

This 'N' That

by Betty Banks



Reading is essential ...

Libraries play an important role in our communities. And, the residents of Fitchburg will have a great site when their Library is completed. Groundbreaking for a Fitchburg Library took place on Monday, April 12 at the corner of Lacy Road an Research Park. A reception followed at City Hall. Congrats to all who worked hard to see this through the process! Enjoy!

Anthony the Great ...

The community came together for a Homegoing Celebration for Dr Anthony Brown who battled kidney and liver disease for many years. On March 20, 2010 Mt Zion Baptist church was filled with family and friends who bid Dr Brown good-bye. He worked tirelessly in this community lifting up anyone who he came in contact with. It was a joyous celebration but he will be missed. Our condolences go out to the family.



Community spirit ...

2,400 volunteers paid \$25 each to participate in a Haiti meals event over the weekend. Meals were packaged on April 9, 10, and 11 and are on their way to orphanages in Haiti. Additionally, Madison's area food pantries will receive about 12, 00 meals. This successful event took place in Middleton. Kudos to the organizers and volunteers.

Greyhound ...

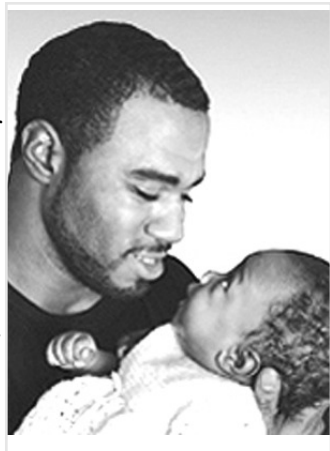
Boarding a Greyhound bus got a bit easier on Friday, April 9 when they moved back to Madison Metro's North Transfer Point, 1213 Huxley St. The decision to move to this more centralized location was made to accommodate, "...the residents who use our services," according to spokesperson Timothy Stokes. This is a temporary solution according to Greyhound officials. They continue to look for a permanent home in Madison.

Moving forward ...

Allied Drive revitalization has moved along and according to residents, "life is better". It is not quite where they want it to be but the hard work and neighborhood participation in meetings with decision makers has paid off in many ways. Children can play in the neighborhood and the fear of shootings has lessened. Service providers are looking at ways to strengthen their presence and overall this is a place to be proud of. Hats off to all who continue to "build community" in a place that was once thought to be hopeless.

Praise God ...

The drop in the infant mortality rate in Dane County has led the Department of Public Health Madison and Dane County to look at ways to strengthen its presence in this community. Under the leadership of Dr Tom Schlenker, Director and Pam McGranahan, there is a plan in place to create a series of conversations with families in Dane County that will connect the voices of Dane County to the practice of public health, to continue to improve birth outcomes in this county and also to encourage and create conversations in the African American community about its infant mortality. Betty Banks has joined them in building and improving the relationship between the Public Health Department and residents who benefit from their many services. Join the conversation and help them raise the voices in this community that will strengthen and improve the services they provide. For more information or to join the conversation contact Pam at 255-8154 or Betty at 358-7035.



That's what friends are for ...

Hopes suicide education and prevention organization is sponsoring their Walk for Awareness (suicide prevention) on May 1st from 10am-1pm. Registration begins at 8:30am. A light lunch and t-shirt are provided for a cost of \$30.00. Join this organization and raise the awareness about how to prevent suicides in our community.

Elegant pioneer ...

During the month of February, Velma Hamilton Middle School celebrated the birth and life of Velma Hamilton, the school's namesake. Mrs. Hamilton was born February 28, 1910 and died July 92009. To commemorate and celebrate, the school added a plaque and portrait of this pioneer, painted by artist and art education teacher at the school, Linda Mathis Rose. Also, during the month, a program was held and the highlights of Mrs. Hamilton's life were presented in a documentary. This Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Beloit College continues to be an inspiration for all of us.



Smorgasbord...

There are "Men Who Cook" in this community and on March 6th , they cooked and they drew about 300 people to taste and vote on their cuisines. This 18th annual event was sponsored and organized by the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and is their scholarship fundraiser held at the Fitchburg Community Center. 20 men brought their skills to the competition and if you didn't attend don't miss it next year!

Three simple words - Lock It Up! ...

Summer is just around the corner and our children will be out of school and in our neighborhoods. Teach your children how to cross streets, not be lured away by strangers, and in general how to be safe where they live. Take them to some of the parks and other fun places that teach and give them positive ways to spend their time. When it comes to youth, their safety comes first. Lock up your guns, alcohol and prescription drugs. Plan to attend the Lock It Up Town Hall Meeting on Prescription and Over the Counter Drugs, Thursday, May 13th, at the Urban League Center for Economic Development, 2222 S. Park Street. call 608-770-2049 for more details, and visit www.youthsafetyfirst.org

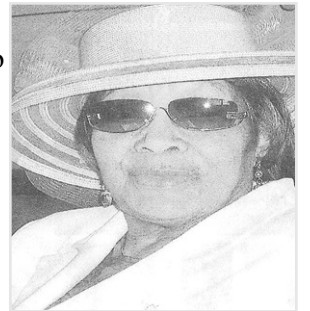
He cares ...

The Urban League of Greater Madison brought a native son home to lead their timeless efforts that support their goals and values in this community. Kaleem Michael Caire was born and raised in Madison in the heart of the African American Community, the Southside. After a stellar career in Washington D C, he has come home where his roots are firmly planted. His Grandmother, Mary Caire, was a pioneer in efforts on the Southside for many years and helped to raise him. He is certainly up to the task. Welcome back, Kaleem!



As rare as a rose in winter ...

On Tuesday, April 13th, Sr Executive Producer of Club TNT, and VOICES Managing Editor, Gaddi Ben Dan buried his Mother who passed away on Monday, April 7th. The Memorial Service was held at the New Macedonia MB Church, Chicago, where she was a member for many years. Rose Mary Bryant, 86, was also the mother of 6 daughters who reside in Chicago, Ernestine, Florine, Catherine, Gloria Jean, Cherry Lee, and Geraldine, the grandmother to a host of grandchildren and a friend to many others. We give our condolences to the family.



We've made Madison area youth our #1 priority.



CUNA Mutual Group applauds the Youth Resource Centers in the Madison area. Because the Centers are so critical to the success and well being of middle school kids, we've joined forces with local credit unions and United Way of Dane County to make them a top priority.



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