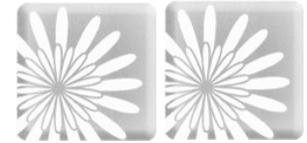




News From the Heights



Over 100 Attend Playground Design Workshop

On March 14th the Kennedy Heights Community Center hosted DREAM, PLAN, BUILD, a community workshop to engage community members in our playground planning and design. Over hundred people from the community attended this interactive community event. Community members learned about the project, identified their favorite spots in the neighborhood, sorted photos of

natural play elements, looked at the pictures children had drawn at earlier workshops and used natural materials to build model playgrounds. Over the past two months the Ken-



neddy Heights Community Center has worked with Professor Sam Dennis, a national expert on natural play from UW-Madison, to gather children's design ideas for the playground. The Kennedy Heights Community Center has contracted with Ziegler Design Association, a local landscape architecture firm to

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draw the design and coordinate construction. At the design workshop children in the community got to learn about what landscape architects do and to work closely with these architects in design their future playground. Funding for the first part of the playground project was provided through a generous grant from the Madison Community Foundation, the community center is now seeking to raise an additional \$30,000 to complete the project.



Free Seminar for Parents of School Age Children, Friday, April 20th

By: Megan Beckles

Parents of children in grades K-5 are invited to attend a parent seminar that will cover the steps of effective communication between you and your child in order to mold behavior in a positive direction. This event will be held at the community center on **April 20th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm** and will include dinner and beverages. This opportunity is completely free and child care and dinner for your child will be available during the hours of the seminar. Speaker Randy Wagner

will be joining us to speak on the following topics:

- Effective communication
- Sibling rivalry
- Natural behaviors of children
- Learning strategies for children

Randy has a Master's degree in community counseling and has been the director of the parenting programming at the family services center in Madison for 20 years.

Additionally; a package of some of the available children's summer

programs in the Dane county area will be provided. Bring your questions or come just to enjoy a dinner and time with other members of the community. Childcare will be available.

This is a great opportunity to take advantage this knowledgeable expert coming to our community. The first 10 parents to register will receive a free gift for their family. Feel free to contact the community center with any additional questions at 244-0767.

News From the Heights



Note from the Executive Director

AmeriCorps Week

The Kennedy Heights Community Center is a host site for two AmeriCorps members in the Partners for After School Success collaboration. These members are giving a year of their lives to service in the Kennedy Heights Community working with youth. Srdjan Gajic and LaFlancia Branch are the members at our center and they have shown dedication and commitment through tutoring and mentoring of Kennedy Heights youth. AmeriCorps Week is an opportunity to honor their work and service. Thank you Mz. Shun and Srdjan.

Boys Group Awarded Grant

Congratulations to the Kennedy Heights Boys Group for receiving a By Youth For Youth (BYFY) grant for their proposed Healthy Habits Project. The concept and the writing of the grant were

completely the ideas and efforts of a group of middle school boys. The community center looks forward to hosting this youth driven project this summer.

Community Budget Conversations

Please join your neighbors, city staff, Mayor Soglin and alders to help develop the city's 2013 budget. In these challenging times, citizen involvement is more important than ever. The city of Madison is inviting community members to attend a Community Budget Conversation, participate in the Budget Survey, and help to spread the word. More information is available at: www.cityofmadison.com/budgetProcess/ The survey can be completed in the computer lab at the community center.

4 Year Old Kindergarten

Will your child be 4 years old by September 1, 2012? The Madison Metropolitan School District is currently enrolling children in 4 year old kindergarten for next school year and the Kennedy Heights Community Center's site has spaces available for next year. You can register by going to Lindbergh Elementary School at 4500 Kennedy Rd. More information is available by calling 663-1879.

Thank You Madison Rotary Foundation!

The Madison Rotary Foundation has awarded the Kennedy Heights food pantry a generous grant to purchase food from Second Harvest Food Bank and support the transportation costs associated with filling our food pantry.

Alyssa Ramsey

Farewell to Lisa DuChateau



News From the Heights



The Youth Program Hits the Slopes

By: Srdjan Gajic

The recent Boys Group trip to Tyrol Basin was quite a fantastic experience for middle school boys. After being a member of the UW-Madison Hoofers Ski & Snowboard club while in college, AmeriCorps member, Srdjan Gajic, reached out to the club to see if they could help Kennedy Heights Community Center organize a trip to nearby Tyrol Basin in Mt. Horeb. The club, through its youth outreach program, very generously agreed to help fund the trip and also bring a few college student volunteers to help the kids learn to snowboard. The trip was planned

for March 18th but, as warm weather continued to encroach on the winter, the trip was in doubt. However, even after two weeks of 60-70 degree weather, Tyrol had managed to defy nature and retained enough snow to be open one last day. Boys Group brought a number of middle school students who had earned the trip through community service participation. All the boys were trying snowboarding for the first time.



The temperature hit 80 degrees but the snow remained skiable and it was actually a very neat experience to ski in shorts and t-shirts. We used the tow-rope to practice on a small hill at first and after just an hour the kids were ready to go up the chair-lift. When we finally reached the bottom, they felt proud and were excited to go up several more times to work on their carving skills. Both the staff members and the youth had a great time. We are thankful to Hoofers and we plan on making this trip a yearly collaboration with Hoofers. Thank you to Hoofers for this generous donation and unique experience.

School Supplies
Non-perishable Food
Wii Games
Children's Music
Legos
Craft Materials
New socks
Graphic Design Volunteer
Facebook Expertise
Digital Cameras
Bug Catchers
Child-sized garden tools

Staff

Alyssa Kenney, Executive Director
Jim Kidd, Custodian
Kate Remington, Early Childhood
True Vang, After School Coordinator,
Early Childhood Teacher
Tyson Brown, Food Service
Malinda Hongmanivanh Food Service
Dionna Stovall, After School Staff
Jaimie Schlicher, After School Staff,
Girls Inc. Coordinator
Patrick Winter, Youth Program
Stephanie Nash, MERIT Program
Zachary Kimbrew, MERIT Program
Clare Norelle, Food Pantry
Yimmuj Yang, Asian Outreach Staff
Srdjan Gajic AmeriCorps Member
Shun Branch, AmeriCorps Member
Jessi Trpkosh, 4K Teacher
Megan Beckles, Intern

The Early Childhood Program—Spring Time Update

By Kate Remington



How time flies when you're having fun! Here it is the end of March and spring has sprung. The preschoolers have been having nothing but fun play and learning to enjoy their school friends. We have

been able to be outside just about every day. We went from the Winter that never



was, to a very early spring. This winter the Early Childhood program worked with shapes, colors, numbers, and opposites, and most recently

learning about pets and animals. Some of us enjoy card games, number games and always puzzles, drawings and books. All the children are working on spelling their names. After Spring break we will look forward to returning to more learning by play and growing some spring plants.



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**Kennedy Heights Community Center
Women's Group Hmong Eggroll Sale**

Price for Eggrolls:
\$1/ eggroll or \$5/ 6 eggrolls



Name _____

Phone # _____

Order date: _____

Pick-up date: (please circle) 4/18 4/25 5/2

_____ # of Veggie Eggrolls

_____ # of Turkey Eggrolls

\$ _____
Total Amount to be paid at eggroll pickup
(Cash or Check Only)

Drop off, mail or e-mail in your order.
E-mail to eggrolls@khcommunitycenter.org

KH Women's Group Eggroll Sale

The Women's Group at Kennedy Heights Community Center would like your support in fundraising for a field trip to Chicago this summer. We will be making eggrolls on Wednesday morning and they will be available for pick-up in the afternoon. Please place your order by 2:00 p.m. on the Monday before each cooking date.

Order form due by Mon. April 16th for pick-up on Wed. April 18th
Order form due by Mon. April 23rd for pick-up on Wed. April 25th

Upcoming Important Dates

- Wed. April 18th 5:30—7 PM Board of Directors meeting
- Tues. May 1st Youth Summer Programs Registration Begins
- Wed. May 16th 5:30—7 PM Board of Directors meeting
- Fri. June 8th last day of school year programming
- Mon. June 18th Summer programming begins

Food Pantry will be opened the following Mondays: April 16th, April 23rd, April 30th, May 7th, May 14th, May 21st and June 4th.

The Community Center will be closed Monday, May 28th for the Memorial Day Holiday.