

This 'N' That

by Betty Banks



Stop the violence

A Southside neighborhood that has been working on cleaning up crime was faced with another incident last week. A domestic dispute led to a murder on Badger Road. Domestic violence continues to plague some of our families. Let's continue getting messages out there that will help diminish these situations and get the people the help that they need.

We are one....

Diversity Picnic sponsored by the Dept. of Civil Rights was held on Thursday, July 17th in the Warner Park Shelter. Richard Davis was given the James C Wright Humanitarian Award for his work on eradicating racism. There was great food and much networking that went on. To add to the fun were activities facilitated by the Madison Children's Museum.

In the beginning

Mt. Zion Baptist Church held a greatly attended Bible Study in Penn Park on Wednesday, July 16th. Those in attendance said it was moving to hear people talk about taking back the park. Let's keep this momentum going. There are other events planned. Neighborhood Officer Tammi Droessler, with the help of others is spearheading this action.

Virtuous women

The Third Annual Women in White honored 10 women who have given to others in this community. The theme of this year's celebration was "Giving the Fountain of Life" and these women were heralded for making a difference in the lives of others. They were: Michelle DeBose, Letrice Stanley, Glenette Randle, Becky Steinhoff, Mercedes Martin, Melva Bishop, Betty Banks, Sandra Willis-Smith, Milele Chikasa Anana, and Linda Hoskins. Pastor Erik Maiden and Elder Alicia Maiden are the founders of Now Faith Ministries International and emphasize the mission of Women of Power, which was founded by Elder Alicia Maiden. This mission includes bringing women together and helping them network. The group is diverse in professions, race, cultures and faiths. Their commonalities are that they care about others and put action behind their beliefs.

A woman of God

July 12th was an important date for Rena Simmons, also known as Mother Wisdom. She celebrated her 90th birthday. This energetic and classy woman is an inspiration to many. You probably have heard her give her wisdom on the Let's Go To Church and Heart and Soul radio shows. She was given this title by Super Producer, Gaddi Ben Dan who feels he has benefited from her wisdom and knew she would be a great addition to these two programs that bring information, education and fun to the community. Both broadcast on WTDY1670AM radio station. Let's Go To church can be heard from 7-9am on Sundays and is hosted by Pastors, David Smith and Ernest Winters. Heart and Soul is hosted by Richard Brown and Betty Banks and can be heard on Saturday evenings from 6-8pm. GBD is the Super Producer of both. Tune in. Your Sunday mornings and Saturday evenings will never be the same.



Fountain of joy

On Sunday, July 27th, Pastors Alex and Jackie Gee along with members of the Fountain of Life congregation hosted a cookout at Belmar Park which designed to let residents know that they along with their members are onboard to support them as a continuation of their ministry. FOL holds church services at the Boys and Girls Club on Jennewein Rd. on Sundays. In an interview with Club TNT, Pastor Gee emphasized that they are taking their spiritual work to the streets in hopes that the residents understand that they consider themselves members of this community that reaches beyond the walls of the facility they meet in for services. It was a lively crowd that enjoyed Christian Hip Hop as well as dusties spun by Walter

Cowan, also known as Double D. Food was served as well as spiritual networking. Hats off to FOL for taking this initiative.

Men of honor

During the Fountain of Life event Freddie Clark and Johnny Ellis honored several men as part of their "Real Men, Real Dads" initiative. There was much love in the air as wives and daughters came forth to tell why they made their nominations. It is hoped that when school begins in September, there will be many Dads standing at school bus stops or walking their kids to school in support of being Real Men, Real Dads. Kudos to Johnny and Freddie for encouraging the recognition of honorable men in this community.



The "Time is Now"....

The Urban League of Greater Madison held its 40th Anniversary Celebration on Friday, July 25th. Governor Doyle was the featured speaker and his son Gus was the master of ceremonies for the evening's festivities. Recognition and scholarships were awarded to several in attendance. Rocky Albert Schulz received the High School Senior Scholarship Award, Returning Adult School Scholarship was given to Myron Petties, and the Friends of Urban League Scholarship was given to Delphine Biinyi Vakunta. The Betty Franklin-Hammonds Memorial Scholarship Fund provides money for these awards. Betty was a former Director of the Urban League and believed strongly in supporting those who wished to further their education. The Whitney M Young Jr. Equal Opportunity Award is given annually by Boards of Directors of Urban League national affiliates. This year's honorees are the members of the 2007 State of Black Madison Coalition, a group of people who are responsible for publishing a report that talks about racial disparities in Madison. Food and music by Hanah Jon Taylor and Maggie Brown rounded out the evening. We salute the Urban League of Greater Madison. Here's to 40 more years of service to the community!



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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