, high quality stations with raised platforms, Fast Fare Card pay stations at every door, and priority at traffic signals.

Metro Rapid Route A is currently under construction and will run generally from Junction Road to East Towne, through the downtown and campus area, and will serve more than 100,000

people and 110,000 jobs.

Metro Rapid Route B is now being planned and is expected to run from Fitchburg, through South Madison, through downtown and campus area, to the Northside. The Northside portion of the route is expected to generally run along Packers Avenue and Northport Drive.

The City of Madison has received federal funding to complete the planning/design phase of Metro Rapid Route B and expects construction to begin in 2026 or 2027. Route B will serve an additional 53,000 people, 40,000 jobs, 4 hospitals, 10 grocery stores, 2 Madison College campuses, and 43 schools and childcare centers.

Learn more and share your feedback at public meetings planned in April. A meeting on the Northside will be held Thursday, April 25, at Warner Park Community Recreation Center from 5:30–7:30 pm. For more information, visit [www.madisonbrt.com](http://www.madisonbrt.com). All are invited to attend.

# North Street Community Improvement grant announcement

By Jeff Wold  
North Street Neighborhood Assn.

The North Street Neighborhood Association (NSNA) is a newly formed neighborhood association following a merger of the Eken Park and the Emerson East Neighborhood Associations in November 2023.

NSNA is taking applications for

Community Improvement Grants. These grants are awarded to community building projects that will specifically benefit the Emerson East or Eken Park neighborhoods. Applications are due by April 15.

For a link to the application, please visit [northstreetna.org](http://northstreetna.org). Submit it online, or print it and send it to the address provided.



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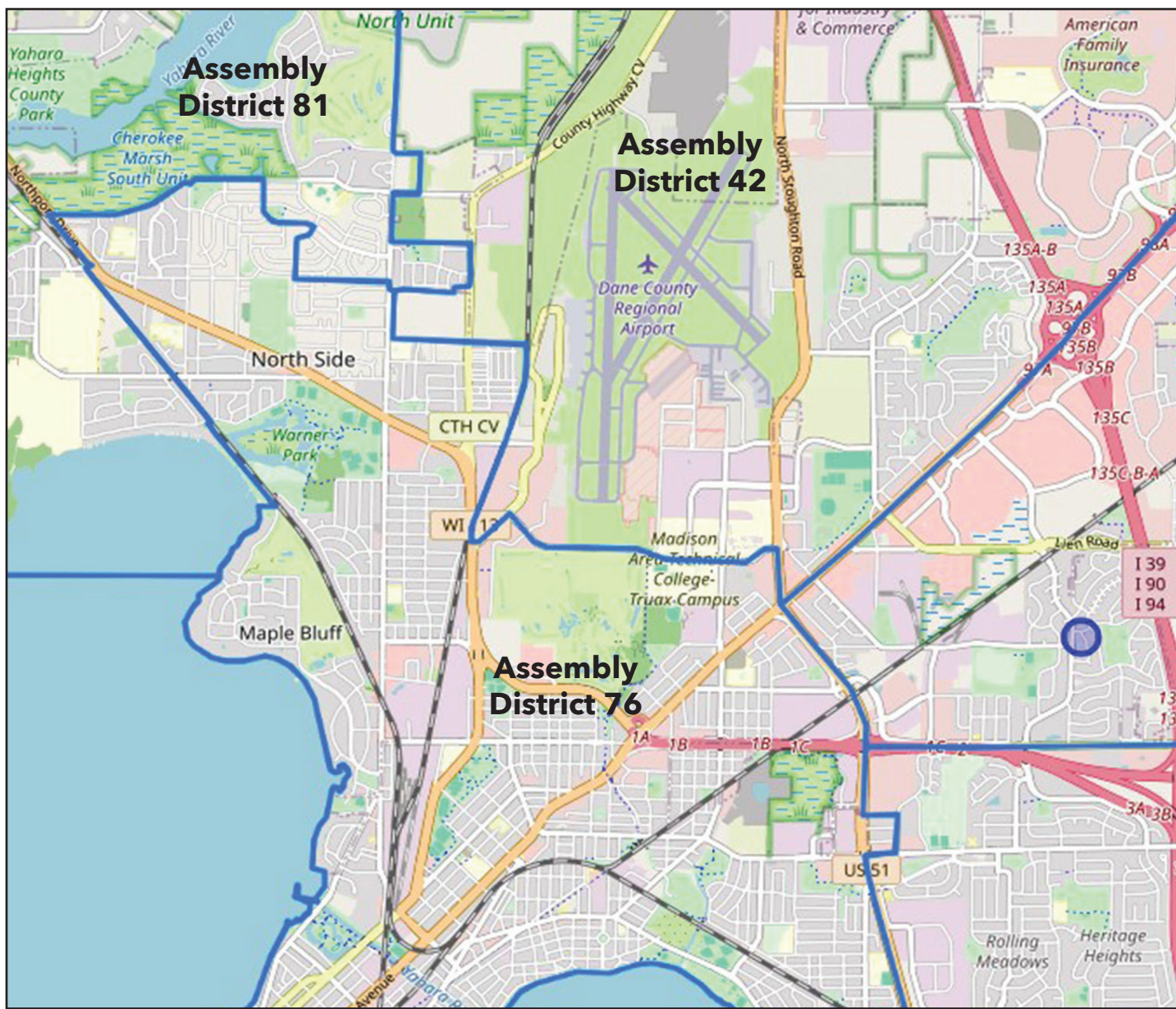
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COMMUNITY



A map of the new Wisconsin assembly districts on the Northside. The new map will be used in the November election.

**2024 Election Dates**

**April 2 - Spring Election**

- Presidential Preference
- Court of Appeals
- Circuit Court
- County Board
- School Board

**August 13 - Partisan Primary**

**November 5 - F**

- Congress
- State Legislature
- County Executive
- County Clerk
- Register of Deeds
- County Treasurer
- District Attorney

**2024 Voting Information**

**Go to myvote.wi.gov**

- Register to vote online
- Verify voter registration
- Request absentee ballot
- Find your polling place
- See what is on your ballot
- Check your absentee ballot status

# Get out to vote! Spring election is Tuesday, April 2 — polls open at 7 am

By Lisa Aarli and Jan Axelson  
Northside Action Team

Tuesday, April 2, is the spring election, which includes the presidential preference primary and local races for the Madison School Board, Dane County Board and judges. Voting in local elections gives you a voice in how you want your government to fund services close to home, including roads, social services, public safety, parks, schools and more.

Two state constitution amendments will also be on the ballot. One amendment prohibits any level of government in the state from applying or accepting non-governmental funds or equipment for election administration. The other amendment provides that only election officials designated by law may administer elections.

Both amendments have passed in two successive sessions of the legislature. This is a requirement before being put

to a statewide vote. The governor can't veto constitutional amendments, so if voters approve the amendments on April 2, they will become part of the state constitution.

Polling places are open 7 am–8 pm. Only registered voters can vote. To register, you must be a U.S. citizen, be at least 18 years old on the date of the next election, and have resided in your district or ward for at least 28 days before election day. If convicted of a felony, you must have finished serving your sentence, including probation or parole.

It's too late to register in advance of voting in this election, but you can register, including a change of address, when you vote. To register, you need to provide proof of residence by showing a driver license or other document that shows your name and current address.

After you are registered, in order to vote, you need to show a driver license or other photo ID to prove your identity.

The photo ID doesn't need to have your current address.

You can vote absentee in person (sometimes called early voting) at the City Clerk's office, the Lakeview branch of the Madison Public Library, the Warner Park Community Recreation Center, and other locations until March 30. Check the location for days and hours of operation before heading out to vote.

To find out where to vote and who is

on your ballot, visit: [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov).

To find out what documents and IDs are accepted for proof of residence and voting or if you need other information or have questions, the City Clerk's website is a good resource: [cityofmadison.com/clerk/elections-voting](http://cityofmadison.com/clerk/elections-voting).

To learn about the candidates, visit: [vote411.org](http://vote411.org).

To learn more about the constitutional amendments, visit: [ballotpedia.org/Wisconsin\\_2024\\_ballot\\_measures](http://ballotpedia.org/Wisconsin_2024_ballot_measures).

COMMUNITY

# NPC-FEED storage sale and giveaway – April 15

By Justin Markofski  
Northside Planning Council

Do you ever have spring fever and an itch to clean your basement, garage, apartment, or home? Do you love going to garage sales and rummage sales? Well, organizations can collect a lot of stuff too (gasp), and we here at NPC and FEED Kitchens want to turn this situation into some community fun. How about throw a little party and FUNdraiser out of going through all we have accumulated over 30 and 10 years respectively (NPC and FEED)! That’s what we are going to do.

Come over to FEED Kitchens parking lot Monday, April 15 in the afternoon (Noon–4 pm) and celebrate ‘Tax Day’ by turning our trash (no it’s not really trash – there will be some fun stuff I’m sure) into your treasure. Or just come for some music, food (sorry, you have to pay for the food – but it will be a FEED food truck or two so it will be great and worth supporting local entrepreneurs), and community connection. [Rain Date, Wednesday, April 17 same timeframe Noon–4 pm with music and food, Noon–2 pm]

Our plan is to have some tables set out directly in front of the front doors of FEED Kitchens, with the music and food truck(s) available Noon–2 pm only. Higher value items will be marked with prices listed and then all other items will be available on a ‘make a small donation - you choose the amount’ basis. We will close our ‘Storage Sale and Giveaway’



Frankie Pobar Lay musical entertainment

down at 4 pm and will donate whatever is unclaimed by community members at the very end.

Doesn’t that sound like fun? Also, it’s a chance to give to the great work here at NPC. If you want to learn more about all the work happening around here at NPC, FEED Kitchens, FEED Bakery and Training, Healthy Food for All and the Northside News please reach out to Justin Markofski at [director@northsideplanningcouncil.org](mailto:director@northsideplanningcouncil.org).

Photo provided by

# Literacy Network helps residents become citizens

By Anita Weier  
Northside News

If you are a lawful permanent resident who wants to become a citizen of the United States, help is on the way.

The Literacy Network, which offers free classes for those preparing for the citizenship test, wants to expand its classes to the North and East sides, after receiving a \$180,000 grant from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The grant was provided jointly to the Network and Centro Hispano, which helps with the application process.

Until now, classes were only offered in the Literacy Network’s Southside offices on the corner of Dane and South Park Streets, as well as online. The nonprofit organization is currently looking for available sites, said Jill Stendahl, citizenship program manager for the Literacy Network. The citizenship test is complicated, so preparation is essential, she added.

The test requires that applicants can read and write a sentence in basic English, that they can answer six questions about U.S. history and government, and that they can answer questions about themselves from their applications.

Filling out the application is not easy, as it consists of 40 pages. The application is then sent to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which researches the individual to make sure answers are true and correct. An interview follows, in which the immigration officer can ask any question from the application document.

Literacy Network classes for citizenship occur over a four-month period — either twice a week or once a week for a longer time. Time involved is two to three hours per week. Trained staff instructors, approved by the USCIS, teach the classes. The curriculum also has to be approved.



Photo by Literacy Network

Student Maryan at her Oath Ceremony in December 2023.

“More than 11,000 people living in Dane County have lawful permanent resident status (with a green card) and are eligible for citizenship,” Stendahl said. Last year, 140 students took the Literacy Network citizenship classes, and 53 students finished the class.

If potential applicants have trouble with English, they are encouraged to take the Network’s English classes first. All Literacy Network classes are free.

The Network also has volunteer tutors available to help applicants hone their English and citizenship skills. “They can practice what they learn in class and gain confidence,” she said.

So far in 2024, nine students from the Madison area passed the citizenship test, which is given in the Federal Building in Milwaukee.

Those interested in taking the Network’s classes should call 608-244-3911. There are spring, summer and fall classes.

Demand has been increasing for the classes because people want to vote in the 2024 elections, she said. Also, many students have lived in the Madison area for years and now regard Dane County as home.

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COMMUNITY

# The River continues efforts to fight food insecurity and food waste

By Becca Carpenter  
The River Food Pantry

Have you ever seen a backup of cars near the intersection of Packers Avenue and Darwin Road and wondered what was going on? It was most likely a line of people waiting to pick up curbside groceries and meals from The River Food Pantry.

Long car lines have happened more frequently over the last year and a half. While The River's staff and volunteers do their best to distribute items as efficiently as possible, the fact is that unprecedented numbers of people are in need of food assistance throughout Madison's Northside and Dane County as a whole.

"We broke new records in 2023. Dec. 19 was the first time in The River's history that we served groceries to over 400 households in a single day," said Rhonda Adams, executive director of The River.

Photo by The River Food Pantry



The line of cars waiting to pick up curbside groceries and meals can spill onto Packers Avenue on busy days at The River.

"We served more people last year than at the height of the pandemic in 2020, and the need has only grown in 2024."

In the first two months of this year, The River served 2,700 unique households, which marked a 16% increase

from the previous year.

Where does The River get enough food and supplies to support so many people? By purchasing products from a variety of sources, including Second Harvest Foodbank, donations through food drives,

donations left in the large drop-off bin in the parking lot, and through The River's food recovery program.

Each year, the pantry rescues over 1.5 million pounds of food and supplies from the food industry, agricultural producers, food wholesalers and retailers to help nourish the community. This initiative helps keep food that is safe for consumption from going into landfills.

Recently, The River recognized over 60 local food retailers as Food Waste Fighters for their significant donations of food and supplies in 2023. Several of these generous partners are located on Madison's Northside, including Alpha Baking Company, Family Dollar, Kwik Trip, Madison Mallards, Northside Farmers Market and Willy Street Co-op.

If you would like to help The River meet this historic demand for food, please consider volunteering, donating or hosting a food drive. Learn more at riverfoodpantry.org.

## New group advocates for prairie plantings at Mendota

By Jan Axelson  
Northside News

A group of neighbors in the Lerdahl Park neighborhood are working to gain permission to plant a prairie and pollinator garden on property of the Mendota Mental Health Institute, 301 Troy Drive. Leading the effort, known informally as the Harper Prairie Group, are Karen Haagensen and Kathy Kelly. On noticing that the Institute has

many open, mowed acres, they realized that native plantings would add beauty and interest while also benefiting bees, butterflies and other wildlife. The exact site hasn't been chosen, but the group hopes to use a visible location off Harper Road.

A first step in the project is to gain permission from the Institute, which is owned by the State of Wisconsin. The group has contacted State Representative Samba Baldeh for

help in advocating for the planting. The Institute's grounds are home to many ancient effigy mounds and other earthworks, and any new plantings would be in a location that doesn't impact the mounds.

The group welcomes participation by neighbors and other interested folks. If you are interested in learning more or helping with this project, look for announcements of meetings at the Lakeview Library.



Kathy Kelly and Karen Haagensen are leading an effort to add prairie plantings to the Mendota Institute grounds.

Photo by Jan Axelson

## Be your own boss.

Self-direction is all about your choices: you decide who provides your care, you set your care schedule, you show people how you want to be cared for, and you manage your budget. This option is available through long-term care programs that are facilitated by Managed Care Organizations (MCO).

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My Choice Wisconsin is a MCO that offers these programs to seniors and adults with disabilities. We coordinate long-term care and medical services promoting wellness and independence of individuals in their communities.

800-963-0035 TTY: 711  
www.mychoicewi.org/NSN



For more information about your long-term care options, contact your local ADRC.

DHS Approved 03/15/2021



## Northside Farmers Market opens its 20th season Sunday, May 5

By Sabrina Hilton  
Northside Farmers Market

Opening day for the Northside Farmers Market will be Sunday, May 5, 8:30 am–12:30 pm. Opening day music will be provided by Kevin Schneider. Kevin engages the crowd with recognizable sing-along songs and maracas to encourage audience participation.

This year the Northside Farmers Market will be marking 20 years in operation. The market originated at a time when the Northside had limited food options for residents. That need inspired the development of the market.

Twenty years later the market is part of a strong food community on the Northside, which we hope has been influenced by the market. We certainly have been influenced by the many developing food businesses that have popped up in the area. The market has steadily grown over its 20 years in operation. We have a strong and loyal community.

This year we hope to provide more opportunities to engage our younger attendees with kid-focused programming and music. We plan to bring back pre-COVID dining spaces — high-top tables for enjoying the many wonderful, prepared food offerings you have grown to love. We will continue to have seated shade options near the information table.

We hope to grow our pool of volunteers who support "day of" operations at the market. We create a schedule of two shifts for each week. The shifts run from 8–10:30 am and 10:30 am–1 pm each Sunday morning of the market. The first shift helps remove and

setup items from the market trailer (tables, chairs and tents). Once the market begins, volunteers issue market currency for shoppers who have FoodShare benefits. The second shift continues with FoodShare currency distribution and ends with taking market items down and packing them up for the following week.

Volunteers are always supported by market managers who can troubleshoot or answer customer questions. We have an amazing team of volunteers but would like to have even more. Please email the market managers at manager.nfm@gmail.com if you are interested in joining us this summer — even for just one day.

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## COMMUNITY



## Free “Slow Down” yard signs available for neighborhoods

By Steve Sparks  
Safe Communities of Madison  
Dane County

Want to remind those driving by your house or business to slow down? Help protect kids walking or bicycling in the neighborhood by putting out a Slow Down yard sign. Pick up one or more of the free signs at Lakeview Library or Warner Park Community Recreation Center during business hours from May 20–24.

As shown, two signs are available. The “I Am Loved” sign is available in both English and Spanish, with the reverse side promoting seatbelt use. If you live in rental property, it’s important to

get permission from the property owner before posting.

Be sure to place signs in your yard, not on the terrace (space between street and sidewalk).

To coincide with this Slow Down yard sign campaign, Dane County law enforcement agencies are planning increased speed enforcement around Memorial Day. The campaign is a collaborative effort among community organizations, Dane County law enforcement agencies, Safe Communities of Madison – Dane County, and the Dane County Traffic Safety Commission. If you have questions, contact Lisa Bullard-Cawthorne at lisabc369@gmail.com.

## Solar serving more MGE customers

By Madison Gas and Electric (MGE)

MGE’s energy supply mix is transitioning toward greater use of renewable resources as we target carbon emissions reductions of at least 80% by 2030 and net-zero carbon electricity by 2050.

### Badger Hollow Solar Farm

In late 2023, the second 150-megawatt (MW) phase of Wisconsin’s largest solar project began serving MGE electric customers. MGE owns a total 100 MW of the 300-MW Badger Hollow Solar Farm in Iowa County. The first phase came online in late 2021. MGE’s share of the entire facility is expected to generate enough electricity to power about 30,000 households.

The completion of Badger Hollow is another step in MGE’s ongoing transition toward greater use of cost-effective, carbon-free energy. By 2030, we expect every MGE electric customer will have 80% fewer carbon emissions from their electricity use simply by being an MGE customer as we work toward our goal of net-zero carbon electricity.

### Tyto Solar in Fitchburg

Tyto Solar is MGE’s latest solar project, expected online in early 2024. The 6-MW array in Fitchburg is a distributed

energy resource, like our other Madison-area solar projects. This means it is connected directly to MGE’s distribution system. Tyto Solar will serve all MGE electric customers.

### Upcoming solar projects

These projects are part of a number of renewable energy projects to help MGE achieve our industry-leading carbon reduction goals. MGE will own a share of these three large-scale solar energy projects under construction:

**Paris Solar-Battery Park:** MGE will own 20 MW of solar capacity and 11 MW of battery storage at this project in the town of Paris in Kenosha County. It is expected online in 2024.

**Darien Solar Energy Center:** MGE will own 25 MW of solar capacity at this project in the town of Bradford in Rock County and the town of Darien in Walworth County. It is expected online this year.

**Koshkonong Solar Energy Center:** MGE will own 30 MW of solar energy from this facility to be located in the towns of Christiana and Deerfield in Dane County. The Koshkonong facility is expected online in 2026.

Learn more about our renewable projects, energy efficiency and new technologies at [mge2050.com](http://mge2050.com).

## Helpful tax tips as deadline nears

By: Kyle A. George, CFP®  
Johnson Financial Group

Spring is on our doorstep and, as always, our tax deadline is quickly approaching. For those who have yet to file their tax returns at the federal and state level, there is still time to pursue some tax planning strategies. While celebrating the new year does leave behind some ways to defer income or increase deductions, there are some actions open to taxpayers right up until April 15 (or when you file your tax return). If you haven’t yet filed your 2023 tax return, explore some of the strategies below with your tax preparer.

The first way to potentially reduce your tax bill involves additional savings into a retirement or health-related vehicle. If you own an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), a contribution for 2023 could reduce your taxable income reported on your return. For those who own a Health Savings Account (HSA) in conjunction with a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) through their employer, a contribution may also reduce your taxable income. Don’t forget the added benefit of tax deferral and tax-free compounding interest.

When you are filing your taxes, take

advantage of every deduction and credit available to you. For example, the Earned Income Tax Credit can help provide tax relief and even increase your tax refund depending on your own unique tax situation. Make sure to put your dependents (children) on your tax return; or if you are divorced, work out with your ex-spouse who will claim your children — this is vital for the Child Tax Credit, as an example.

With many people working remotely today, consider if the Home Office Tax Deduction is applicable for you. Since 2013, the rules have been simplified to make it easier for self-employed taxpayers to claim this deduction. Yet another example regards charitable giving.

Regardless of what strategies you elect to pursue, always keep good records and document what you show on your tax return. Get organized early and find any tax forms you may need ahead of time. Save any tax-related documents even if they don’t look important or are not ultimately necessary to file your return. If you claim charitable gifts, save a record/receipt of your gift.

Most importantly, file on time to avoid any penalties. Hopefully, your refund will be greener than my garden.

## Focused Interruption interview

By Justin Markofski  
Northside Planning Council

In February, Northside Coffee with a Cop attendees heard from a talented team that came from the local organization, Focused Interruption (FI). Community members present asked for a Northside News follow-up article so others on the Northside could learn about this nonprofit and their work. Recently, Northside Planning Council staff had the chance to interview founder and President Anthony “Coop.”

**Q: Please describe what Focused Interruption is and when and why it was created.**

A: Founded in 2016, Focused Interruption (FI) was created by a small group of community members, who were deeply connected in the community and tired of the rash of shootings and gun violence occurring. These individuals came together with intent and commitment to take action to make this a safe community for everyone.

Goals of the group were to not just get folks out of bad situations, but to connect them to opportunities and get them into good situations. The desire and outcome have been to establish community support for both the families of victims and perpetrators of violence as well.

**Q: What are the current programs and services you provide?**

A: The beauty of this effort is that we are looking holistically at the issues and both responding to incidences of violence but also working hard on the prevention side by building relationships and trust and making connections in the community. We have:

Community Safety Workers (CSW) support lower risk incidences, such as petty crimes and neighbor disputes. CSW’s may work with the store, work with the family, and come into neighborhood situations to help mediate relationships to defuse and de-escalate conflicts. The goal of this work is to help get to the root of these situations and help avoid a ticket or jail for disorderly conduct, as examples.

Outreach Workers handle the higher risk incidences of violent crime; be it gun, stabbing or gang related violence. These workers have credibility in the community and know what it’s like to navigate these dynamics of anger and trauma largely from lived experience and subsequent training.

Currently, FI is piloting a Brothers Against Odds program for young men led by Michael Austin. This group seeks to create higher exposure to expanded experiences and opportunities in various community contexts. FI is hopeful to expand this program to all sides of the city.

**Q: What is your relationship to the Madison Police Department (MPD), and do you work collaboratively?**

A: Yes, we are working collaboratively. Law enforcement knows they can’t arrest their way out of dealing with all young people’s challenges and sometimes criminal behavior. How can we support each other? How can we support our youth? We don’t work for law enforcement. We don’t need to report to law enforcement. MPD makes some referrals to Focused Interruption’s Community Support Workers.

**Q: Does your work bring you to the Northside ever or often?**

A: Yes, we have shown up on the Northside because of violent crime and other incidents to help de-escalate situations and bring greater support and safety. Our team’s presence helps bring calm and community support when traumatic events occur.

**Q: What do you see as some of the critical issues our community is facing in relation to gun violence and violent crimes?**

A: Our community is hurting in a lot of different ways. So many things are happening that are not getting addressed correctly. There are so many barriers and hoops to receive the needed supportive services. Homelessness is violence in and of itself. We talk about employment, but not enough.

There are people who have experienced so much trauma and challenge. Who don’t know how to navigate life, and supports are not there. This creates mental health and emotional stress that can lead to violent crimes. Systemic issues are causal for violent crime.

**Q: How can someone interested in learning more about your work and connecting with FI do so?**

A: We would love to connect more people to our work. Just reach out via our website, [focusedinterruption.org](http://focusedinterruption.org), or email us at [info@focussedinterruption.org](mailto:info@focussedinterruption.org).

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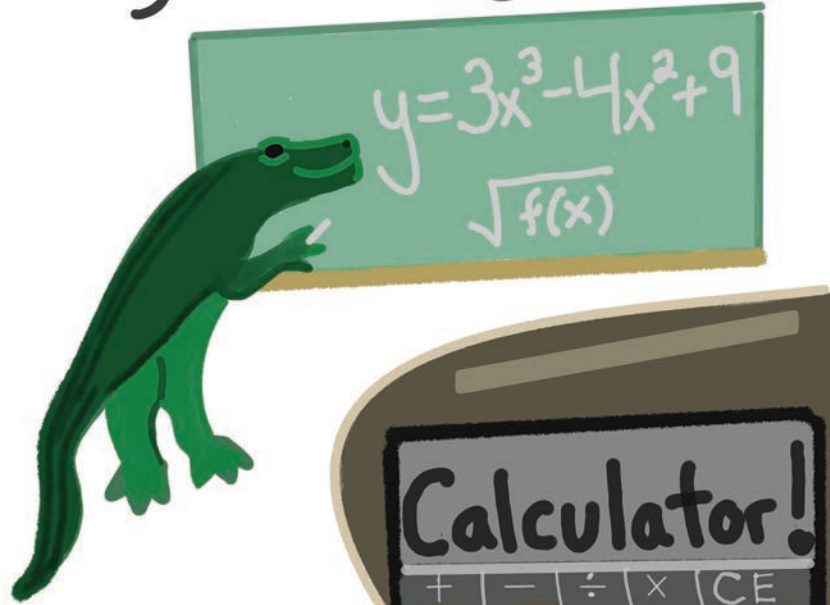
ART

# Echoes of Emancipation: A Tribute to Dr. Carter G. Woodson

By Faton Jenneh

In the echoes of a graveyard, where whispers transcend time  
 Words from “The Mis-Education of the Negro” weave a rhythmic rhyme  
 A tribute to Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a visionary so bold  
 Walking the walk, talking the talk, from Washington to Chicago’s gold  
 Between 1915 and 1926, a journey unfolds  
 C.G. Woodson, championing the dreams of boys and girls  
 Sweating blood, feeling pain, from slavery’s cruel embrace  
 For the long walk of emancipation, an enduring race  
 A man with a vision where history and destiny entwine  
 A cradle of the *Journal of Negro History*, a blossom divine  
 Harvard’s graduate, second only to Du Bois’s grace  
 In the pursuit of knowledge, he found his sacred place  
 Well ahead of his time, he saw education’s power  
 A sanctuary for liberation in each waking hour  
 Dismantling the chains of racial inequality  
 A foundation for justice, a beacon of possibility  
 Embracing the births of Lincoln and Douglass, virtuous and true  
 A harmony of emancipation, a narrative to renew  
 “If my name goes into history,” Lincoln’s soul did say  
 For the Emancipation Proclamation, a dawn of a new day  
 Frederick Douglass, self-taught, breaking chains with might  
 A mathematical dance of 12th and 14<sup>th</sup> of the month of February, in history’s light  
 The passage unfolds like constellations in the darkened sky  
 A celebration of heritage, a call to fly high  
 In the garden of knowledge, where wisdom’s flowers bloom  
 Dr. Woodson’s legacy, a fragrance that will never consume  
 Total emancipation in knowing one’s own story  
 A journey to protect posterity from a blind destiny’s quarry

What do you call an alligator doing calculus?



## Spring In Action

By Jason R. Van Pelt  
 Northside News

Satisfaction of a homebase  
 Is outdoors in a green space  
 Yet until then inside a library  
 The seasonal change is binary  
 Lo! One or the other like stilts  
 A winter white as starch wilts  
 It shall hoist and make soil moist  
 Any premature parch gets prevented  
 Germinating of March implemented!



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- 3  **Agree to share your electronic health records**
- 4  **Complete the Consent to Get DNA Results**
- 5  **Answer health surveys**
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## library

**Library Hours**

Monday–Friday, 10 am–8 pm

Saturday, 9 am–5 pm

Sunday, 1–5 pm

Closed: May 27

*Note: May 19 is the last open Sunday until September. See all library hours at madpl.org/locations.*

**Friends of Lakeview Library Donation Drive and Book Sale**

The Friends of Lakeview Library will be accepting donations of books, DVDs, CDs and vinyl Thursday, April 25, and Friday, April 26, only. The book sale will follow on Saturday, April 27, 9 am–4 pm, with a bag sale 3–4 pm.

**Baby Storytime**

*Wednesdays, April 3–24, 10–11 am*

Read and play with your favorite baby, ages birth–17 months. Reading, singing, talking and playing with your baby from the beginning is important. Library programs are always free. Siblings and child-care groups are welcome.

**Baby Play Date**

*Wednesdays, May 1–22, 10–11 am*

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

**Art for Little Ones**

*Thursdays, April 4 and May 2, 10:30–11:30 am*

Join artist Amy Mietzel for hands-on art activities inspired by picture books for ages 2–5. We'll read the book aloud, then create art using unique materials and fun supplies. Additional books that fit the theme will also be available. Siblings and groups are welcome.

**Preschool Storytime Chefs**

*Tuesdays, April 9 and May 14, 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 prepare a simple recipe. Children will need adult assistance. Recipes will be nut-free and vegetarian.

**Growing Voices Music Class**

*Thursdays, April 11–25, 10:30–11:30 am*

Growing Voices Music Class is an interactive class for caregivers and their children ages birth–4 years to play, learn and bond with music. In our classes we sing, play instruments, dance and have fun together. After the class, participants can stay for free play.

**Minecraft Club**

*Mondays, April 1–29, 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 take turns as needed.

**After-School Art with Amy**

*Wednesdays, April 3–May 8, 4:30–5:30 pm*

Join local artist Amy Mietzel for hands-on art projects.

**Cooking with Chef Lily**

*Tuesdays, April 16–30, May 14, May 28, 4:30–5:30 pm*

*Saturdays, April 6, May 11, May 25, 1:30–2:30 pm*

Join The Kids Chef, Lily Kilfoy, for a series of cooking classes for kids 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 provided by Willy St. Co-op North.

**We Read to a Dog**

*Mondays, April 22 and May 20, 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, April 20 and May 18, 9:30–11:30 am*

Are you a kid who loves LEGOs? Join us for LEGO Club. The library will provide LEGOs, and you provide the imagination. LEGOs will have to stay at the library, so bring a camera to capture your creations. No registration is required.

**Teen Cooking Club**

*Fridays, April 12 and 26, May 10 and 24, 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, April 19 and May 17, 4–5:30 pm*

Drop-in and join other tweens and teens for 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, April 6–27 and May 4–25, 12:40–1 pm*

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

**Chess at the Library**

*Second and fourth Mondays, April 8 and 22 and May 13, 6–8 pm*

All ages and skill levels are welcome.

**First Friday Films**

*Fridays, April 5 and May 3, 6–8 pm*

Join us for film night on the first Friday of each month. Selections include feature-length films, documentaries, and shorts. In April we will watch “Theeb” and in May “The Mole Agent.” Snacks and drinks are provided.

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

*Mondays, April 1–22 and May 6–20, 10:30–11:15 am*

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.

**Navigating the Bus System with Metro Transit**

*Tuesday, April 9 and Thursday, April 18, 1–5 pm*

Learn how to use Metro Transit's fixed route city bus service. Topics include using Google Maps, Transit, and other digital options; paper schedules and phone service; and discounted fare options. Metro employees will answer your questions about bus travel and provide one-on-one assistance in English and Spanish.

**Cooking with Chef Paul: Plant-Based Meals**

*Thursday, April 11, 6:30–7:30 pm*

Join Chef Paul to explore the unlimited choices of plant-based meals. Registration begins March 28.

**Puff Pastry from Scratch**

*Saturday, April 20, 1–2 pm*

Puff pastry is a versatile dough that can be either sweet or savory. It's used for just about anything that needs a crust. Punky will demonstrate the technique to make the flakiest puff pastry and provide samples for the class. Registration begins April 6.

**Transportation Options with Metro Transit**

*Tuesday, April 23, 10 am–12 pm*

Learn about transportation options such as paratransit and other alternatives with Metro Transit. Topics include navigating paratransit and exploring biking, BCycles and the bus. Metro employees will answer your questions and provide one-on-one assistance in English and Spanish.

**Cake Decorating Techniques**

*Saturday, May 18, 1–2 pm*

Piping as a cake decorating technique is not as hard as it looks. Using only a few pastry tips, Punky will demonstrate a variety of borders, flowers and even a rose. We'll discuss types of icings and color brands. There will be decorated cupcakes for the class to sample. Registration begins May 4.

**Transforming Metal Workshop**

*Tuesday, May 21, 5:30–7:30 pm*

Wisconsin Metalsmiths will be on hand demonstrating techniques and skills, and will teach you how to produce your own wearable items or useful objects of art. Try your hand at transforming sheets of metal into something special. Walk away from the workshop with something that is uniquely yours. Registration begins May 7.

**Fourth Friday Poetry Group**

*Fridays, April 26 and May 24, 1–2 pm*

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

**Board Game Café**

*Mondays, April 15 and May 20, 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, April 3–24 and May 1–29, 10 am–12 pm*

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

**Knitting at the Library**

*Wednesdays, April 3–24 and May 1–29, 6–8 pm*

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

**Madison Writing Assistance**

*Mondays, April 1–29, 4–7 pm*

The Madison Writing Assistance program

offers free, one-to-one writing support by appointment at library branches throughout the city. Our writing coaches offer help with writing projects, including resumes, cover letters, application essays, grant proposals, fiction writing, memoirs and more.

**Application Assistance**

*Tuesdays, April 2–30 and May 7–28, 2–5 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**

*Tuesdays, April 2–30 and May 7–28, 5–7 pm*

*Thursdays, April 4–25 and May 2–23, 6–7 pm*

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

**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*

April 3 – “Greenlights” by Matthew McConaughey

May 1 – “The Kitchen Front” by Jennifer Ryan

**Lakeview Book Discussion**

*First Thursdays, 6:30–8 pm*

April 4 – The works of Gabriel Garcia Marquez

May 2 – “Fifty Words for Rain” by Asha Lemmie

**Daytime Book Discussion**

*Second Thursdays, 12–1 pm*

April 11 – “Night of the Living Rez” by Morgan Talty

May 9 – “Swing Time” by Zadie Smith

**Mystery Book Group Discussion**

*Third Thursdays, 5:30–7 pm*

April 18 – “Dream Girl” by Laura Lippman

May 16 – “The Niggerwife” by Vanessa Walters

## Author speaks at Friends of Lakeview Library meeting

By Anita Weier  
Northside News

The annual meeting of the Friends of Lakeview Library on Feb. 24 featured highlights of the past year and a speech by Mary Bergin, author of a new book about small-town Wisconsin.

Beth Welch, vice president of the Friends, stressed that the organization had to overcome challenges when the owner of the Northside TownCenter decided the group could no longer store books for book sales in a space at the shopping center. The decision made it impossible to collect donated books on an ongoing basis, so books will be donated during the two days before the April 27 sale.

She also detailed Valentine's Day gifts to Lakeview Library staff, including gift cards. T-shirts were given previously, as was a sofa for the break room to replace a tattered couch. The Friends also finance various programs at the library as well as subscriptions.

Carra Davies, head librarian at Lakeview, thanked the group for their help. “We are so lucky to have such a strong and supportive Friends group,” she said.

Davies said the library staff issued 1,285 new library cards in 2023, when 148,558 items were checked out. The library hosted 1,068 programs with 10,658 participants. “No other Madison public library offered so many programs,” Davies said.

Programs particularly attractive to kids included Read to a Dog. Snacks were also provided to kids in the afternoons.

The study rooms in the library benefited from the installation of ceilings, which provided privacy for people meeting in them.

Election of a slate of Friends officers and directors followed. Pat Tully will again serve as president, Beth Welch as vice president, Lesleigh Luttrell as treasurer and Sue Miller as secretary. Anita Weier and Mary Mannering will be directors, and Barbara Karlen will be director emerita.

Author Bergin spoke about highlights in her book “Small-Town Wisconsin: Fun, Surprising, and Exceptional Road Trips,” which presents highlights of towns with fewer than 5,000 residents. She noted the annual Apple Festival in Gays Mills as well as the Warrens Cranberry Festival. Other highlights included the community of Belgium, which serves as a research center for the European nation of Luxembourg.

COMMUNITY

# The Bodgery is a place to create, make, build and get to know folks

By Anita Weier  
Northside News

There's a place for us — on the Northside. It is a magical place where people with all kinds of interests and abilities can create and repair most things they want or need. The Bodgery is a 21,500-square-foot space at 740 Oscar Ave. in the long, low building near Commercial Avenue that was part of the Oscar Mayer plant property.

### Training available

The volunteer-run organization started its operations there in 2019 and has rapidly grown to more than 500 members who pay \$50 a month when they are using the facilities. Members are also required to be trained in how to use some of the more complicated equipment, much of which was donated.

"Sometimes families give equipment or supplies that they don't know what to do with after a family member dies," Bodgery member Cassie explained. As the organization has become more stable, dues have funded some equipment purchases.

———— **To Bodge**  
**(v), to make or**  
**repair hastily, to**  
**MacGyver** —————

Jesse Ransom, who gave me a tour of The Bodgery, said his current project is making Hobbit doors for his treehouse.



Photos by Anita Weier



The Bodgery is a community workshop where members make, build, hack, and create. Top L: Jesse Ransom

During the tour, I saw one member making a kitchen island, while others were chatting in a sewing area that contained dress forms used to make clothing fit. A screen-printing press was being prepared to make T-shirts and/or flags.

Some members previously volunteered to help create a Tiny House Village to house homeless people. The Bodgery was busiest in the weeks before Christmas, as many members created gifts.

Machines and tools allow work on leather, jewelry, stained glass and much more. Classes offered in February included "How to Turn a Wood Bowl," "Woodshop Basics," "Creating a Hand Built Teapot" and "Screen Printing."

### Management of the Bodgery

An elected board of 5–7 people makes shop-wide decisions, establishes and reviews policies, handles disciplinary issues, and interacts with the landlord, which is Rabin. Rent paid in 2020 was \$126,129, according to The Bodgery's 990 tax form filed with the IRS.

Area captains fund from their budget or can fundraise from their members if something is needed, though they first provide rationale to the board. Anything that costs more than \$1,000 has to be approved by the full membership.

Tours are held the first and third Friday of each month, 7–9 pm. People may register or just walk in, although walk-ins may have to wait for another tour. They are open for new memberships. New members go through an orientation.

More information is available at [thebodgery.org](http://thebodgery.org).



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Photo by Wendy Murkve

Castle Marsh has areas of open water, wetland and upland.

## Warner Park history includes stories of Castle Marsh

By Jan Axelson  
*Northside News*

A popular spot in Warner Park is its lagoon, an area of open water separated from Lake Mendota by raised railroad tracks, Woodward Drive and the strip of land that contains the Warner Park Beach and boat launch. The open water of the lagoon surrounds a small wetland and some higher ground with cottonwood trees. You can view this area, informally known as Castle Marsh, from the Warner Park Rainbow Shelter and nearby bike paths.

The marsh was formed by the dam at what is now Tenney Park at the outlet of Lake Mendota. The dam raised the level of Lake Mendota by 5 feet and flooded the former shoreline. The dam was first built in 1847 and has been rebuilt numerous times over the years, including the addition of locks around 1900.

Northsider Glenn Hovde recently provided the Northside News with a history of Castle Marsh as recalled by Donald Hovde, Glenn's father. Here are Donald's memories.

### Donald Ingvald ("Inky") Hovde tells Castle Marsh story

At the turn of the 20th century, the city built the Tenney Park locks, raising the water level of Lake Mendota. The lake's shoreline spread out over some very fertile land, including some farmland owned then by James Castle and Herman Weddig just east of the Northwestern Railroad tracks at what is now Warner Park.

This low land along the shoreline was the drainage catch basin of over 400 acres of farmland in Westport. On being flooded by Lake Mendota, the land became a big marsh, extending over 13 acres of the Weddig land and the adjoining Castle land. The Castles and the Weddigs were neighbors, both building yellow brick homes in the same style and at the same time, in the latter part of the 1800s.

The Weddig land lay between the Castle land and Lake Mendota. A creek ran through the land, through a viaduct built by the railroad company, and emptying into Lake Mendota.

Northerns, bass carp and bullheads discovered the creek and found it to be an excellent path to spawning grounds. The water level was high in the spring and lower in the fall, leaving ample time for small fry and big

fish alike to get out before the dry spell.

However, as the small Northern fingerlings came out of this creek into Lake Mendota, big black and yellow bass were there waiting for them. Often, their stomachs were so full of these minnows they could not swallow any more, so they just carried them crosswise in their mouths, as seen by observers of that day.

Wild ducks and pheasants also found this marsh to be an excellent nesting place, along with red-winged blackbirds and other wildlife.

In 1943, I purchased the Weddig farm. I never lived on this farm, but leased it out to several tenants. During the war years, I raised a barnful of cattle, pigs, over 300 chickens, Muscovy ducks, two riding horses and a pony. Hearing about the excellent crops having been raised on this marsh land years ago and the current high price of corn during the war years, I thought it possible to reclaim some of this fertile land for additional plow land. I had Mead & Hunt, local surveyors, survey the land, and they found it feasible to drain it with drainage tile by using a big lift pump near the viaduct.

Most all of the adjoining land owners went along with sharing the cost of said survey except one. They were also willing to go along with tiling, except one. Spending some time fixing fences, etc., in the marsh area, I became aware of all of the fish and wildlife that were spawning and nesting there. I became increasingly concerned about their future welfare.

The highest and best use of this land, I thought, was to preserve it for wildlife. But how? Later on, I gave to the City of Madison the wooded high land at the northwest corner — near the grade entrance to Mendota Hills, consisting of about 5 acres. Across the street stood the largest ash tree in the City of Madison, according to the city forester. This area was once a large camping ground for American Indians. The lower branches of this large ash tree were bent and trained to point northwesterly and south as a marker pointing the way.

The Castle farm and other neighbors' land were sold to the City of Madison for park purposes. Along about this time, Harold Starkweather, representing some local sportsmen called the Dane County Conservation League, contacted me. I soon learned that he was as much interested and

concerned over the future of this marsh as I was and saw the future possibilities of it. He wanted the Conservation League to purchase three acres, at least, of the south end of this land near the viaduct. He was to raise \$3,000 among the sportsmen.

I said I would donate the first \$1,000, and they could raise among themselves the other \$2,000. This they did and were to get deed to the land. Then I said I would give them an additional 10 acres free of charge for wildlife purposes. This they gladly accepted.

However, I was to be able to use 5 acres of this at the northeast corner, which was fenced for pasture land in late summer when the water level was down. This arrangement worked out very fine for everybody and became a joint effort of the Dane County Conservation League, the Dane County Board and the Wisconsin Conservation Department.

One day in August, I had 17 head of white-faced beef cattle grazing in this marsh. A neighbor had cut my fence near the viaduct to let some floodwater debris wash out. The cattle soon discovered this opening, went through the viaduct, and soon ended up on the Maple Bluff Golf Course.

John St. John, president of the Madison Gas & Electric Company, and his four-some found the cattle standing on one of the greens. They soon had Mr. Taft, the constable, searching for the owner. He located me that evening at a party. We soon had the cattle rounded up and fenced for the night. The following day, they were all herded back home where they belonged. Then I learned of the fence being cut and why.

I was told I would have to pay for all the damages on the green and fairway caused by beef hooves. John St. John called me, trying to bawl me out for not containing my cattle properly. When he got through, he said, "Hovde, don't you ever play golf?" "Yes," I said, "when I can, but do you, Mr. St. John, ever eat beef?" Then I explained to him what had happened. He finally laughed and got the point. From then on, we were good friends. I told him that while you guys play golf, I had to try and raise some beef.

At the northwest corner of this marsh was a large American Indian camp. Until the development of Mendota Hills in early 1950, there was a long, lineal burial mound. Off to one side was another large circular mound. Up the hill a ways was another large bird effigy. [Wisconsin's Act 316, enacted in 1985,

now protects mounds from destruction.]

Back in the 1890s, when the Northwestern Railroad laid their tracks across Westport land, there was considerable opposition by local farmers. Several railroad wrecks were caused by large timbers having been thrown across the tracks in the ravine just above the marsh. Railroad officials became suspicious of one particular farmer.

Soon after, a young man from the east stopped in at this farmer's house asking for a job or for a place to stay and rest before he continued on his trip to the far west. He agreed to work for little or nothing. He just wanted a place to stay. He was hired on these terms and proved to be a good hired hand. However, he never left the place. He said he was not interested in going to town, the county fair, nor any other place. He just wanted to stay put and was content.

Late one night, this particular farmer was back at his old tricks. He put some more heavy timbers across the railroad tracks in the ravine. When he finished with this task, from behind him out of the darkness, came a man who tapped him on the shoulder saying, "You are the man we are looking for." Who was this young witness? No other than his own hired hand. He was a railroad detective planted to catch this suspect farmer in the act.

In the early 40s when I first purchased these adjoining woods and marsh, I had hoped to use it as a private hunting preserve. I had the area properly posted on the fence line, NO HUNTING NOR TRESPASSING.

When I got there on opening day of hunting season, most of the kids in and around Maple Bluff were hunting inside my private, well posted hunting grounds. They soon cleaned out all my pheasants, squirrels and rabbits and chased my beef cattle as though they were deer. They ran all the fat off them.

How did Forster Drive along the north side of this beautiful park get its name? When I was subdividing this land for Mendota Hills, I went to the then mayor of Madison, George Forster, and talked to him about this proposed Warner Park. I told him that if he planned a nice park for this marsh, I would name this adjoining street after him. He was pleased and said a nice park was being planned and gave me his permission to use his name for said street, Forster Drive.

ENVIRONMENT



Photo by Chuck Henrikson

Great horned owls (male and female) perch in a tree.



Photo by Chuck Henrikson

Barred owls have dark eyes.

Madison is home to magnificent owls in our parks and yards

By Paul Noeldner  
*Friends of Urban Nature*

Our birds of the month for April and May are “What owl we talking about?” Madison is home to magnificent owls in every neighborhood endowed with mature trees and natural areas in parks and yards.

The biggest and noisiest is the great horned owl, which is a beautiful, mottled

brown and black owl with feather tufts that look like ears or horns. The larger females can be up to 2 feet tall. They love to “hooooo-hooooo-hoo” their haunting call in the evening dusk. Their Latin name is, *bubo virginianus*. These owls can look and sound a bit scary, even though owls are mostly scary to mice, not people.

They can fly noiselessly and use their excellent hearing to home in on mice,

even hidden beneath snow. Owls help naturally control the population of small creatures that some people might consider pests. Avoid putting out poisons for small creatures because the poison can end up in an owl. Let them do the job for us for free.

Did you know that when a great horned owl swallows a mouse, it dissolves in about 5 minutes? They hack up the remaining fur and bones as an “owl pellet” much like a kitty coughs up a hairball. It’s fun to look for owl pellets under a tree and find out where owls are eating their lunch.

Another fairly common Madison owl is the barred owl, which is a bit smaller but just as magnificent. Their beautiful tan and cream barred pattern is excellent camouflage that helps them hide in trees in plain sight, even

during the day, but they often give away their location with their eerie descending “whooo coooks for youuuu” hooting call.

Another common Madison owl is the little screech owl. They are streaked brown and black with “ear tufts” much like a miniature great horned owl, but are only about 10 inches tall. Their name comes from their powerful raspy “screeeeech” alarm call used to defend their nest.

It’s fun to look for screech owls peeking from holes in trees during the day and to listen for their soft and beautiful trilling “tootootootootoo” evening calls in dense evergreens and back hedges.

So, what owl we talking about? Now you know what to look — and listen — for in your neighborhood.

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Celebrate spring at the Bird and Nature Festival April 28

By Paul Noeldner  
*Friends of Urban Nature*

The 11th Annual Madison Bird and Nature Festival is a free, family friendly, city-wide celebration of Earth Week, Arbor Day and International Bird Day. Join us Sunday, April 28, 12-4 pm, at the Warner Park Rainbow

Shelter, 2930 N. Sherman Ave.

See hawks and owls up close with the on-going walk-through Open Door Bird Sanctuary’s Live Raptor Show. Enjoy food carts, music, educational nature group exhibits and mini-walks, face painting, and lots of fun childrens’ nature activities.

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## ENVIRONMENT



Photo by Ben Jones

Funding has been approved to protect this Town of Westport property

# Groundswell Conservancy supports purchase of prized Northside property on Northside of Lake Mendota

**By Angela West Blank**  
*Groundswell Conservancy*

I'm thrilled to share the good news that the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program awarded the Town of Westport a grant of \$812,100 to support the purchase of a prized property on the northside of Lake Mendota.

Groundswell protected this special place, once slated for development, in December 2022. Since then, we continued to work with the Town of Westport and Gathering Waters to

secure additional funding for this large purchase through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. Our request for funding was recently approved,

A mix of grassland, wetlands and oak woods, the land is an important part of the Lake Mendota watershed. It is home to a wide variety of wildlife. It also provides essential outdoor recreation space for the community.

Protecting special places is always a team effort. We are grateful to Steve and Marianne Schlecht and the citizens of the Town of Westport for their

support. A special thanks to Senator Dianne Hesselbein and Representative Alex Joers for championing this grant. Thank you to Governor Tony Evers for making the Knowles-Nelson

Stewardship Program a priority.

We wish to thank our Groundswell supporters for caring and being supportive about conservation where you live and work.

# Madison Parks plans open house sessions in April and May

*Seeks input from area residents*

**By Ann Shea**  
*Madison Parks Division*

Madison Parks is updating its Park and Open Space Plan (POSP) and seeking input from area residents. The purpose of the POSP is to guide and inform public park policies and park facility decisions in the city of Madison.

Parks staff is working with a consultant planning team, led by MSA Professional Services, Inc., to host a series of open houses to introduce the project and gather input from attendees. The open houses are drop-in sessions held at various locations throughout the city in April and May. Participants may stop by anytime during the two-hour event held from 5:30–7:30 pm.

### POSP Open House Sessions:

**Thursday, April 4,** Vel Phillips Memorial High School, 201 S Gammon Rd; Wisconsin Community Room

**Thursday, April 25,** Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625

Northport Dr; Meeting Room

**Thursday, May 2,** Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave; Atrium

**Thursday, May 9,** Madison Parks Lakeside Offices, 330 E Lakeside St; Board Room

Madison Parks anticipates the planning process to continue throughout 2024. As part of the process, the team will work with the Parks Long Range Planning Committee to review the sections of the plan as they are updated.

Additional information about the POSP is available at [cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/2025-2030-park-and-open-space-plan](http://cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/2025-2030-park-and-open-space-plan), the main source of information as the project moves forward. The website will include project status updates, additional input opportunities, and review and approvals process.

Madison Parks welcomes your ideas for additional ways to get the word out and asks that you share this information with all who may be interested in the POSP.

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ENVIRONMENT

# Dane County Humane Society Wildlife Center saves injured hawk

By **Kathleen Wolf**  
*Wild Warner*

One day in early December, I received a phone call; “There’s an injured hawk next to the Mallard’s Stadium. Can you see if you can catch it?” I told the volunteer from the Dane County Humane Society’s Wildlife Center that I’d give it a try and headed to Warner Park.

I searched along the stretch of fence line where a passer-by had first sighted the injured bird. Fifteen minutes later, I spotted the large young bird, huddling against a brick wall. Wearing long leather gauntlets to protect my hands and forearms, and holding a bed sheet in front of me, I approached the frightened juvenile red-tailed hawk. His mouth was open in fear as he hopped away, attempting to flap his wings. I threw the sheet over him, then wrapped him up gently. One claw gripped my gauntlet, and he got to keep it; I placed the bundle of bird, and my glove, into a large storage tote in my car, and drove straight to the Dane County Humane Society’s Wildlife Center.

The Wildlife Center is a unique place where injured and orphaned wild animals can be treated, rehabilitated, and in the majority of cases, returned to the wild. They receive no federal or state funding, and instead rely entirely on donations. I handed the tote off to a volunteer, who swiftly took the hawk to the triage room to be examined. The hawk, who had been federally banded in Dodge County in October 2023, was “named” RTHA



Red-tailed Hawk

23-2042. Rescued animals are not given names, as one way to keep ourselves from treating them in any way that would make them less wild. In my mind, I called him Hawk-kin, our little brother of the sky.

Wildlife rehabilitators are trained individuals, sponsored by a veterinarian, and licensed to treat animals admitted into their care. The staff at DCHS's wildlife center determined that Hawkin had severe bruises to one wing, bleeding from the mouth, and anemia (low volume of red blood cells). His condition was most likely caused by something seen all too often at the Wildlife Center: poisoned prey. Chemicals in the form of bait in a common form of rat-poison are designed

to cause mice, rats and other rodents to bleed to death. Unfortunately, the effects don’t end with the original victim, but carry on into the hawks, foxes, coyotes, and even dogs and cats which might eat the dead or dying rodent.

In the exam room, Vitamin K was administered to help the hawk’s blood to clot normally. He was given pain medication and fluids, and housed in a quiet room under close supervision while his body recovered from the worst of the poisoning. A few days later, he was moved outdoors to a small enclosure with slatted sides, where the sounds and smells of humans were replaced by the quiet and fresh air of the surrounding woods. Hawkin spent a week and a half in recovery, flapping up and down between several levels of perches to regain muscle strength. Though Wildlife

assistant volunteers brought him food and cleaned his cage daily, they moved silently and swiftly to keep him from becoming accustomed to humans.

When his blood cleared of the poison and his bruised wing was mostly healed, Hawkin was moved to a larger flight pen that held a number of other juvenile hawks, a space large enough for them to practice flying and eventually prove their readiness to be released. On Feb. 4, two months after his unlucky encounter with poisoned prey, Hawkin was brought back to Warner Park to be released. He flew to a tall cottonwood tree and perched, looking out over Warner Pond. With luck, he won’t encounter poisoned prey again, and in another two years might find a mate and begin a new generation of red-tailed hawks.

Hawkin’s traumatic encounter with humans could have been prevented. While rodents can sometimes become a hazard for humans, the use of rodenticides is a hazard to all wildlife. The first step we can take is to remove rodent food-sources and nesting materials from around human habitation, and seal cracks in the foundations of buildings. If a problem persists, snap-traps are effective and generally safe to predators. Snap traps used outside should be covered to prevent birds from landing on them.

In 2023, the Dane County Humane Society’s Wildlife Center rehabilitated 2,088 animals, including turtles, mallards, robins, bats, foxes and many more. If you find an injured or potentially orphaned animal, take a photo, then visit the DCHS website or call 608-287-3235 to get information about what to do next. Donations to support this work are greatly appreciated. Visit [giveshelter.org/wildlife-center/donate-wildlife-center](http://giveshelter.org/wildlife-center/donate-wildlife-center).

# Exploring the future of Troy Farm

By **Laura Whitt**  
*Rooted*

Rooted’s Troy Farm is pausing its Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program for the 2024 growing season to take time to assess the needs of the community and the farm. This will allow staff to focus on current and future programming, and undertake a thorough community engagement and planning process to determine the best direction for the farm going forward.

Rooted will continue to maintain its other programs at Troy Farm in 2024, including growing food, hosting community events, and supporting other farmers. Troy Farm currently hosts five partner growers on the land, providing them with growing space, equipment use, and assistance from farm staff.

Troy Farm also participates in the Purpose Grown Project, growing vegetables for free weekly distribution to six

Northside community centers. Both of these initiatives will continue as priorities in 2024.

Rooted will also expand its Southeast Asian seedling project at Troy, growing specialty crop seedlings to sell in response to requests from Hmong and Lao farmers. Additionally, Rooted will continue to hold its annual plant sale, public workshops, and other community events on the land at Troy.

At Rooted we see this time of transition not as a loss, but as an opportunity for further reflection and growth. We will be seeking extensive community feedback to create a 5-year plan for the farm, and it is possible that resuming the CSA will be part of that.

In the meantime, we are excited to see you at Troy in other ways this year, such as at the upcoming Troy Farm Plant Sale May 11. We hope you will all join us and support Troy Farm as we explore this next chapter together.

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SCHOOL & YOUTH



Photo by Antje Rumpf-Osius

Keon Barry is about to tag out Fritz DeRocher during the 2022 Machine Pitch championship game.

## Join East Madison Little League for summer baseball and softball

By Daniella Rumpf  
East Madison Little League

East Madison Little League (EMLL) has been a staple in the community since 1958. The EMLL baseball park was originally located behind Oscar Mayer. In 1997, many local businesses, including the Oscar Mayer Company, came together to build a new park in its current location at the intersection of Aberg and Packers Avenues.

EMLL offers baseball and softball experiences for youth between the ages of 4 and 14.

- Tee Ball is for ages 4–6, games are one hour long, and each player gets to bat every inning.
- The Machine Pitch division, for ages 7–8, utilizes a manually operated pitching machine, which throws pitches with more accuracy and speed than most parent volunteers, therefore allowing kids to develop better hitting mechanics.
- In the Minors division, for ages 9–10, kids pitch themselves.
- The Majors division, for ages 11–

12, steps up the field size.

- The Juniors division, for ages 13–14, plays on a full-size baseball diamond.
- The softball program starts at age 9, with a new winter season training program starting in 2024.

Kids do not need prior experience with baseball or softball. EMLL offers co-op style practices starting mid-April so each player can get enough practice opportunities. Once teams are formed, players will also have the opportunity to practice with their team.

The game opener day will be Saturday, May 18. After that, almost all games will be played on weeknights: Tee Ball and Minors on Tuesday and Thursday, Machine Pitch and Majors on Monday and Wednesday.

EMLL also offers travel ball experiences through their partnership with Team Heat for ages 8 and under.

Registration is open at [www.emll.org](http://www.emll.org) with an early bird discount available through April 8.

Need-based scholarships are available to players.

## East Madison Community Center offers springtime fun

By Regina McConnell  
East Madison Community Center

The East Madison Community Center (EMCC) continues to provide programming for all ages. On the last Tuesday of each month, the food pantry expands to include household items and clothing. Community partner Project Babies also provides diapers, infant/toddler clothes and educational activities.

These services would not be available without the incredible volunteers who sort items, unload and distribute food, clothing, garage sale items and toys, and then clean-up afterward, which makes for a very long day.

In the past few months, health and wellness programming included guest workshops: What is Wellness, The Signs of Dementia and Alzheimer’s, Nutrition, Yoga, Understanding Trauma and more.

Looking forward, all are invited to a Health Fair at EMCC Saturday, May 18. Stay tuned for more details. Join us for a social and educational day. Community organizations are invited to table at this

event. Reach out to [info@eastmadisoncc.org](mailto:info@eastmadisoncc.org) for details.

If someone is looking for a night out, look no further. All age groups can enjoy a game night with bingo and card games, such as UNO, or a movie night with popcorn. Soon we’ll be out again enjoying community pontoon boat rides with MSCR. We are open to ideas for new activities, too.

A good send-off to the cold weather was EMCC’s 4th annual Chili Cook-Off on March 21. The community-at-large sampled several delicious chilis and a side of cornbread generously donated by Hy-Vee. The chili “champs” results can be found on EMCC social media posts.

As we welcome spring sunshine and warmer temperatures, we know it’s once again garden time. There are still a few plots available at the EMCC website ([eastmadisoncc.org](http://eastmadisoncc.org)) for details.

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about computers or would like help with reading, writing or math, look no further. EMCC is host to the Literacy Network on Thursday mornings.



Photo taken by John Harmelink

Left to right: Zaniya Lewis, Natalie Ernest (Wisconsin Institute of Science Education), Taylor Curry and Zach Burton. In the background is youth worker Elijah Smith.

One-on-one tutors can really make a difference. Go to [litnetwork.org](http://litnetwork.org) or call 608-244-3911 to find out more about current classes.

The EMCC PFAS Outreach Team has been working hard to get the word out about the presence of PFAS in our community. If you like to fish in Starkweather Creek or Lake Monona,

be sure to read this before you eat the fish. <https://publichealthmdc.com/environmental-health/beaches-lakes-pools/protecting-lake-water-quality/fish>.

Want to learn more about EMCC? Find out more on our website ([eastmadisoncc.org](http://eastmadisoncc.org)) or Facebook and Instagram ([eastmadisoncc](https://www.facebook.com/eastmadisoncc)).

SCHOOL & YOUTH



Madison Common Council Alder Charles Myadze reading to 2nd graders



A Mendota scholar practicing Stomping

Photo by Lauren Urumoglu

Photo by Claire Fallon

# Celebrating heritage, unity and creativity: Mendota Elementary’s remarkable Black History Month journey

By Mahmoud Hegazy  
Mendota Elementary School

In the halls of Mendota Elementary School, the month of February unfolded as a vibrant tapestry of celebration and enlightenment, weaving a rich narrative of Black History Month.

### Week 1: Empowering Voices with BLM Principles

Mendota kicked off the month with a powerful exploration of Black Lives Matter (BLM) principles. Staff created engaging videos centered around the pillars of Unapologetically Black, Diversity, Restorative Justice, Empathy and Loving Engagement, and Collective Value. These illuminating videos found their spotlight on “Episodes of Wake Up Wolfie,” the lively morning announcement video series, transforming the school’s start into an educational and entertaining experience.

### Week 2: Read Your Heart Out 20th Anniversary

Week two unfolded as a literary

spectacle, with Mendota opening its doors to a parade of parents, community members, and educators for Read Your Heart Out. The week not only provided scholars with an opportunity to connect with the broader community but also marked the 20th anniversary of this cherished event. Read Your Heart Out, rooted in Kwanzaa and Sankofa principles, celebrated African American heritage. Collective efforts in Umoja, Kujichagulia, Ujima, Ujamaa, Nia, Kuumba, and Imani echoed excellence, collaboration, gratitude, dedication, creativity and faith at Mendota.

### Week 3: Children’s March and Assembly

In the third week, the school resonated with the joyous echoes of the Children’s March. Fingers held aloft tiny flashlights as some classes paraded in a loop around the school, creating a heart-melting experience for scholars and staff alike. The assembly was a symphony of talent, featuring scholars

performing songs under the guidance of Marlina Zimmerman, the school’s music teacher. From Black History Month Trivia to a riveting Stompers performance, the week was a testament to the school’s commitment to a holistic and engaging educational experience.

### Grand Finale: Breaking Bread, Building Bridges, and Fostering Partnerships

As February drew to a close, Mendota Elementary hosted a memorable community dinner, the grand finale of a month-long journey celebrating Black History. This unique event not only showcased the delectable offerings of local Black-owned businesses, but also provided an invaluable platform for community members to interact, fostering connections and unity within our school community.

This celebration of Black History Month at Mendota Elementary transcended a mere series of events. It was a profound reflection of unity, creativity,

and a shared commitment to excellence. Attendees were treated to a captivating performance by the Mendota Stompers, infusing the atmosphere with a sense of serenity and charm.

The echoes of this celebration will undoubtedly resonate within our school community, shaping a future that embraces diversity with open hearts.

As we look forward, we invite and encourage anyone interested in supporting our scholars to reach out. Whether you represent a business, organization or community group, your partnership can contribute significantly to the educational journey of our scholars. Amanda L. World, our dynamic community schools resource coordinator, is the point of contact for exploring these meaningful collaborations.

Together, let’s continue breaking bread, building bridges, and fostering partnerships that empower our scholars and strengthen our community.



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# Margaret’s Fund

*A Northside Scholarship*

**Margaret’s Fund provides a \$1,000 award for a graduating high school senior.**

**For details see:**  
<http://tinyurl.com/MFapplication2024>

SCHOOL & YOUTH

# The art of science: Julie Yang combines art and human biology

By Emma Watermolen  
Madison East High School

To find success in a classroom, one often needs to master a skill. Sometimes that skill is solving math problems, explaining scientific phenomena, writing a well-organized essay, memorizing key terms, or communicating ideas effectively.

When a person can show mastery of two completely different skill sets and combine them to show their knowledge, it can stop others in their tracks. This is the case for Julie Yang, an 11th grade student at Madison East High School.

When Julie enrolled in Emma Watermolen's Anatomy and Physiology class, it was easy to see how hard she worked to learn information and diligently complete her work. As time went on, her projects, models and other work showed her ability to meld her creativity with knowledge of scientific concepts. As the semester progressed, so did the quality of Julie's artwork that incorporated the topics of human biology.

For the final project, to show mastery of topics, Julie created a story full of characters solving crimes using their knowledge of body systems and post-mortem decay. Through this project and others, Julie has found a way to showcase her ability to fuse her diverse



Photo by Marianne Joof

Julie Yang

talents, a difficult endeavor to accomplish in high school.

The student who can seamlessly integrate two skills is better equipped to work with diverse teams, communicate new ideas, and problem solve in complex situations. Not only is this cool, but it demonstrates versatility that is fresh and needed in many professional realms.

If any executives for Netflix are reading this, Julie is open to selling her million-dollar story ideas.

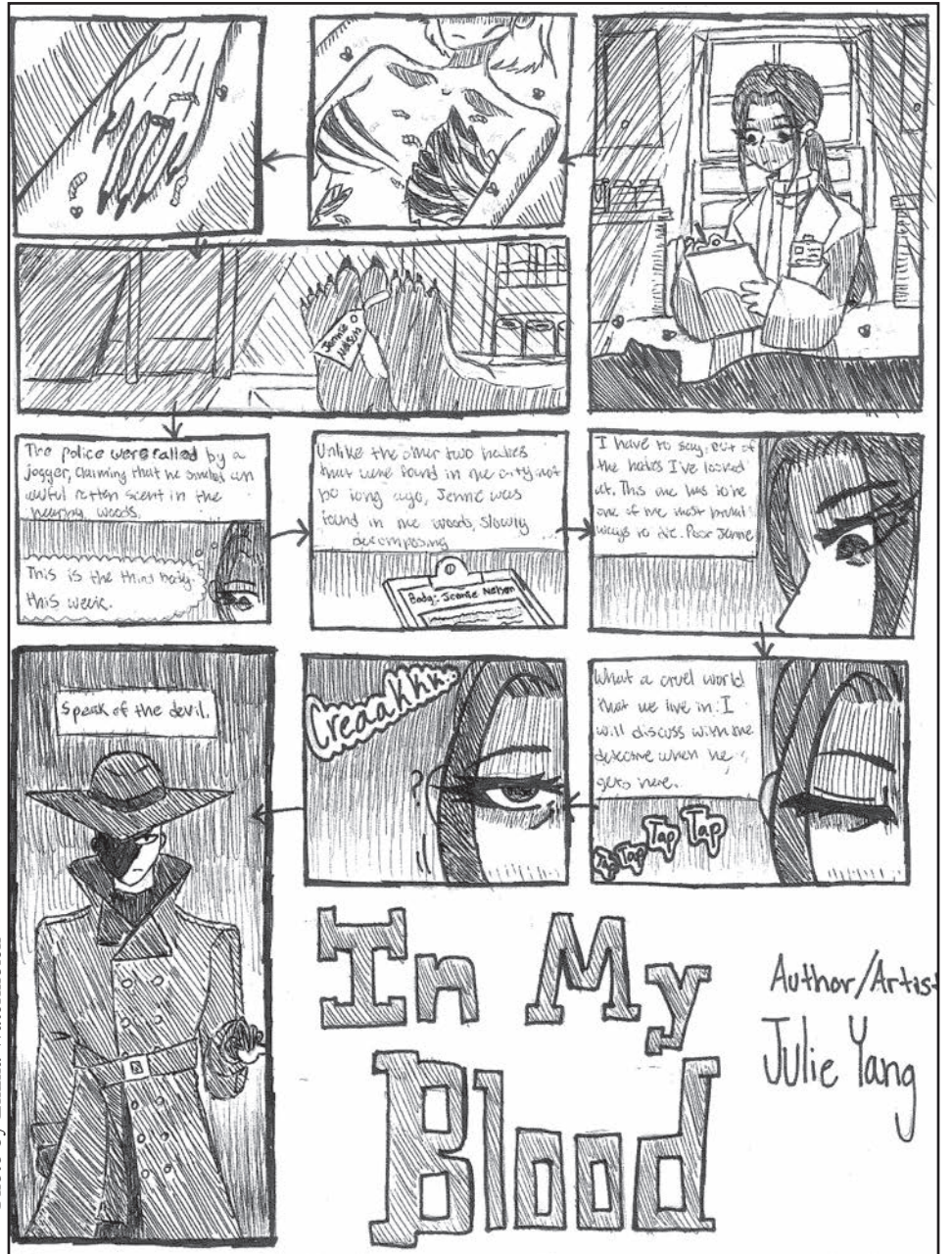


Photo by Emma Watermolen

The cover of Julie Yang's Anatomy & Physiology comic book project

**There is an art to science, and a science in art; the two are not enemies, but different aspects of the whole.**  
By Isaac Asimov

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SCHOOL & YOUTH

# Community leaders share knowledge with Sherman Middle School students

By Alex Thompson  
Sherman Middle School

Hello Northside Community! I hope you are having a wonderful spring.

I want to celebrate our work to honor Black History Month at Sherman Middle School. Students have been engaging in lessons that highlight the different ways Black people have contributed to American history, both locally and internationally.

On Feb. 22, we hosted our Third Annual (first in-person) Sherman Black History Month Community Panel Discussion. This is our culminating activity to extend the learning of our scholars on the topic of Black History. Our scholars were able to ask questions around this topic to various local, Black professionals.

Oftentimes, when we think of Black excellence, we forget that we have Black excellence right here in our city and state. Many of our

community members have navigated the same peaks and valleys that our scholars will encounter themselves in their lives. It is important that we build a bridge of knowledge so our scholars can learn from our experiences and make well-informed decisions on their road to success.

I want to thank our scholars, families, and most importantly, our community members who took time out of their day to pour into the children of our village. In our school that day we had: Alder Jael Currie, Dr. Danielle Pulliam, Bobbie Briggs, Dr. Christina Outlay, Will Glenn, Rodney Saunders Jr., Rosa Thompson, Dr. Andre Small, Dr. Percy Brown Jr., Danielle Johnson, Krystal Johnson, Keiyona Johnson, Langston Evans and Edith Hilliard.

As we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, our scholars will eventually stand on our shoulders and continue to make the Madison community a better place for all of its residents.



Photo by Sherman School Staff

Panelists from our Madison community field questions from our student body

# Margaret's Fund Scholarship application window is open

By Anne Pryor  
Margaret's Fund

Graduating high school seniors from the Northside are invited to apply for this year's Margaret's Fund Scholarship. The \$1,000 award will go to a high school student planning to continue in a degree or certificate program in fall 2024.

You can find the application and full guidelines at <http://tinyurl.com/MFApplication2024>. The application deadline is May 1, 2024.

Applicants must be a Northside resident; have an accepted or pending application at an accredited post-secondary school, college or university; and plan to enroll in the 2024-25 academic year. Preference will be given to applicants who actively participate or volunteer in Northside organizations, are among the first in their family to pursue higher education, or have overcome substantial obstacles or challenges to success.

College is expensive in many ways beyond tuition and books, the two areas covered by most scholarships. Margaret's Fund

uniquely is unrestricted so the recipient can use the award to pay for some of the extra costs of college, such as computers, transportation, supplies or special fees.

Since 2007, Margaret's Fund has supported residents of Northside Madison neighborhoods who are pursuing higher education. The award now goes to a graduating high school senior in even years and to a returning adult in odd years.

Margaret's Fund has awarded fourteen scholarships to date: Tara Hoffman (2009), Nicole Tackes (2010), Stacey Yang (2011), Omobolanle Kikelomo Olumbi (2012), Chekwube Obieze (2013), Melissa Marie Alexander (2014), Aminata Bojang (2015), Felicia Jones (2016), Vanessa Kana (2017), Terri Hatchett (2018), René Bedolla (2019), Josselin Ceballos De Santiago (2019), Abubacarr Darboe (2022), and Kenya Moses (2023).

Margaret's Fund: A Northside Scholarship is professionally managed by the Madison Community Foundation. Donations are tax deductible and very much appreciated. You can find the fund on the Foundation's website: [www.madisongives.org](http://www.madisongives.org).



Photo by Sherman School Staff

Our 8th Grade Community Panel poses for a picture with Principal Alex Thompson.



Photo by Sherman School Staff

Panelists and students pose in between our 8th grade and 6th grade panels.

**Education breeds confidence. Confidence breeds hope. Hope breeds peace.**



## SCHOOL &amp; YOUTH

## Become a Schools of Hope tutor

By Ruben L. Anthony, Jr.  
Urban League of Greater Madison

As we embark on the third quarter, I wanted to take a moment to reach out to you and invite you to be part of our movement to help every student reach their full academic potential.

The Schools of Hope Middle School Tutoring Program is receiving a high number of requests for tutors as the third quarter is underway, and so we are once again actively recruiting volunteers to support Madison and Sun Prairie middle school students.

With a commitment of as little as

1–2 hours per week, you could help students struggling in the areas of math and/or literacy to build their academic skills, grow their confidence, and develop the social-emotional skills that will be critical to their success in high school and beyond.

Get involved! We have openings in 11 different middle schools [including Black Hawk Middle School and Sherman Middle School] and a variety of times to accommodate most schedules to match your availability.

To learn more, please visit us at [ulgm.org/volunteerhope](http://ulgm.org/volunteerhope) or contact us at [volunteer@ulgm.org](mailto:volunteer@ulgm.org).



Photo by Jennafer Winesett

East students visited the Computer Science and Nuclear Engineering departments at UW-Madison: Etta Barnes, Elena Cunningham, Ripley Patzlaff, Athena Lukas, Michelle Yang, Ali Bravo, Odin Pourchot, Tessara Clark, Jenkin Yang, Josephine Shaw

## Lots of STEM events at EHS

By Cynthia Chin  
Madison East High School

**Congratulations** to the February Math Meet participants for doing a great job representing East High School. Junior Varsity took home a first-place team win and Varsity took home a second-place team win.

David Hazen placed fifth in the individual Junior Varsity competition; and in the Varsity individual competition, Atticus Corwen placed sixth, Tessa Clark placed fifth, and Rossalyn Kiley took first with a perfect score.

Congrats to all who participated. We look forward to continued success at the March Math Meet as well as the WMC State Competition.

**STEM is settling in.** Referendum-funded remodeling has finally reached the math and science department classrooms, and we are all back together on the third floor. Ask your students about their refurbished learning spaces.

**The 24th Annual Pi-Mile is coming soon.** This year's 3.14-mile run/walk will be held Saturday, May 25, at Warner Park. Registration begins at 9 am; the run/walk starts at 10 am. For anyone that prefers, there will be a virtual option available. For more information, contact Phillip Galarowicz ([pgalarowicz@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:pgalarowicz@madison.k12.wi.us)). And yes, there will be pie.

**EHS students visited the Computer Science and Nuclear Engineering departments at UW-Madison in February.** Students learned about various college majors, life as a college STEM student, and employers offering careers in these areas. The Nuclear Engineering visit included a tour of the Ion Beam Lab and particle accelerator. The Computer Science visit specifically focused on robotics.

These trips are open to students of all grade levels. Check the weekly College and Career Slides, as well as announcements from math and science teachers, to get involved in upcoming events.

**As of press time** Math Modeling students were scheduled to compete in the annual M3 Challenge in March. Our 5-person team will spend 14 hours researching, analyzing and proposing solutions for a real-world problem to be announced at the start of competition (<https://m3challenge.siam.org/>). So far, we only have this mysterious haiku clue to help us know what the problem might be about: "Paths to keys are steep; build the sturdiest model and open the door." Stay tuned to find out what our problem was, and how we solved it.

We've also been invited to do some physics computer modeling at the Fluid Mechanics lab at UW-Madison in April.



Photo by Lauren Billings

Crew members making oatmeal for breakfast on their first ever outing.

## BSA Venture Crew offers fun and adventure for youth 14–20

By Audrey Billings  
BSA Venture Crew 2127

We are Venture Crew 2127. A brand-new group on the Northside, accommodating youth from across the Madison area. We formed in December 2023 and are a group of dedicated individuals who focus on adventure, leadership, personal growth and serving our community. We enjoy achieving these goals and having fun together.

Venturing is a youth-led program similar to Scouts BSA, but venture crews are open to all genders and focus on an older age range, specifically ages 14–20. In regard to what a crew can do, venturing is extremely flexible. Each crew typically has a specialty they focus on. That can change as often as the crew likes; themes could be animal care, history, sports, or even the outdoors and participating in high adventures. We want you to help us discover what our specialties could be.

Currently, some events we have planned

include camping trips, volunteering with a focus on conservation and supporting scouting, a board game and movie night, and hiking at Devil's Lake, as well as volunteering in the scouting community.

In 2025, our crew aspires to go on a high adventure to Swamp Base in Louisiana. This trek will entail a week-long trek of backpacking and canoeing through the swamp ecosystems.

Whether you are looking for more opportunities for adventure or you want to try something new, venturing is a fantastic opportunity. Crew 2127 desires to step outside our comfort zone and try new things. From thrilling high-adventure expeditions to unique community service initiatives, we strive to create an environment where individuals can discover and develop new skills, passions and interests. We want you to join us in creating unforgettable memories and lasting friendships.

Contact us via Instagram: [crew.127](https://www.instagram.com/crew.127) or email [advisorventurecrew127@gmail.com](mailto:advisorventurecrew127@gmail.com).

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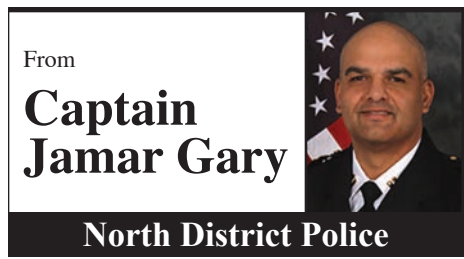
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## HEALTH AND SAFETY



From  
**Captain Jamar Gary**

North District Police

Community partnership is one of the Madison Police Department's (MPD) core values. We believe the police can only be successful in improving safety and the quality of life the community enjoys when police and members of the public work together. To that end, MPD continuously explores ways to collaborate with the community. In 2024, North District personnel have been collaborating with the community through the

### Proximity Project.

The project is described here by its designer, MPD Police Community Relations Specialist Alex Ricketts. "The Proximity Project is a new program created by MPD. The program is designed to build relationships between the community and the police; in particular, build the relationship between historically marginalized and those communities wishing to know more about true police work. The program works through pairing police officers with community members utilizing the shadowing concept. The officer (plain clothed) will observe a community member while they are at their place of employment or operating within their local community culture. The officer will observe and

engage in conversation with the community member. After the officer completes shadowing the community member, the community member will then shadow the officer in their duties, by engaging in a ride-along.

"In summary, the program is designed to build stronger relationships between the community and the police department, which will help MPD become respected and appreciated by the entire community and become a model

for exceptional policing throughout the country. Studies have shown that marginalized communities, in particular, the African American community have a strong distrust of law enforcement. Building stronger relationships between the two is the crux of legitimacy for the police, and this program is designed to build legitimacy with all communities of Madison."

If you are interested in a ride-along with an officer, please contact MPD.



From  
**Stavroula N. Antonopoulos, MS, RDN**

Nutrition Nuggets

### Microbiome mastery: Unraveling the stress-mental health connection

April is Stress Awareness Month, and May is Mental Health Awareness Month, shedding light on the often-overlooked connection between our food choices, stress and mental health.

Our microbiome — bacteria, fungi, viruses, and their parts — plays a big role in how we handle stress and feel mentally. When our gut is "healthy," it sends positive messages to the brain, lowering stresses and supporting happiness. On the other hand, an "unhealthy" gut can cause anxiety or sadness. Taking care of our gut through adjusting our food choices may help our mood and stress levels.

Fun fact: About one-third of people with depression have folate deficiencies. Our "good" gut bacteria make folate and other important vitamins, like vitamin K and many B vitamins. While gut bacteria can create nutrients, it is important to eat foods rich in these vitamins to meet our nutritional needs.

Probiotics are our live "good" gut bacteria. While probiotic supplements may benefit certain conditions, the good news is that you do not have to spend extra money on costly probiotic supplements and can reap the benefits from food sources and lifestyle changes.

- Add more probiotic foods to your diet. These could include apple cider vinegar, pickled vegetables, yogurt, non-dairy yogurt, frozen yogurt, kefir, buttermilk, brine-cured olives, semi-hard cheeses, kimchi, sauerkraut, tempeh, miso, kombucha, jicama, leafy greens, and natto.

- Prebiotics feed your existing "good" gut bacteria. Sources include legumes, beans, apple skin, berries, bananas, peas, garlic, onions, leeks, oats, wheat bran and asparagus.

- Increasing fiber intake by eating more fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds and whole grains can help boost your gut health and motility.

- Lifestyle changes can promote stress reduction and maintain our "good" gut bacteria through meditation, yoga, journaling, exercise, walking, support groups, therapy and listening to music.

*Stavroula N. Antonopoulos is a registered dietitian nutritionist with the UW-Department of Nutritional Sciences. Photo by Cheyanne Franke.*



From  
**Emily Altkorn, DVM**



From  
**Sarah Stock, DVM**

Northside Animal Hospital

February was National Pet Dental Health month, and while that month is behind us, it's never too late to start taking care of your pet's oral health. Dogs and cats can develop a variety of dental diseases. They usually don't show their owners signs of dental disease (decreased appetite, dropping food, or chewing out of one side of the mouth) until the illness is severe.

One of the most common dental diseases in pets is periodontal disease, which is found in over 60% of dogs and cats over 3 years old. This disease starts as tartar, but can lead to severe tooth and mouth infections if untreated and can even cause infections that spread to other body parts.

There are steps you can take at home and with your vet to protect your pet's oral health. Brushing your pets' teeth every 1-2 days with a pet-safe toothpaste will slow down tartar formation and periodontal disease. While pets may find it surprising at first, slow and patient training, with lots of praise and rewards, can make this

an enjoyable experience for everyone.

Dental foods and treats can also be helpful. Check out the Veterinary Oral Health Council website ([www.vohc.org](http://www.vohc.org)) for safe and effective products for cats and dogs.

It's important to avoid hard toys and treats that can break your pet's teeth. If a toy is too hard for you to indent with a fingernail (such as a bone or a horn), it's too hard for your pet to safely chew.

In addition, regular dental cleanings under general anesthesia by veterinary professionals are needed to keep your pet's mouth healthy. How often these are needed depends on each individual pet; some need cleanings every 2-3 years, others every 6-12 months. During these cleanings, veterinarians also perform a comprehensive oral exam to screen for diseases such as oral cancer, immune-mediated diseases and broken teeth.

Dental disease is a common problem seen in dogs and cats, but it doesn't have to be. Keeping your pet's teeth healthy is key to helping them live a long and happy life.

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### ELECTED OFFICIALS

From  
**Charles Myadze**  
District 18 Alderperson



Happy Spring to you all and I hope you are well. After listening to your concerns, I have scheduled two significant events that interest residents in our district.

**Tuesday, April 2, 4-6 pm**  
*Water Utility and Streets Division Meeting*  
119 E. Olin Ave.

Many of you have expressed concerns regarding the severe storm we experienced in January. Despite the passing of time and informative emails from the Streets Division, there's a need for further discussion and problem-solving. We need safe streets in good winter driving condition, and we must be mindful of our lakes and aquifers.

To address this, I've organized a meeting facilitated by the Water Utility, led by General Manager Krishna Kumar, and the Streets Department to shed light on the adverse effects of salt on our aquifers and explore alternative approaches for future storms that do not compromise our safety on the roads. We need to find ways to balance

safe streets and safe water. I encourage your attendance to contribute to this conversation.

**Wednesday, March 27, 5-7 pm**  
*Job Fair at Warner Park Community Center*

In response to your concerns about job availability, the trades and the city are coming together to host a job fair at WPCRC. Employment opportunities available in both union and city positions will be showcased.

I hear your concerns about inflation,

rising prices, increasing rents and property taxes, and the challenges of day-to-day living. With spring break in mind, it's an excellent opportunity for students and parents to explore potential career paths and connect with representatives from different trades. Your presence at this event could be the first step towards a rewarding career opportunity.

Your engagement and participation in these events are vital for our community's progress. I look forward to seeing you there and hearing your valuable input.

From  
**Amani Latimer Burris**  
District 12 Alderperson



**Our budget and deficit are out of whack**

We have a \$27 million structural deficit, a massive shortfall where revenues ≠ expenses; where money coming in ≠ money going out. Some project this deficit could quadruple over the next 5 years. We are a day late and a dollar short.

What can we do about it? Where's the plan of action? How did we get here? All relevant questions we're now asking. For the first time, thankfully, the City Council (on a whole) has been pulled into the budget process much earlier and our finance department has been taking us through a much-needed budget 101 deep dive version.

This matters because this year we've been asked by leadership what our

values are surrounding the budget? Translate this to mean: What should we keep? What should be cut? Where from? Should we go to referendum to raise money? Where are we going to find what we don't have?

During the November budget season, the Council is charged with the final budget (and its funding) thumbs up or down after previewing the 600+ page executive budget developed and finalized earlier in the year.

Last year, after a few of us approved the executive budget but disagreed with the funding source, we were warned that a thumbs down would become Council's problem, Council's budget to solve and solve it that night as the budget must be balanced.

So, we need to hear from you. Know that our Council Office is working on a series of community-based city budget meetings so you can learn with us and give your input, feedback and values around the budget. Ultimately, you are our largest revenue source and anything we do, cut, or command will impact you in the long run. That's how the government works.




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**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

From  
**Melissa Agard**  
State Senator



**Republican lawmakers continue to fail voters with ‘smoke and mirrors’ medical marijuana promises**

Wisconsin’s Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos announced that the sham medical marijuana bill he claimed would pass is dead. We saw this coming. This bill was always smoke and mirrors. It would not accomplish what a majority

of Wisconsinites are asking of state legislators: full legalization of cannabis for adult responsible usage.

Republicans continue their track record of ignoring the will of the people who want to see cannabis legalized. Speaker Vos’s comments show that he and his fellow legislative Republicans are unserious about addressing this issue. How many sessions do we need to witness the same hoax from Republicans indicating their interest in medical marijuana only to pull the rug out from those who desperately want this policy to be signed into law?

We now know that this bill won’t even receive a public hearing until possibly after the legislative session has adjourned,

rendering the legislation dead. No one asked for the most restrictive bill here in our great state, but they have been asking for comprehensive, adult usage, cannabis legalization as an economic driver, a public safety matter, and an increase in regulations for a product that is readily available in our neighboring states.

My Democratic colleagues and I have been working to highlight legalization outside the normal processes by traveling across Wisconsin to meet folks

where they are because the GOP won’t even give the public a chance to speak about the need for full legalization.

Cannabis legalization is a serious, substantive issue, and we should treat it as such, not as a political game. I will continue advocating tirelessly for full legalization of cannabis for adult, responsible usage, which will help increase public safety, lift up personal freedoms, and provide economic opportunity for Wisconsinites across the state.

From  
**Joe Parisi**  
Dane County Executive



**Thanks for embracing the Dane County Way**

This spring marks 13 years since I was first sworn in as Dane County Executive. Within that time, our community has experienced tremendous change. And while today’s headlines often tout nationwide dysfunction and division, Dane County government has remained steadfast in championing our people and shared future:

Our staff and partners worked tirelessly to provide timely resources and financial support during COVID-19. From millions in small business grants and food pantry funding, to emergency rental assistance and mass testing/vaccination efforts, we used an all-hands-on-deck approach to help our community rebound from the pandemic’s worst impacts.

Improving access to behavioral health support through school-based mental health teams and the Behavioral Health

Resource Center has benefitted thousands of residents. My final budget provides more resources by adding crisis counselors to the 911 Center and expanding Madison’s CARES program to more communities.


We’ve prioritized protecting our lakes, providing outdoor recreation, and combating climate change. Our initiatives have made us national leaders and will pay dividends for generations.

We’ve also fortified Dane County’s social safety net. Through the additions of the Office of Immigration Affairs, the Division of Housing Access & Affordability, and the Tamara D. Grigsby Office for Equity & Inclusion, Dane County government stands ready to serve our most vulnerable and improve outcomes for everyone.

It’s been an honor to serve the people of Dane County, and I thank you for joining me in this endeavor. Your support for county-led initiatives, resilience during unprecedented times, and hope for a better tomorrow have allowed Dane County government to achieve remarkable things.

While my time as County Executive is ending, I have no doubt that if our community sticks together, we will continue to thrive and build a better, brighter future for all who call Dane County home.

From  
**Samba Baldeh**  
State Representative



Over the past decade, many folks have talked about the need for legislative maps that fairly represent voters. We now have legislative maps signed into law by Gov. Evers that do just that. But the new maps have radical effects on the lines that keep together or divide communities.

Unfortunately, under the current district lines, I no longer represent the Northside. I have greatly appreciated your support throughout the years and enjoyed my work with many of you.

Most of the Northside will now be included in the 76th District, which is represented by Rep. Francesca Hong. This district includes everything south of Anderson Rd. Where Anderson

intersects Packers, the district line goes along Packers past Northport and up to Tennyson Lane.

The district includes Kennedy Heights, East Bluff, Berkeley Oaks, Brentwood Village, Warner Park and Maple Bluff. This district also includes all of the east side of Madison from the Capitol to Stoughton Road.

The area that includes the airport, Sandburg and Cherokee will be in a district that extends north to include some of Columbia County. It is now represented by Rep. Jon Plumer.

The area including the neighborhoods around the Mendota Institute, Central Wisconsin Center and North Mendota are in the new 81st District. This district extends to the western edge of Dane County.

Just as the area is divided into different assembly districts, it will also be divided into three different senate districts. The senator representing the above-mentioned 76th District (Hong) will be represented by Senator Kelda Roys.

From  
**Michele Ritt**  
District 18 Supervisor



I’m a teacher and a mom. I know kids. Most kids love animals. The zoo is a place to see really cool animals. We are lucky to have a zoo right here in Dane County.

Back in 1904, William and Anna Vilas donated 63 acres to Dane County to serve as home to a zoo. Their one stipulation was that no admission fee could ever be charged for folks wishing to visit the zoo. What a gift.

In 1911, the Henry Vilas Zoo opened its doors. The first exhibits were rabbits, deer, rats, guinea pigs, and an eagle. Bears and lions followed within just a few years. A train and carousel were added many years later. In 2015, the Arctic Passage opened its doors. Here, you can enjoy lunch while watching polar bears swim.

The Henry Vilas Zoo is passionate about conservation and sustainability, incorporating features like geothermal heat, solar power, and water-saving features. Half of the lawn areas have been converted back to their original woodland cover. They even offer discounts on concessions and souvenirs if you join the Bicycle Benefits program and bike to the zoo.

In addition to the animals and cotton candy, there are also special events at our zoo. There are summer camp programs for kids, with some scholarships available.

Party for the Planet is May 4 this year. You can enjoy the zoo, climb a tree, and take home saplings — all free. You can even get a cool plush bat, made by volunteer sewers (like me). All proceeds from the plush bats go directly to conservation efforts to save bats. Our zoo. It’s a Dane County gem.

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or issues. I am happy to help. I can be reached at 608-335-6827 or ritt.michele@countyofdane.com.

From  
**Andrew Schauer**  
District 21 Supervisor



Dear Neighbors,  
After five 2-year terms on the Dane County Board of Supervisors representing my neighbors in the 21st District, I have decided not to run for re-election, and instead will be spending more time with my family and new dog, Alex. I want to thank my husband Leo, and my parents Dale and Ellen, for all of their support through these years.

I have a lot to be proud of as I look back on this journey. I was elected to the board in a contested election against a 20-year incumbent, winning by almost 20 points. I was then re-elected four additional times unopposed. I served twice on the Personnel and Finance Committee,

and was elected as the first vice chair of the board this past term. I shepherded the largest building project in the county’s history through final approval and needed additional funding. I supported and helped pass 10 budgets, which supported the least fortunate among us, protected our lakes and watersheds, and strengthened the facilities and infrastructure we use to keep Dane County a growing and vibrant place.

While much more needs to be done, I am proud of the work done by the board in my tenure. I know the next supervisor from the 21st District, Jeff Kroning, will do a great job as well. I hope you support him in his uncontested race this spring. I will continue to be around, cheering on the good work of this board, working hard to elect common sense Democrats back to the White House, and rallying support behind good candidates to bring some sanity back to the Wisconsin State Legislature.

All the best, and as always, On Wisconsin!

**Volunteer to create the community you want to live in.**



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**NORTHSIDE FARMERS MARKET**  
MADISON, WISCONSIN

**MARKET OPENS SUNDAY MAY 5th 8:30-12:30**

Northport Dr & N Sherman Ave  
Northside Town Center

Held weekly, rain or shine  
We accept SNAP/EBT



Twitter Instagram Facebook madNFM northsidefarmersmarket.org

### SENIOR

From  
**Jim Krueger**



**NewBridge Executive Director**

May is Older Americans Month. This is a time to recognize their lifelong efforts to build and maintain strong and resilient communities, and a reminder that it is our responsibility to ensure every older adult has the opportunity to age with dignity.

To do so it's important to recognize and value their contributions to society, encourage them to remain active and engaged members of the community, and celebrate the legacy they have created. It's also a time to bring attention to the current challenges they face and to advocate for and address their needs.

The theme for 2024 is Powered by Connection, which recognizes the profound impact that meaningful relationships and social connections have on our health and well-being. As you may know, connectedness plays a vital role

in supporting independence and aging in place by combatting isolation and loneliness. For many older adults, connecting in person with others has a much greater impact on their well-being.

But so many of them face financial or mobility barriers and limited opportunities that prevent them from being as connected as needed. They don't drive and can't take the city bus. This makes it impossible to get to any activities where free transportation is not offered.

NewBridge offers free transportation for older adults to our activities, but it is limited because of inadequate funding. The number of programs we offer is also limited because of inadequate funding for staffing and coordination of activities.

You can help by educating and advocating to businesses, foundations, state and local government. Let them know we need to allocate more resources and recognition for our older adults because they matter just as much as everyone else does.

More information about NewBridge and how to donate to help our efforts is available on our website [newbridge.org](http://newbridge.org).

# 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 COLLABORATIVE EVENTS:

**SPARK!** (in person at WPCRC): Held the first Tuesday of every month, 11:30 am-1 pm. 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.

**Meaningful Retirement (For You) Workshops:** Tuesdays, April 9-30, 6-8pm, at Ironworks, Goodman Community Center. Cost is \$15. Retirement is a thrilling time, filled with chances for reinvention and personal growth. But it can also be an overwhelming time of change. Without a thoughtful plan of action, the onset of retirement can feel like you're lost in the woods. In this four-week interactive workshop, we will explore your thoughts, feelings, hopes and dreams for retirement so you'll be ready to take on this next phase with joy and meaning. We will provide you with inspiring stories, tools, activities and the action steps you need to make the most of your retirement. You will walk away with a better understanding of what you want in retirement and increased confidence on your journey.

To register or ask questions, contact Gayle at [gayle@goodmancenter.org](mailto:gayle@goodmancenter.org) or 608-204-8032. This is a collaboration with NewBridge & Goodman Community Center

#### ONGOING NORTHSIDE ACTIVITIES:

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

**Bingo:** Fridays, 10:15-11:15 am; the first Friday is bi-lingual Bingo

**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

**Drum Circle:** Thursdays, 12-1 pm

**Euchre:** Tuesdays, 1-3 pm

**Games & More:** (Clubs, Spades, Dominoes, Rummikub and more) Second Wednesday of every month, 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; and 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

**Sue Gilbertson**  
[homesinmadison.net](http://homesinmadison.net)  
[suegilbertsonrealtor@gmail.com](mailto:suegilbertsonrealtor@gmail.com)  
 (608) 576-4488



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19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# Spring Fest

Saturday, May 4, 2024  
 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

## ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR

Warner Park Community Recreation Center  
 1625 Northport Drive  
[cityofmadison.com/parks/wpcrc](http://cityofmadison.com/parks/wpcrc)  
 (608) 245-3669

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## WARNER PARK COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER

Written by  
**Zach Watson**  
 608-245-3690  
**Facility Manager**



Spring has arrived, a little earlier than expected, but I am sure we can count on Wisconsin weather giving us a few more opportunities for snow before all is said and done. That said, looking forward to our upcoming events and offerings, we are excited to host the 19th Annual SpringFest Arts and Crafts Fair. Please join us as there will be ample opportunities to purchase original crafts and artwork from local and statewide area artisans. Save the date and join us at WPCRC Saturday, May 4, 9 am–3 pm.

The KNOW Program is hosting our Spring-Break-Away 3-on-3 Tournament Friday evenings. After MMSD's Spring Break and March Madness, the real tournament begins. Madison's Northside teens compete in a double-elimination tournament while enjoying a free meal, free skills clinic, live music, and prizes donated by local businesses. With on-site registration, players simply have to show up with friends, or we will find a team for drop-in players.

The tournament series is held Friday nights April through May and includes middle school and high school divisions. Approximately 40–60 players participate in each evening tournament.

This program is free to participate in, you just need a WPCRC Membership. If you would like to support this and other upcoming KNOW Program offerings, please contact WPCRC Program

Coordinator Marquis Sanders at msanders@cityofmadison.com.

WPCRC is open for full access to community programming, open gym, game room and exercise room. In addition, the facility is available for birthday parties, weddings, meetings, baby showers, and other event rentals. We also offer 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.

Check out our programs and stay connected by liking our Facebook page @ WarnerParkCRC.

**Want to grow your own veggies?**

**Buy your plant starts at Rooted's Annual Plant Sale!**

Choose from a great selection of certified organic vegetable, herb, and flower starts.  
 EBT and Double Dollars accepted.  
 Saturday, May 11, 10:00am-4:00pm  
 502 Troy Drive, Madison WI



rooted Growing Community Together. rootedwi.org



## Northside Electric

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**Northside Electric would like to Thank everyone for their support of Local Small Business**

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We are following CDC guidelines for your protection while still providing you with excellent service  
 Again, Thank You for your support.

Sincerely,  
**Mark Blankenship, Owner - Northside Electric**

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Your Northside Neighborhood Shopping Center

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 <p>1117 N. Sherman Ave • 608.245.1616</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">BRING IN THIS AD AND GET YOUR FIRST MONTH FREE</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">PLUS GET YOUR FREE 7 DAY PASS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">at <a href="http://www.anytimefitness.com">www.anytimefitness.com</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Anytime Fitness              1117 N. Sherman Ave.              (608) 245-1616</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">Boomerangs RESALE STORE</p> <div style="border: 2px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 80px; height: 80px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">Give a little, get a lot</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">boomerangsresale.org              608-268-0793              T-F 10 am-6 pm   Sat 10 am-4 pm</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">DOG DOG DAYCARE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Enroll online              1201 N. Sherman Ave.              M-F 6am-6pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">woof@dogdogmadison.com  <a href="http://www.dogdogmadison.com">www.dogdogmadison.com</a>              @DogDogMadison              (608) 467-9064</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold;">dreambikes</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">We employ local teens and provide hands-on, paid job training to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ refurbish and resell bicycles</li> <li>★ back into the community at</li> <li>★ affordable prices.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">1131 N. Sherman Ave.              Tues-Fri: Noon-7 pm   Sat 10 am-6 pm              (608) 416-5536</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold;">DOOR CREEK CHURCH</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">NORTHSIDE MADISON CAMPUS</p> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">IN-PERSON</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY   10:30 AM</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">ONLINE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY   9 &amp; 10:30 AM</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 8px;"><a href="http://doorcreekchurch.org/watchlive">doorcreekchurch.org/watchlive</a></p> </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 10px;"><b>1181 N. SHERMAN AVE.</b>  <a href="http://doorcreekchurch.org">doorcreekchurch.org</a> • 608.222.8586</p>
 <p style="font-weight: bold;">MADISON Oriental Market &amp; Ethnic Deli</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">f @madisonoriental</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">Check out our deli              Hot food, deli &amp; desserts              Dine in or carry out              Eat Street delivery</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">Your local source for ethnic food              Asian • African • Cambodian • Hispanic              Hmong • Indian • Jamaican • Filipino • Thai</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">Tues-Sat 9 am-7 pm • Sun 10 am-6 pm              1197 N. Sherman Ave. in NorthGate</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold;">Naly's Floral Shop</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">Live plants, gifts and daily floral arrangements.</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">We also specialize in wedding, funeral and more special event arrangements.</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">1203 N. Sherman Ave              M-F 9 am-6 pm • Saturday 10 am-4 pm              Sunday Closed  <a href="mailto:nalys.floral.designs@gmail.com">nalys.floral.designs@gmail.com</a>              608-467-6610 • <a href="http://www.nalysfloralshop.com">www.nalysfloralshop.com</a></p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">Where “to do” lists get done.</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">Let us help you</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">Shipping Services              Packaging Services              Mailbox &amp; Postal Services              Copying Services              Finishing &amp; Printing Services</p>  <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">The UPS Store</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">NorthGate Shopping Center              1213 N. Sherman Ave.              663-9090</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold;">Vnails</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">Manicures/Organic Pedicures              Solar Powder Set              Pink &amp; White Nails              Hand Designs</p>  <p style="font-size: 10px;">Hours              Mon-Fri 9:30 am-7 pm              Sat 9:30 am-5:30 pm</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">1171 N. Sherman Ave.</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 24px;">WEAVER Auto Parts</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 18px;">Complete Machine Shop Service</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">Import              Domestic              Truck              Tractor</p>  <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 14px;">Open Daily              241-4006</p>

# Northside News Calendar of Events

Sponsored by Madison Gas and Electric | [mge.com](http://mge.com)

April/May 2024

## METRO RAPID ROUTE B - NORTHSIDE PUBLIC MEETINGS

**Monday, April 22 - Zoom**  
**Thursday, April 25 - In-person**  
**5:30-7:30 pm**

These are free, public meetings to share information and gather feedback on route and station locations for Metro Rapid's extension to the Northside (North-South Bus Rapid Transit). Visit [www.madisonbrt.com](http://www.madisonbrt.com) to register for the Zoom meeting. The in-person meeting will be held at WPCRC.

## NAVIGATING THE METRO TRANSIT BUS SYSTEM

**Tuesday, April 9**  
**Thursday, April 18**  
**1-5 pm, LL**

Learn how to use Metro Transit's fixed-route city bus service. Topics include using Google Maps, Transit, and other digital options; paper schedules and phone service; and discounted fare options. Metro employees will answer your questions about bus travel and provide one-on-one assistance in English and Spanish.

## SPARK! PROGRAMS FOR THOSE WITH MEMORY LOSS

**Tuesday, April 2**  
**Tuesday, May 7**  
**11:30 am-1 pm, WPCRC**

Held the first Tuesday of every month, 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 between NewBridge and Arts for All.

## NORTHSIDE FARMERS MARKET

**Every Sunday May 5-October 20**  
**8:30 am-12:30 pm**

### Northside TownCenter

Enjoy a variety of locally grown produce, baked goods, meats, flowers, plants and much more. Sign up for our newsletter at [northsidefarmers-market.org](http://northsidefarmers-market.org) or find us on Facebook at madNFM for the latest information on vendors and events. Use your Quest card to get tokens worth \$2 each to purchase approved items from our vendors.

## BOOMERANGS ANNUAL SIDEWALK SALE

**Friday, May 3, 10 am-6 pm**  
**Saturday, May 4, 10 am-4 pm**  
**1133 N. Sherman Ave.**

Come early and shop the best of our summer items: patio furniture, coolers, lawn and yard items, sporting goods and much more. Call us at 608-268-0793 or follow us on Facebook at Boomerangs Resale Store.

## ANNUAL MADISON FRIENDS OF URBAN NATURE (FUN) BIRD AND NATURE CAMP

**Friday, May 24-Monday, May 27**  
**Lake Lucerne Camp & Retreat Center,**  
**W6460 CR YY, Neshkoro, WI**

All ages, friends, families and kids are welcome! Enjoy quiet time, nature trails, campfires, swimming, canoes, games and camaraderie in comfortable group cabins with meals served in a dining hall. Join daily bird walks at camp and carpool to nearby natural areas to find over 100 species of birds. Volunteer-led activities are free. The Center provides the facilities and meals at a very reasonable rate. Come for a day or stay all weekend. Space is limited, contact [paul\\_noeldner@hotmail.com](mailto:paul_noeldner@hotmail.com) 608-698-0104 to reserve your spot.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 18 & MAY 16

**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, APRIL 18 & MAY 16

**Friends of Hartmeyer Natural Area Meeting and Social Hour**

**5 pm, Esquire Club, 1025 N. Sherman Ave.**

The public is welcome. Help preserve and restore Madison's newest wetland conservation park. We meet outdoors behind Esquire Club or inside if rain. Come early to help pick up litter or remove invasives. Bring a lawn chair and snack or pick up something at Esquire Club. Contact: [paul\\_noeldner@hotmail.com](mailto:paul_noeldner@hotmail.com), 608-698-0104

## SATURDAY, APRIL 20

**Madison Parks Earth Day Challenge**  
**10 am-12 pm, various parks**

Volunteer to clean up at Warner Park, Cherokee Marsh and other parks. Find more information and register at [cityofmadison.com/parks/events/earth-dayChallenge.cfm](http://cityofmadison.com/parks/events/earth-dayChallenge.cfm).

## SUNDAY, APRIL 21

**Bird and Nature Adventure: Find Spring Ephemerals**

**1:30 pm, Warner Park Rainbow Shelter**  
Join Naturalist Alex Singer to look for ephemerals (flowers that bloom in woodlands while trees are still bare and sunlight reaches the ground). Help find Trout Lilly, Bloodroot, Dutchmen's Breeches, Trilliums, Mayapple blossoms, Jack in the Pulpit and other spring wildflowers. Contact: 608-698-0104

## TUESDAY, APRIL 23

**Transportation Options with Metro Transit**  
**10 am-12 pm, LL**

Learn about transportation options (paratransit and other alternatives) with Metro Transit. Topics include navigating paratransit and exploring biking, bCycles and the bus. Metro employees will answer your questions about transportation resources outside of single-passenger vehicles and provide one-on-one assistance in English and Spanish.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 25

**Madison Parks Open House**  
**5:30-7:30 pm, WPCRC**

Madison Parks is updating its Park and Open Space Plan (POSP) and seeking input from area residents. The POSP will guide and inform public park policies and park facility decisions in the city.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 27

**Library Book Sale**  
**9 am-4 pm, LL**

The Friends of Lakeview Library accept donations of books, DVDs, CDs, and vinyl Thursday, April 25, and Friday, April 26, only. The book sale will follow on Saturday, with a bag sale 3-4 pm. All proceeds benefit library programming.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 28

**11th Annual Madison Bird and Nature Festival**

**12-4 pm, Warner Park Rainbow Shelter**

Celebrate Earth Week, Arbor Day and International Bird Day at this free, family-friendly event. See hawks and owls up close at the on-going, walk-through Open Door Bird Sanctuary "Live Raptor Show." Enjoy food carts, music, educational nature group exhibits and mini-walks, face painting, and lots of fun kids' nature activities. Contact [paul\\_noeldner@hotmail.com](mailto:paul_noeldner@hotmail.com) 608-698-0104

## SATURDAY, MAY 11

**Troy Farm Plant Sale**

**10 am-4 pm, 502 Troy Dr.**

Stock up on plants for your home or community vegetable garden. We are offering new varieties of healthy, hardy plants, and a great selection of certified organic vegetable, herb and flower starts. The sale is in-person only; we will not be taking pre-orders online.

## SUNDAY, MAY 19

**Bird and Nature Adventure: Nature Journaling**

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

Join Naturalist Steve Mansorge for a free guided walk in the wild side of Warner Park. Bring pen and paper; some will be provided. We will stop along the way to contemplate nature and practice writing about what you see, how you feel, and the beauty around you. Contact: 608-698-0104

## SATURDAY, MAY 25

**EHS 24th Annual Pi-Mile Walk/Run**  
**9 am, Warner Park**

This event raises funds for the East High School calculator rental program. Registration begins at 9 am; the run/walk starts at 10 am. And yes, there will be pie. A virtual option is also available. Contact Phillip Galarowicz ([pgalarowicz@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:pgalarowicz@madison.k12.wi.us)) for more information.

## SATURDAY, MAY 25

**Blood Drive with ImpactLife**  
**1-4 pm, Goodwill Store, 2901 N. Sherman Ave.**

Memorial Day weekend plans? How about adding "save a life" to the agenda? Be someone's hero and donate blood. To make an appointment, call ImpactLife Madison at 800-747-5401 or online at [bloodcenter.org](http://bloodcenter.org) and use group code 4203 to schedule. Appointments appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 4

**Senior Lunch and Euchre Tournament**  
**11 am-2 pm, Lakeview Lutheran Church,**  
**4001 Mandrake Rd.**

Our theme is "Festa Italiana." The church will offer lasagna, green salad and garlic bread. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. There is a free-will offering for lunch. To RSVP contact the church office at 608-244-6181.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 5

**FEED Kitchens Taste The Future**  
**4:30 - 7:30 pm**

**WPCRC 1625 Northport Drive**

A Free Ticketed Event-[facebook.com/FEEDKitchens/eventbrite.com/e/taste-the-future-2024-tickets-837600534747](http://facebook.com/FEEDKitchens/eventbrite.com/e/taste-the-future-2024-tickets-837600534747). Preview menu items and taste samples of food coming this summer.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 6

**Bird and Nature Adventure: Migration Magic Walk**

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

Birders of all ages are invited to join Paul Noeldner to look for robins chirping in trees, cardinals singing territorial songs, and Canada geese resting on the water and honking overhead. Learn to use the Merlin app to identify birds by sight and sound. Contact 608-698-0104

## SATURDAY, APRIL 6

**Blood Drive with ImpactLife**

**1-4 pm, Goodwill Store, 2901 N. Sherman Ave.**

April showers bring May flowers, but April blood donations bring endless smiles. Donate blood and make a difference in someone's life. To make an appointment, call ImpactLife Madison at 800-747-5401 or online at [bloodcenter.org](http://bloodcenter.org) and use group code 4203 to schedule. Appointments appreciated, walk-ins welcome.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 7

**Bird and Nature Adventure: Be a Forager-Steward**

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

Join Naturalist Kathleen Wolf to look for the amazing variety of natural sources of food, micronutrients, medicine and other uses. Learn about the importance of natural foods to wildlife and people, how to do responsible foraging where permitted, and ways to grow your own. Contact 608-698-0104

## TUESDAY, APRIL 9 & MAY 14

**Wild Warner Meeting**  
**6 pm, WPCRC (or as posted on Facebook)**

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, APRIL 11

**Senior Bird and Nature Adventure: Nature Up Close!**

**12:15 pm, WPCRC**

Seniors are invited to join Naturalist Kathleen Wolf to learn some fascinating details of our natural world. We may take a walk outside if weather permits. Seniors are welcome to bring a family member or friend. Organizations are encouraged to invite/bring seniors. Seniors 60+ can register for a free lunch at 11:30 am, and for transportation if needed, by calling 608-512-0000 ext. 4006 at least two days in advance. Contact: 608-698-0104

## THURSDAY, APRIL 11

**Just Dane 50th Anniversary Celebration**  
**6-8:30 pm, Madison College Mitby Theater**

The evening begins with live jazz music and hors d'oeuvres, followed by a presentation from Father Boyle and Homeboys of Homeboy Industries ([homeboyindustries.org](http://homeboyindustries.org)), which provides hope and job training for formerly gang-involved and incarcerated people. Register at [Eventbrite.com/e/justdane-50th-anniversary-celebration-feat-father-boyle-of-homeboy-ind-tickets-79698](http://Eventbrite.com/e/justdane-50th-anniversary-celebration-feat-father-boyle-of-homeboy-ind-tickets-79698).

## FRIDAY, APRIL 12 & MAY 10

**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, APRIL 17 & MAY 15

**Friends of Cherokee Marsh board meeting**  
**5:30-7 pm, WPCRC**

The public is welcome. To confirm the time and place, contact [janaxelson@gmail.com](mailto:janaxelson@gmail.com). Cherokee-marsh.org



### MGE's Energy-Saving Tip:

Schedule a home energy audit with a Focus on Energy Trade Ally.  
[focusonenergy.com/services/energy-assessments](http://focusonenergy.com/services/energy-assessments)

Net-Zero  
CARBON ELECTRICITY BY 2050

mge  
your community energy company



# 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary FEED Kitchens



## Friday, April 5 ★ 4:30–7:30 pm

Warner Park Community Recreation Center | 1625 Northport Dr.

### A Free Ticketed Event

400 Free EventBrite Tickets – [facebook.com/FEEDKitchens/](https://facebook.com/FEEDKitchens/)  
[eventbrite.com/e/taste-the-future-2024-tickets-837600534747](https://eventbrite.com/e/taste-the-future-2024-tickets-837600534747)

### Featured chefs



DeVine Wilson



Ciel Williams & Chandler Eaton



Duha Alhamidi



Jamie's Cookies II • Moonhalf • Mexsal Mobile • Pollen & Platter • Propa Jerk & BBQ • Smiling Coast Cuisine • The Walking Jerk

### Presenting Sponsors



### Collaborator



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