

News From the Heights

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

hood and 579 middle school students: about 40 of them reside in the Kennedy Heights neighborhood. This idea is being proposed to help close a \$7 million budget deficit and is expected to save \$1.1 million. This plan will effect every child in Kindergarten—8th grade living in the Kennedy Heights community. The impact will be significant on the children and families residing in Kennedy Heights.

Like the East Attendance Area PTO coalition, Kennedy Heights Community Center Board of Directors recognizes neighborhood schools as critical to the health and success of our community. Neighborhood schools provide better access for families. Family involvement in school is a significant factor in children's success. Closing Lindbergh

will make school access more challenging for many families in Kennedy Heights. It will make getting to school more challenging for many children, for families without cars the walk to school will increase from two blocks to over a mile.

Lindbergh Elementary school has built strong relationships with the families of Kennedy Heights. The Community Center has strong relationships with the school and families. Closing the school would deteriorate these relationship. The negative impact on Kennedy Heights families 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.

Make Your Voice Count

Let the school board know where you stand on the proposal to close Lindbergh Elementary and Black Hawk Middle Schools. Tell them how the closings will affect you, your family and your community. Members of the Board of Education may be reached by writing the following address:

MMSD
545 West Dayton St.
Madison, WI 53703
E-mail: comments@madison.k12.wi.us
By Phone: 663-1659

Ua Kom Suav Tau Koj Lub Suab

Qhia Cov Sawv Cev Hauv Kawm Kom Paub. Tias Koj Tawb Suab rau tsab cai yov kaw tsev kawm Lindbergh thiab Black Hawk. Qhia rau lawv kom paub tias qhov kev kaw tsev kawm no yov muaj kev nyuab npaum li cas koj, koj tsev neeg, tiab koj tej zej zog! Yog koj xav sau ntawv rau cov tuav tsev kawm ntawv (School Boart Members) sau rau qhov chaw li nram qab no: MMSD
545 West Dayton St.
Madison, WI 53703
E-mail: comments@madison.k12.wi.us
By Phone: 663-1659

From the Lindbergh PTA

attend Sherman middle school. This plan will move 256 elementary school students: about 70 of them reside in the Kennedy Heights neighbor-

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.



BYFY co-authors Malinda Hongmanivahn, Chue Yang, and Kadee Thao

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.

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News From the Heights



Mark Your Calendar for the 2007 Community Block Party



Hmong dancers from last year's festival

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 haujlwn Asian Outreach muaj kev Kawm Ntawv—ESL txhua hnuv Wednesday thaum 5:30 pm—8:00 pm. Peb muaj zov cov maenyuam txij 2 xyoos lawm yav sauv zov pub rau nej sawv daws thaum 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.

Staff

Alyssa Kenney, Executive Director
 Jim Kidd, Custodian
 Rachel Fisher, Early Childhood Lead Teacher
 True Vang, After School Coordinator,
 Early Childhood Assistant Teacher
 Tyson Brown, Food Service
 Joy Backus, After School Staff
 Padawb Vang, After School Staff
 Gretchen Struve, After School Staff
 Jody Schmitz, Adult Program Coordinator
 VamMeej Yang, Asian Outreach Coordinator
 Emily Sienkiewicz, Girl Power Coordinator
 Jerry Overstreet Jr., Boys Group Coordinator
 David Anderson, Youth Program Coordinator
 Elisa Walker, AmeriCorps Member

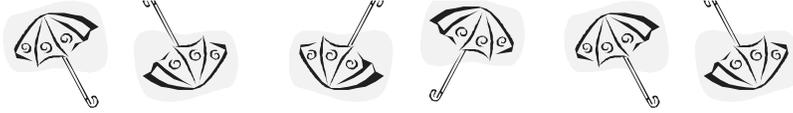
Board of Directors

Ramie Leonard, Chair
 John Givens, Vice-Chair
 Julie Hornby, Treasurer
 Allison Plummer, Secretary
 Keisha Young, member
 Lacey Vosen, member
 Monaire McCain, youth member
 Lynne Solomon, member

Wish List

15 passenger van
 Summer Program Volunteers to teach:
 Cooking
 Bird Watching
 Financial management
 Break-dancing
 Comic Book Design
 New jump ropes
 Soccer balls
 Roll paper towels
 New Markers
 Bases for outdoor sports
 New bike helmets
 Fishing poles
 Binoculars for bird watching
 Scrapbooking supplies
 Craft materials
 Tickets to Six Flags Great America
 Non-perishable food for pantry
 To make a donation please call Alyssa at 244-0767

News From the Heights



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 (**G**ym **E**ducation activities **M**otivating **S**tudents) 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.

We are on the Web!
www.khcommunitycenter.org

Kennedy Heights Neighborhood Association

199 Kennedy Heights
Madison, WI 53704

Phone: 608-244-0767
Fax: 608-661-9190
E-mail: ackenney@yahoo.com



Community
Block
Party
Saturday
June 9th
2007
Noon—
3:00 PM

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.**