News From the Heights

Back to School

Summer is quickly coming to an end. Madison schools resume on Tuesday, September 2nd. Below is some important school enrollment information. Inside there is information about free school supplies.

School Enrollment:
Elementary School enrollment is Thursday, August 21st from 11:00—6:00 PM at Lindbergh Elementary School, 4500 Kennedy Road.

Middle School enrollment is Wednesday August 20th from 9:00 AM—11:30 AM for eighth grade students, Thursday, August 21st from 9:00 AM—11:30 AM for seventh grade students, and Friday, August 22nd from 9:00—11:30 AM for sixth grade students. New students can attend any day. A make-up registration day will Wednesday, August 27th from 3:30 PM—6:00 PM. Black Hawk Middle School is located at 1402 Wyoming Way.

East High School enrollment is Thursday, August 21st from 8:00 AM—noon and 3:00 PM—6:00 PM and Monday August 25th from 8:00 AM—noon and 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM.

School Open House:
Lindbergh Elementary School has a new principal Mary Hyde and the school is hosting a Open House on Thursday August 28th for children and parents to meet Ms. Hyde.

Early Childhood Program Summer Highlights

By Nicole Cummings

Hello, my name is Nicole Cummings. I joined Kennedy Heights Community Center team in June as the new Early Childhood Program Director / Lead Teacher. I have an Associates Degree in Child Care and Development, birth—six and over seven years experience working with young children and their families.

I have really enjoyed getting to know the children in our program over the summer. A few highlights of our summer program included “Water Wednesdays” when the children delighted in running through the sprinkler during outside time.

We also had a successful field trip to the Henry Villas zoo. It was the most successful field trip I have ever had. The children were excellent listeners (which made the experience fun for the adults as well). The Early Childhood Program enjoyed a picnic lunch just outside the zoo before returning back to the school bus. A special thank you to Lexi Larson, our parent volunteer, who helped chaperone our zoo field trip. Also a special thanks to Dona Chang who was able to join us and take pictures.

We are looking forward to new friends joining the program this fall. We will have a full class with a few children on the waiting list.

Finally, we wish our preschool graduates all the best as they begin their journey to Kindergarten: Evelyn and Demetrious Walker, Austin Yang, Dathan Gutierrez, Sandy Yang, and Chifee Chang.

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Note from the Executive Director

What a lovely summer Kennedy Heights has had. Our summer programs were full and ran smoothly. The building was full of engaged children and youth everyday and adults learning computer skills at night. Our summer programs received a number of compliments when they were out in the community for how responsible and pleasant our program participants were. It was a great summer. Great summers and great programs happen because of caring and competent staff, wonderful kids with supportive parents, and because we live in a community where people care and support community center work with their volunteer time and their critical financial donations. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a great summer.

At the end of the summer program the community center’s AmeriCorps member, Dale Maxfield completed his term of service. Dale will be missed by staff and participants alike. Thank you for your service Dale.

Madison Rotary Foundation Funds New Center Van

By: Alyssa Kenney

The Kennedy Heights Community Center recently purchased a “newer” 15 passenger van for use by our youth and adult programs. Funding for the van was provided by a number of individual donors and the Madison Rotary Foundation.

The new van is a huge upgrade from our current van, the new van provides four additional spaces for program participants, air conditioning, improved safety features and an all around more comfortable and safe ride for our precious cargo.

The Kennedy Heights van serves as our fourth program room, when other center spaces are full we are still able to serve youth by utilizing the van in combination with other spaces such as Warner Park and the library. The van expands our ability to serve youth. It is also used to provide adults transportation to critical appointments and to fill our weekly food pantry. Having a van expands the opportunities the center is able to provide to youth in terms of service projects and field trips. Our van is a critical part of the center. Thank you Madison Rotary Foundation. Our success would be impossible without your support.

Voter Registration Month September 10 - October 10

The Madison Common Council is declaring a Voter Registration Month for September 10 through October 10. Madison residents can register to vote at the City Clerk’s Office, any Madison Public Library, or any Madison Fire Station. No proof of residence is needed during this Open Registration period. The names of voters who have registered in advance will be printed on the November 4 poll lists, saving voters time on Election Day. You can check the status of your voter registration online at http://vpa.wi.gov. Eligible voters can also be deputized to register their neighbors to vote. For more information, see: www.cityofmadison.com/election/deputy/Registration/.
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100 Black Men 12th Annual Backpack Giveaway

1500 students will receive backpacks filled with school supplies and a picnic lunch. The students will also be able to tour the Wiener-mobile, a local fire truck, police car and Bookmobile. Join 100 Black Men for a fun filled afternoon and get jumpstart on the school year.

Who: Elementary & Middle School Students

When: Saturday August 23rd 10:30—1:30 PM

Where: Demetral Park, 601 North Sixth Street

Students must be present to receive a backpack.

Kennedy Heights will be providing transportation to the event, meet at the center at 9:30 AM for transportation.

Reminder: The Kennedy Heights Community Center will resume weekly food pantry hours beginning Monday September 8, 2008. Pantry hours are 5:00—6:30. All are welcome. Volunteers are always needed. Call Jody 244-0767 for more information.

After School Program Seeks Volunteers

By: True Vang

It will be time to start another school year again, so that means that another year of the After School Program will also be starting. This year the After School Program will begin on Monday September 8th. One of the new things in the After School Program this year is we will be launching a new literacy program for all the kids in the After School program. For our new literacy program to be successful we need volunteers, older youth in the neighborhood, parents, college students, and all community members are encouraged to give some time to help a child improve their reading.

We are seeking new volunteers to either read to or be read to by the children in the After School Program. Volunteers will be helping children master literacy skills and children will be developing a love of reading while working towards earning new books to take home. If you are interested in volunteering with the After School Program please call me, True at 244-0767.

I am very excited about the coming school year. I hope to be more involved with the community, the families the Lindbergh teachers and the kids that come to the After School Program.

I want to thank the parents, teachers, and volunteers for making last year so successful. I hope everyone is looking forward to this coming year as much as I am.

As readers may remember, Kyle has left Madison to return to graduate school. The After School Program will have a new teacher for our Kindergarten & first grade group downstairs this school year.

REMEMBER: Children must have a new, completed After School Enrollment Packet at the center before the start of the program on September 8th.
Summer Program Learns Volleyball

By Mercedes Thao

Playing volleyball in summer program is fun because we get to play with everybody. We go to Warner Park to use their sand volleyball courts, because we no longer have a net here. The first week of the program we played games, first using our feet to pass the ball and then using a blanket to throw the ball over the net. It was suppose to teach us about teamwork and was a warm-up for all of us. The next week we practiced our serving to get the ball over the net. After that we practiced bumping and setting the ball. Then we played games. At first we weren’t that good but after we practiced, we got better. Since we played at Warner park near the stream, sometimes someone would hit the ball too hard and it went in the water. Roy tried to fish the ball out, and found another ball, too. Now we have an extra ball to play with. Playing volleyball is my favorite thing to do at Kennedy Heights.

Girls Inc. Takes a Trip to the Zoo

By Moniesha S. Dorsey

Would you like to learn about the Henry Vilas Zoo? Well, if not I am going to tell you about it anyway! The last week of summer program, the girls took a trip to the zoo. First, we visited the monkeys and one of them was biting his fingernails. Next we went to see big sea lions, they were swimming very, very fast. We then walked to see two adults and one baby Giraffe. We learned that Giraffes are herbivores and only live to be 20 years old.

Break Dancing my Summer Away

By David Yang

Break dancing was one of our clubs in the summer program. What I like about dancing is that we do very good choreography and we all get along very well with our dancing teacher, Michelyn. She goes to the University of Wisconsin and is a dance teacher in Stoughton. I have been hip hop dancing for about seven or eight years. I hope that I will keep getting better and be able to do awesome moves like the B-Boys. I love dancing and I hope that one day my group and I will get noticed and become famous.
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Technology Club was the Best

By: Joey Chang

One thing I like about summer program is technology. We worked on a blog. A blog is a place online where you can write about yourself and about the summer program. You can also change the background colors however you want. You can post pictures and even put a link to your blog on your MySpace page. We also took pictures outside and of ourselves for Paint.NET, which is something we do to edit pictures we take. You can also take a picture of yourself and put it on top of another background, so it looks like you are in New York City or in outer space..

Summer Program does Parkour

By: Lisa DuChateau

What exactly is Parkour? Parkour was created in France, by a man named David Belle. According to Madparkour, the local Madison club, it is a physical discipline that promotes the art of movement within one’s own environment. It involves running, jumping, climbing and various other techniques to move fluidly through a space or area. Parkour requires no official equipment and can be practiced by anyone. Madparkour’s goal is to bring this sport to the Madison area. After being introduced to Parkour by Kathy Andrusz, the Fit City Coordinator, I thought it would be a perfect match for the kids of Kennedy Heights. It appears to me that many of them were already doing Parkour while on the playground or in front of the center. Parkour was a way to teach them how to do these activities in a safe manner. We were excited to work with Alissa and Chad from Madparkour and hope to continue that partnership through the fall. Below you will hear what one Kennedy Heights girl had to say about practicing Parkour.

Parkour is Pretty Phat!

By: Mahogany Turner

Parkour is like gymnastics but you do a lot of it outside and with stuff that is all around you. When you get really good you can even jump off buildings. We saw a video of David Belle jumping over and around lots of things, but he has been doing Parkour for almost 20 years. For us it is important not to jump off of anything that is taller than us until we have been practicing for five years. We learned how to do rolls, jumps, and cat leaps. Cat leaps are when you run and jump onto a wall by putting one foot up and then the other and hang like a cat would. We also practiced hurdling the bike rack and balancing.
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Habitat for Humanity of Dane County
Building in the Northport Area

By Peggy Halloran

This spring, Habitat for Humanity of Dane County (HFHDC) purchased 5.8 acres of land in the Northport Commons neighborhood at Northport Drive and Kennedy Road with plans to construct 16-20 affordable homes and town homes as part of HFHDC’s Urban Neighborhood Initiative.

This fall, HFHDC will begin building a four-unit town home on Kennedy Road. In 2009, HFHDC anticipates building at least six dwelling units and in 2010 an additional six dwelling units.

The Urban Neighborhood Initiative will provide affordable new/rehabbed infill housing in Madison for families who earn 30-60 percent of the Dane County medium income level with opportunities for families at the lower end of that income range to own their own home. In addition to this initiative, HFHDC continues to build single and multi-family homes throughout Dane County.

If you or someone you know would be interested in learning how to become a Habitat homeowner in Northport Commons or other neighborhoods/communities where HFHDC will be building, be sure to attend an informational meeting on Sunday, October 12 at 6:30 p.m. at Warner Park Community Center, 1625 Northport Drive, Madison.

For more information on Habitat’s homeownership program, please call 255-1549, ext. 212. You can also e-mail habitat@habitatdane.org to have your name placed on the HFHDC mailing list. Information can also be found at www.habitatdane.org.

Chaw ua tsev rau Cov neeg nyob hauv Dane County
Ua tsev nyob rau ntawm Northport

By Peggy Halloran (translation VamMeej Yang)

Lub caij nplooj ntoos hlav no, Chaw ua tsev Habitat for Humanity of Dane County (HFHDC yuav av 5.8 acres ib neig nyob rau ntawm Northport Commons yog ntawm Northport Drive thiab Kennedy Road yuav npaj ua tsev txog li 16-20 lub tsev kom tib neeg yuav taus tsev thiaj cov tsev no yog HFHDC’s Urban Neighborhood Initiative li.

Lub caij nplooj ntoos zeeg nov, HFHDC yuav pib ua plaub lub tsev nyob rau ntawm Kennedy Road. Xyoo 2009, HFHDC yuav ua tsev kom txog li rau lub thiaj xyoo 2010 yuav ua ntxiv rau lub thiaj.

Koom Haum Urban Neighborhood Initiative yuav muaj kev gab tshiab kom tsev tsev nyob rau cov neeg nyob hauv Madison uas tsev neeg tau nyiaj 30-60 feem pua-percent uas yog cov neeg tau nyiaj tsis ntawm tsawg uas yog tsev neeg tau nyiaj tsawg thiaj them tlua lub tsev rau nws. Kev gab tis tae li ntaww xwb, HFHDC tseem yuav ua cov tsev single (ib yig nyob) thiaj ntawm yim sib koom nyob uke rau hauv Dane County.

Yog koj los sis leej twg xav tias txaus siab txog yuav ua li cas thiaj mus yuav cov tsev Habitat uas nyob rau ntawm Northport Commons los sis yog nyob rau lwm qhov chaw/lwm lub thaj chaw uas yog HFHDC yuav pib tisim, no ces koj yuav yuav tau mus koom kev sab laj nyob rau hnub tim Sunday, October 12 thau 6:30 p.m. ntawm Warner Park Community Center, 1625 Northport Drive, Madison.

Yog xav paub ntawm txog kom haum Habitat’s kev yuav tsev, thov hu 255-1549, ext. 212. Los yog koj sau ntaww e-mail Habitat@habitatdane.org kom koj muaj npe nyob rau hauv HFHDC lawh thiaj muaj koj npe thiaj paub xa ntaww tuaj. Tsis li ntaww koj mus hrhav lawv hauv www.habitatdane.org.
News From the Heights

Fall Computer Classes

By Lo Chang

Hello everyone, I would like to let everyone know that we are going to begin a new computer classes again this fall. These computer classes will be taught on every Tuesday at 5:30 PM starting September 9th right here at the Center. These classes are free and everyone is welcome. We will continue to learn how to operate a computer, typing, using the Internet, working with Microsoft Office applications, and how to work with digital media. I would like to encourage everyone to come and learn some new skills. If you have any question, please call Lo Chang or Alyssa Kenney at 244-0767.

CROP Hunger Walk Supports Our Food Pantry

By: Lynn Case

Second Harvest Food Bank recently received a check for $18,579 to distribute to 40 Dane County Food Pantries according to Jim Stickels, coordinator for the annual Madison Area CROP Hunger Walk. The Sun Prairie Food Pantry received $1,135 and Independent Living received a $1,000 grant for its evening and holiday Meals on Wheels program. The Kennedy Heights food pantry received a $500 to our Second Harvest account. This total ($20,714) represents the 25% local allocation received each year from Church World Service, national sponsor for the CROP hunger event. The October 14, 2007 event was the 33rd for the Madison area and raised $82,910, the highest total ever raised by Madison and over $11,000 more than in 2006. Madison also ranks as the Top CROP Walk in the state of Wisconsin (of 65 walks) and in the top 15 CROP events nationally (1,800 total events). The 2008 Madison Area CROP Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday, October 12, 2008. Christ Presbyterian Church, 944 East Gorham Street is the host church. For more information, please email wi@churchworldservice.org or call 222-7008.

Wish List

- Digital camera
- Paper towel rolls
- Big rolls of paper
- Quality children’s books
- Occupational dress-up clothes
- 10—60 piece puzzles
- Winter gloves / hats / mittens
- Non-perishable food items
- Hand soap
- Dish soap
- Volleyballs
- Soccer balls
- Four square balls
- Pencils w/ erasers
- Calculators
- Letter size manila folders
- School Supplies

Newsletter

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Johnny Ellis, Becca Gray-Jurek, Matt Christensen

Photo Credits: Lexi Larson, Alyssa Kenney, Lisa DuChateau
Boy Scouts Returns
By: Matt Christensen

Troop/Pack 124 has a new Scoutmaster, Matthew Christensen. Meetings shall be weekly, with the goal of one overnight per month. Activities will include life skills, leadership development, Scout advancement, and games. Mr. Christensen is an Eagle Scout, a former assistant Scoutmaster, and a former Scout camp employee. He hopes to bring Troup 124 to the Bryant Scout Reservation this upcoming summer. Parents of interested members are encouraged to contact him at 617-279-3429, or at mbchrist@gmail.com. Boys Scout will begin the third week in September look in the monthly calendar for day and time information.

Special Parenting Group
By: Becca Gray-Jurek

A new parent support group is forming for parents of pregnant and parenting teenagers. Family Enhancement has been providing parenting education and support to pregnant and parenting teenagers within area schools for many years. This fall we are starting a group for parents of teenage parents to discuss those issues of concern for parents with pregnant or already parenting teenagers. Sessions will be held at Family Enhancement, 2120 Fordem Avenue. The group will meet the first and third Wednesday of each month from 7:00—8:30 PM starting Wednesday October 1, 2008. If you are interested in joining the group or have questions, please contact Becca Gray-Jurek at 241-5150 ext. 24.

Nominate a Real Dad
By: Johnny Ellis

Do you know someone who qualifies as a real dad and a real man? The Urban League of Greater Madison in collaboration with community leaders is seeking “Real Dad” nominations. Dad’s will be featured in local newspapers. To nominate someone you know send an e-mail with a short biography and a photo of dad in action to: Vincent Cherry vcherry@ulgm.org OR jel-lis0227@charter.net. For more information call Johnny Ellis at 497-0227.