**School Board to Vote to Close Local Schools**

By Alyssa Kenney

On Monday April 30th the Madison Metropolitan School District will vote on Idea G. If passed Lindbergh Elementary School will close and students will be moved to Gompers. To accommodate the new students Black Hawk will change from a middle school to a larger Elementary School Gompers. The middle school students residing in Kennedy Heights will change for many children, for families with the school and families. Closing the school would deteriorate these relationships. The negative impact on Kennedy Heights is significant and we encourage the school board to seek other alternatives to their budget deficit. Make your voice heard before the school board votes April 30th, see the contact information on the left.

**Girls Work It Out at GNP**

By Stacey Yang, 14 and Kadee Thao, 13

We are excited to announce that our Girl Neighborhood Power group has been awarded a By Youth For Youth (BYFY) grant to run a program called *Girls Work It Out* for the next year. Our project is a fitness program for any teenage girls in the Kennedy Heights neighborhood ages 12-17 years old. *Girls Work It Out* will provide gym passes and personal training at Warner Park Recreation Center and exercise equipment and DVDs to be used at the Community Center.

GNP decided to write this grant so we could have more opportunities to exercise and get healthier and stronger. By going to the gym and exercising regularly, we will get in better shape and have more confidence in ourselves. By participating in *Girls Work It Out*, we hope to see results on both the inside and out.

*Girls Work It Out* will also be a way for the older girls in the Kennedy Heights neighborhood to get to know each other better and create a sense of community and support. Working out can be hard and together we will motivate each other to keep going. Instead of sitting in front of the television, we will be getting stronger, healthier, and more confident.

We are proud of our GNP group and, specifically, the girls who wrote the grant, congratulations! Also, we would like to thank BYFY for supporting our program.

*Girls Work It Out* will be starting in June. We will be planning weekly trips to Warner Park and weekly exercise classes at the Community Center. If you are a girl age 12-17 and interested in participating, please contact Emily at the Center, 244-0767.

**Inside this issue:**

- Community Block Party
- Education Efforts For Anglers
- English as a Second Language Class
- Early Childhood Program
- After School Program
- Summer Youth Program
- Lindbergh GEMS
- Neighborhood Planning
- Boys' Group
Mark Your Calendar for the 2007 Community Block Party

The Kennedy Heights Community Center will again host a community wide celebration. Last year we hosted a “Many Cultures—One Community” festival to mark our 20th anniversary. This year the community center plans to host a smaller Community Block Party. The Block Party will be held on Saturday June 9th from noon—3:00. There will be a performance stage where different community groups and individuals will perform. A local DJ will play music and facilitate group games. Some light snacks and beverages will be available inside the center. There will be a children’s area with games and face painting. Volunteers are still needed to help with set-up and clean-up and to run children’s games. Any northside residents that are interested in performing or helping in some other way during the block party should contact Alyssa at 244-0767. The whole community is welcome and encouraged to come and enjoy the block party on Saturday June 9th from noon—3:00 PM.

Education Efforts Underway at Kennedy Heights

By: Jody Schmitz

With the opening of the 2008 fishing season, Kennedy Heights residents have brought out their rods and headed to the local lakes and rivers. Although the weather has not been the best, the fishing urge is persistent.

The Community Center and the Madison Environmental Justice Organization (MEJO) have reminded anglers of the information that was discussed and made available last summer in the “Let’s Talk Fish” series of programs put on by MEJO at the Center.

Brochures in English, Hmong and Spanish covering the information about fishing safety are available at the Center.

If you have any questions about which fish to avoid catching and eating, contact Jody or VamMeej at the Center. Special care should be taken by women of child-bearing age and pregnant women not to eat too much fish, especially large fish.

Testing of KH residents’ hair samples to determine the amounts of mercury in the body is also being done by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services at the food pantry on Mondays.

Meanwhile, MEJO has been busy expanding its coverage throughout Madison and is planning “Let’s Talk Fish” at other centers including Vera Court which will have such a program on April 23 at 7 p.m.

A $50,000 EPA environmental justice grant has been awarded to MEJO. A party celebrating the grant is being planned and all the Kennedy Heights folks who have attended meetings and been involved in the project since last summer will be invited. The date is still to be determined.

English as a Second Language Classes

By VamMeej Yang

The Asian Outreach Program hosts English as a Second Language classes every Wednesday from 5:30 PM until 8:00 PM. Childcare is available for children ages two and up during the class. There is also homework help available for elementary and middle school students. All English language learners are welcome, space is available. For more information please contact VamMeej Yang at 244-0767.

Los ntawm VamMeej Yang

Tes haujlwv Asian Outreach muaj kev Kawm Ntawv—ESL txhua hnub Wednesday thauvm 5:30 pm—8:00 pm. Peb muaj zov cov maenyuam txij 2 xyoos lawm yav sauv zov pub rau nej sawv daws thauv nej kawm ntawv. Thiab peb pab nej cov menyuam ua homework qib elementary school thiab middle school. Peb tseem muaj chaw txaus nej sawv daws tuaj koom nrog peb. Yog xav paub ntau ntxiv hu VamMeej Yang 244-0767.
Spring Has Sprung!

By: Rachel Fisher

Finally some warm weather is here. The children in the Early Childhood Program have been looking forward to the warmer weather for weeks. The Early Childhood Program had a great winter with lots of snow the last two months. Library trips and visits from the First Book readers kept us very busy. Over spring break the Early Childhood classroom get a new coat of paint and new carpet to expand our space for floor play. The program also received an accreditation grant from the City of Madison that included new fluffy pillows for our quiet area and new toys for our play area. A special thank you to all the volunteers and youth helpers that helped with the cleaning, painting and rearranging of our classroom. Your hard work is appreciated. Please remember we have an eight week summer program for 3—5 year olds in the neighborhood with a few remaining spaces for the summer. Please call Rachel at 244-0767 for enrollment information.

After School Program

By True Vang

It is hard to believe the school year is almost over. The After School program has had lots of fun this year. A fire fighter came and talked with us about fire safety. Through a partnership with the University of Wisconsin the 2nd and 3rd grade classroom has had a science club come every Monday. Last week the children in science club made homemade ice cream. The After School Program will still have one more field trip this spring. Parents are invited to help chaperone. I was very happy to see so many parents of children in the After School Program at the school board meeting in April. It really shows how much parents here care about their children and Lindbergh elementary school. The After School Program just received a generous grant from the Madison Rotary Foundation for supplies, snacks and field trips. This gift is critical to the programs success and making sure the community center has adequate materials and snacks for all the children we serve. Thank you Madison Rotary Foundation.

Summer Youth Program

By: Alyssa Kenney

This summer the Kennedy Heights Community Center will offer a half day summer program for youth that have completed 4th—8th grades. The half day program will run from June 25th—August 17th with no program on July 4th. The program will include lunch and snack. Youth will have the opportunity to learn new skills, play sports, do outdoor activities, and take field trips throughout Dane County. Activities will include swimming, community service, computers, biking, and much more. Youth are invited to stop by the community center and complete an interest survey to help staff plan the best possible program. The survey is also available online at: www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=805763658842

Enrollment forms will be available at the community center starting on Monday May 7th.

Lindbergh GEMS Program

From: Janet Dyer

Madison School & Community Recreation will again host the GEMS (Gym Education activities Motivating Students) summer program at Lindbergh Elementary school this summer. The program is for Lindbergh students currently enrolled in grades K-4 and will take place June 25th—August 17th. This 8-week program offers an assortment of options to meet the needs of as many children as possible including children referred for summer school. The morning program will include a variety of fun and enriching activities focusing on math and reading and the afternoon will include games, art and gym activities. Breakfast, lunch and snacks will be provided. Scholarships are available. Registration forms will be sent home with children in May and available for parents at the community center.

To make a donation please call Alyssa at 244-0767.
Neighborhood Planning
By: Jule Stroick
The City of Madison Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development is excited to announce the upcoming neighborhood planning initiative that will occur on the north side this year. From 1991-1992, the City of Madison and north side residents and the business community worked together to prepare a 10-year plan. An update of the existing plan will determine what is still important to northsiders as well as new issues that residents and the business community would like to have addressed.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! A neighborhood-based steering committee of 7-9 individuals will be appointed by the Mayor to guide the planning process. A diverse steering committee is a must: we want to have individuals that are long-term and newcomers to the area, homeowners and apartment residents, business tenants to business owners, and individuals from different ages, income, race and ethnicity.

Simply: we want to have residents involved in charting their future: if that means serving on the steering committee, task groups, or attending biweekly meetings, we want you involved from the get go.

Please contact Jule Stroick, Neighborhood Planner at 267-8744, Ext. 218 or jstroick@cityofmadison.com or Alyssa Kenney at the Kennedy Heights Neighborhood Center if you are interested.

Boys’ Group
Kennedy Heights Community Center is pleased to announce that our new Boys’ Group program has received a grant from the Dane County Youth Commission Prevention Fund. The Boys’ Group meets Wednesday nights at the community center and serves 20 boys each week.

The Prevention funds will help purchase t-shirts for Boys’ Group members. The boys wanted to design their own t-shirts and have them made. T-shirts will help regular participants feel like members a positive group and will improve the sense of belonging among the boys. They are very excited for their new shirts. The idea for boy designed t-shirts came from 5th grader Jontell Shepard—he will be one of the boys who represents the community center at an award ceremony on Tuesday April 24th. The funds will also purchase snacks and field trip costs for the program.

Thank you Dane County Youth Commission Prevention Fund.