Dear Friends,

We know that your life is so much more than what happens inside your home. Throughout your community you work to make a living, you pursue your passions, you connect with friends and family, and you raise your children. Like you, a life of a neighborhood center is more than just what exists within. The Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center’s success, its impact, and its ability to grow depend on how well it connects to the neighborhood that surrounds its four walls.

In any given year, The Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center becomes more than what happens inside our walls through our ability to support, change and inspire our community (although 800 individuals do walk through our doors to access vital nourishment, services, childcare, classes, events and more each week)! In recognition of the importance of a healthy and thriving community, our mission and direction connects the lives of our friends, neighbors and supporters to opportunity and to one another. And like you, we know we can do more. We are excited to dream, nurture, and create with you what we can accomplish together.

Because of your generosity, we currently:
• Prepare children for success
• Inspire adults to continue to learn
• Nurture worth and ability among our program’s participants
• Provide thoughtful responses during tragedy
• Support small independent businesses
• Promote local artists and performers
• Celebrate and remember the good
• Foster meaningful contributions within our community
• Create space for all people

Please consider your year-end donation as a chance to support our mission and allow us to do more for you, your friends, your family, your neighbors and your community.

In friendship,
Bruce Woods, Board President
Gary Kallas, Executive Director
Louis Fortis Moving Forward with Mixed-Use Development at Paterson & Williamson Streets

By Mike Sweitzer-Beckman, Common Wealth

Louis Fortis, former Wisconsin State Assembly member and current editor/publisher of the Shepherd Express, is moving forward on a mixed-use development at 906 Williamson Street (intersection at Paterson Street). Fortis is building a four-story mixed used building with 25 apartment units (as well as one common area for tenants), underground parking, 4,400 square feet of retail space on the first floor along Williamson Street, indoor and outdoor bike parking, rooftop patio and green roof. Knoth-Bruce Architects designed the building.

Mr. Fortis is committed to working with local businesses as much as possible to occupy the retail space. He thinks it could be anywhere from one to three businesses in the 4,400 feet of retail space. Also, two of the 25 housing units of housing will be affordable, with one rented to a household at 80% of the county median income and the other to a household at 60% of the county median income.

Mr. Fortis owns a condo in the neighborhood, as well as the Gateway at the head of Williamson Street. “It might be self-interest, but I think we want more people to enjoy the neighborhood,” he says of this development. He’s also proud that the development is the result of at least a half dozen neighborhood meetings, where the concept for the building changed a lot from start to finish. “That’s a healthy way to do it,” said Mr. Fortis of the process of working with input from the neighborhood.

There was some initial opposition from the neighborhood and the City Of Madison Landmarks Commission over its height, low percentage of affordable housing, green space and demolition of a four bedroom single family home on the site. However the home has been demolished in recent months and construction is moving forward. The project is scheduled to be completed in July 2016.
THE BIG SHARE RETURNS ON MARCH 1!

Common Wealth is participating in the Big Share again this year on Tuesday, March 1. This will be a chance to support Common Wealth's programs that create economic opportunities for all through affordable housing, youth job training and placement, workforce development for adults, and business incubation.

The Big Share is a giving day organized by Community Shares of Wisconsin to benefit its 69 member groups, of which Common Wealth is one. Last year, in the inaugural year, The Big Share raised a total of $230,000 – significantly surpassing the goal of what anyone thought would be possible.

WE NEED YOU TO HELP US WITH THESE THREE THINGS:

1. Mark MARCH 1 on your calendar to support Common Wealth with a donation by visiting this link: http://bit.ly/CWBigShare2016. You can also make a donation in advance and it will count toward possible prizes and contests for us on March 1!

2. Follow us on Facebook to get updates throughout the day and the year. Just visit us on Facebook at http://bit.ly/CommonWealthFacebook.

3. Share the love! Forward this information to three friends and family members and encourage them to sign up for Common Wealth’s e-newsletter at www.cwd.org.

Please be our champion, and help us have a successful Big Share! We can’t wait to celebrate the difference your generosity will make on March 1. For more information, please contact Mike Sweitzer-Beckman, Development Manager at Common Wealth, at 608-256-3527 x34 or mike@cwd.org.
As we start a new year, MNA continues to protect the character and vitality of this neighborhood we all cherish. Twelve neighbors sit on our Board of Directors. We roll up our sleeves and we work hard to support the neighborhood. While we have over 600 members, we’d love to engage even more neighbors in the work we do. If you might be interested in getting involved, here are four simple ways to get started:

1. Become a member of MNA – If you aren’t already a member, join today. It’s only $5! You can sign up at www.marquette-neighborhood.com.

2. Get connected through one of our three list serves – There are multiple ways to stay updated on important issues affecting our neighborhood.
   - MNA eUpdate is sent from the MNA Board once per month and gives a brief update on MNA’s work.
   - MNA Announce generally contains 1-2 emails per week from the MNA Board with updates on time sensitive meetings and information.
   - MNA Discuss is an ongoing neighborhood discussion that anyone can participate in and may include multiple emails per day.

Join one or all of the listserves by visiting www.marquette-neighborhood.org/contact-us

3. Like us on Facebook!

4. Join a committee – From preserving our historic buildings to helping our neighbors in need, MNA works on a variety of neighborhood projects through 9 different committees. Get involved in a committee to support our neighborhood and meet neighbors! For committee info, visit www.marquette-neighborhood.org/committees-2/. Then send an email mnaboard@yahoo and let us know which committee you are interested in. We’ll get you in touch with that committee’s chair.

Please join with us and ensure that Marquette continues to be a vibrant, beautiful neighborhood for all people. We hope to see you at a committee meeting or on Facebook soon!

Meetings held third Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm at Wil-Mar

Purpose:
The primary objective of the organization is to improve the neighborhood through citizen participation.

Board of Directors:
Lynn Lee, President
President@marquette-neighborhood.org
Colleen Hayes, Vice-President
VicePresident@marquette-neighborhood.org
J. Cheema, Treasurer
Treasurer@marquette-neighborhood.org
Mike Soref, Secretary
Secretary@marquette-neighborhood.org

John Coleman, Nick Draeger, Renee Lauber, Jesse Pycha-Holst, Jack Kear, Anne Walker, Amanda White

Fund Raisers:
Orton Park Festival
Waterfront Festival
Sponsor Peat/Piper Scholarship

Membership:
$5/year/household
$20/year/business

To become an MNA member, send your check with name, address, phone and email to: Marquette Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 3223, Madison, WI 53704

www.marquette-neighborhood.org
Locally grown

[ lō’kühl-ee grōhn ] – adjective

1. Contemporary expression describing a person that has resided in an area long enough to know about all the unique shops, restaurants, coffee shops and more that make the Atwood/Williamson area such a vibrant community.

2. A diminishing description for a bank that resides and invests in the same community as the customers it serves.

SAVE. BORROW. INVEST. ALL LOCALLY – AS IT SHOULD BE.
Keep your money close to home.

Visit us at any one of FOUR BRANCHES today.

MONONA
5515 Monona Drive
(608) 223-3000

MONONA
6430 Bridge Road
(608) 395-2323

COTTAGE GROVE
341 W. Cottage Grove Road
(608) 839-9400

MADISON
1965 Atwood Ave
(608) 284-8383

Follow us:

mononabank.com
WIL-MAR NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

953 Jenifer Street
Phone: 257-4576
Fax: 257-1052
E-mail: beatriceh@wil-mar.org

The Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center is a community-directed, non-profit organization based in Madison’s Williamson-Marquette neighborhood partnering with local organizations and businesses to enhance the quality of life for all generations through its programs, services, events and celebrations.

Director:
Gary Kallas: garyk@wil-mar.org

Development/Program Director:
Beatrice Hadidian

Assistant/Youth Program Director:
Ken

Administrative Assistant:
Nastachia Hanger

Board of Directors:
Bruce Woods, President
Todd Jensen, Vice President
Rob Hetzel, Treasurer
Shaun Abshere, Secretary
Diane Coccari (website), Colleen Hayes, David Hecht, Heather Klinkhammer, Carla Mason, Sean Ottosen, Steve Silverberg, Samantha Skar, Susan Valtierra

Business Hours
Monday–Friday 8:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

For daily schedule details, click on the Weekly Calendar tab at www.wil-mar.org or call the Center during business hours.

www. wil-mar.org

WIL-MAR COMMUNITY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
2. Elementary school
5. F.O.O.P.
6. Beach
7. MNA’s dinner held in March
8. Willy Street summer project
9. 19th century Madison mayor
13. Wil-Mar Center’s holiday pies are baked here
14. Location of second Willy St. Co-op
20. River that runs through neighborhood
23. Original location for La Fete de Marquette
25. Brewery circa 1868 on Williamson St.
26. Currently known as Machinery Row
27. Sculpture name at Kerr-McGee
32. Neighborhood street (also large Wisconsin lake)
34. Name of circle park
36. Neighborhood business incubator
37. Dash at the Marquette Waterfront Festival
38. First name of Mr. Williamson
39. Bakery that opened in 2010
40. The day our farmers’ market is held
41. Name of park where our August festival is held
42. Name of MNA president and neighborhood avenue
43. Name of our neighborhood farmers’ market

DOWN
1. Former name of neighborhood elementary school
2. Alderperson
3. Saloon circa 1902 on Williamson St.
4. Drive along Lake Monona completed in 1962
10. MNA meetings are held on this day
11. First name of the Willy St. Co-op general manager
12. Month Taste of Willy Street is held
15. Street for proposed bike boulevard
16. This organization promotes, popularizes, and defends the historic character of the Williamson-Marquette neighborhood
17. Last name of the Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center director
18. Pool hall circa 1929 on Williamson St.
19. 1850’s races down Williamson St. to King St.
21. Neighborhood business association
22. Provides low-cost and free mediation services to people with housing-related disputes
24. Pharmacy that purchased Shafer’s Pharmacy
28. _______ Corners
29. Abbreviated name for our neighborhood French festival
30. Park along Lake Monona
31. Garden name at Willy/Blair/E. Wilson St.
The Willy Street Park, a volunteer-powered non-profit, at Williamson and Bearly Streets, had a busy and rewarding year.

In early May, at our Annual Spring Plant Sale, over 50 neighbors and friends bought plants: seedlings, bushes, vegetables, and trees.

We had the pleasure of hosting Make Music Madison for a full day in June. There was music for nearly everyone’s musical taste. We look forward to participating in Make Music Madison in 2016.

The Willy Street Park fundraiser occurs each year during the Willy Street Fair. We sell bulbs for folks’ fall planting and anticipating the most welcome colors of spring.

We thank everyone who visited our Park this year. We also thank everyone who helped support the Park with their purchases of plants and bulbs. We give special thanks to the Marquette Neighborhood Association for giving us a grant for the Park’s vibrant flowers in the terrace.

In 2016 we look forward to hosting, with Westfield Comics and the Marquette Neighborhood Association, movies in the Park.

We can always use volunteers to maintain this little pocket-park. Interested? Phone Sandy Jacobsen, president of the Willy Street Park board, at 256-1835 or email us at willystreetpark@gmail.com

Everyone is welcome at our Annual Board meeting and election of board members and officers on Sunday, February 14, at 7:00 pm. Please contact Sandy Jacobsen for location.
If your address has changed since you last voted, you will need to register to vote at your new address. You can register at your municipal clerk’s office, with a Special Registration Deputy, or, if a Madison resident, at any Madison Public Library. Beginning twenty days prior to an election you can only register at the clerk’s office or at the polls on Election Day. Registering early will save time on Election Day. You will need to show proof of residence whenever you register.

Voters are now required to show a photo ID when voting. You can use a US Passport, a Wisconsin driver license (DL), or a Wisconsin state ID card with expiration dates of November 4, 2014, or later. The address on your photo ID does not have to be current. Out-of-state IDs are not acceptable.

If you don’t have a Wisconsin DL or ID you can get a free ID at the Division of Motor Vehicle offices (4802 Sheboygan Avenue or 2001 Bartillon Drive in Madison). If you are sixty or older and need a ride, contact RSVP (in Madison call 608-441-7898). You will need to bring:

- Proof of citizenship, name and date of birth
  - (If your name does not match your birth certificate bring proof of name change.)
  - (If you don’t have all the proof you need, DMV will help verify your information.)
- Proof of Wisconsin residency
- Proof of identity
- Your Social Security number

For full details go to http://wisconsin-dot.gov/Pages/dmv/license-drvs/how-to-apply/id-card.aspx/

Note: If you have a driver’s license or ID from another state you will have to give it up to obtain a Wisconsin ID. UW-Madison students can get a special free ID for voting at the WisCard office at Union South. UW-Madison students will also need to show proof of enrollment at the polls. Seniors and people with disabilities who vote by permanent absentee ballot are exempt from the voter photo ID requirement. For more information see http://bringit.wisconsin.gov/are-there-exceptions-new-law.

Nursing home residents can be visited by a representative of their local clerk’s office. Check with care facility staff or your municipal clerk. Nursing home residents do not need a voter photo ID, as staff will vouch for their identity.

Spring elections (County Board, Supreme Court Justice, Presidential primary, etc.) are February 16 and April 5, 2016. Talk to your friends and neighbors. Make sure every eligible Wisconsin voter has the documentation needed to vote! For more information about voting in Madison, go to the clerk’s office web site at www.cityofmadison.com/election.

— League of Women Voters of Dane County
www.lwvdane.org
S
päβ Platz is starting 2016 out right with a couple of great events. Essen Haus & Come Back In are celebrating Fat Tuesday with some Mardi Gras/Fasching fun on February 9. They'll be featuring a special Creole menu with all of your Cajun favorites, some great Mardi Gras drink specials, and a ton of live music. Throw on your green, gold and purple attire and join the festivities from 3pm-bar close.

Essen Haus’ third annual Mad City Chili Cookoff is also in February - this time on Saturday the 20th. As many as 20 cooks may enter for the chance to win cash prizes. Up to $200 will be awarded to both the judges’ top pick and to the people’s choice winner. A killer chili recipe and a $20 participation fee are all you need. Think your chili has what it takes to win? There’s only one way to find out!

Not much of a cook? Stop down from 6:00pm to 8:00pm to sample all of the chili you can handle. Admittance to this family-friendly event is only $10 for adults and FREE for children ages ten and under. Post a “chilly chili” picture of yourself outside in summer clothing (shorts, swim suits, etc.) on Essen Haus Madison’s "Mad City Chili Cookoff" Facebook page to waive the fee entirely. If that seems a little extreme, you can reduce the price to $9 by joining the Facebook event or to $8 by joining and sharing the event on your timeline. Who can pass up some of Madison’s best chili on a chilly February evening?

Visit www.essen-haus.com/events for complete details on all Spaß Platz events.
OCTOBER 1976
TACO JOHN’S CONTROVERSY CONTINUES...

On September 30 at 7:30pm, two meetings occurred simultaneously to discuss the Taco John's franchise, drive-in at Williamson and Brearly Streets, which has been the source of considerable controversy in the neighborhood for the last month.

A well-attended meeting of about 70 area residents, almost unanimously opposed to the drive-in took place at the Wil-Mar Center. Another meeting of about 20 business people (Williamson-Winnebago Businessmen’s Association) meeting with the City Business and Development Commission took place at the Eagles Club, 1236 Jenifer St. The mood of the latter seemed more supportive of changing the outer appearance of the building.

Opposition is based on several issues, but primary concerns appear to be:
- That community people should be informed and have a say in decisions that affect their community and their lives, (which was not the case in the Taco John's issue. A building permit was issued by Barnie Reilly, City Plan, interpreting the establishment as a regular, which has recently been upset by the Zoning Board of Appeals interpretation in the Taco John's dispute, which would now include Taco John's under the definition of a “drive-in.”)
- That the drive-in is a national franchise and not conducive for supporting and adding to this community in a positive way.
- That the building itself does not fit in with the unique character of the neighborhood and that it is sterile, plastic, prefab, and neon-lit.
- That it may encourage other franchises, fast food operations to locate in the area which would then become another non-neighborhood like the other drive-in strips.

However, the group is not opposed to business development on Williamson, but rather expressed a desire to see that new business should be the type that would benefit and improve the area and preserve its’ unique character.

The businessmen’s meeting discussed revitalizing the neighborhood and business area of Williamson in “old-world” atmosphere. Business people in attendance expressed a desire to adjust their present buildings to “what the community wants.”

Jerome Minahan, owner of Taco John’s (this one and the one on Monona Drive) said he felt he could adjust the building to fit into the neighborhood style. There is some question about how limited his ability to do this is considering the franchise and the prefab unit purchased directly from Taco John's headquarters in Cheyenne, Wyo. Also, this would still not address the other concerns of community people.

A public hearing on the issue with the City Plan Commission will take place on October 25. All interested parties are encouraged to attend and speak out. The hearing will determine whether Minahan will be issued a conditional use permit.

NOVEMBER 1976
TACO JOHN’S LOSSES CONDITIONAL PERMIT BATTLE
(The following is an article from the State Journal by Paul Feldman on October 26, 1976.)

The City Plan Commission took an anti-taco stand Monday, denying a conditional use permit for the operation of a Taco John’s restaurant at the corner of Williamson St. and Brearly St.

The action came after a two-hour hearing attended by almost 50 area residents who opposed the franchise, i.e. Ald. Michael Christopher, Dist. 6, and a representative from Marquette Neighborhood Assn. Speaking in favor of the restaurant were owner Jerome Minahan, who has already erected the exterior of the building on a site previously occupied by an abandoned gas station, and by two area businessmen.

When Wil-Mar Community Center Board members complained about the stand, Minahan agreed to meet with them and others…who wanted the…plan either scrubbed or its design changed to allow for inside seating and a low-profile exterior…a city attorney’s opinion defining drive-ins…was released. Minahan decided that this restaurant would probably be considered a drive-in. He filed for the conditional use permit and opponents dropped their appeal of his building permit.

Minahan, speaking before the commission, said he had decided after the community meetings not to allow for inside seating or limits on the signs he planned to erect outside. He based his decision on the “lack of cooperation” by opponents.

Minahan, who stands to lose his investment, said the restaurant “would definitely stand out on Williamson St., not as a sore thumb but an island of beauty.”

Backing Minahan were Lorraine Mongold of Lorraine’s Café…and John Rolfsmeyer of Appliances Unlimited, who represented several other area merchants.

Ms. Mongold said, “I think a hard-working man should have a chance to make a living.”

Opponents of the taco stand cited traffic problems and the esthetics of a fast-food operation in their neighborhood.

Ald. Christopher said, “A majority of the people in the Sixth District oppose” the restaurant. He said the stand did

Continued on page 11
not meet city standards for conditional use permits congestion and would infringe on the comfort and general welfare of area residents opposed to it.

The traffic argument weighed heavily in the votes of at least two commission members. Sarah O’Brien and Michael Briggs, both of whom cited the difficulty of vehicles entering the restaurant lot, particularly during rush hour…

Opponents also argued the restaurant on the street … which … includes houses, grocery coops, an appliance store, and the CC Riders motorcycle club headquarters.

Buck Trawicky, 1250 Jenifer, said “Williamson Street is an acquired taste.” He said employees in many of the small neighborhood-oriented businesses help give the street a feeling of community that would be missing in a franchise restaurant.

Peter Dorman, 1047 Spaight, said the movement against Taco John’s symbolized the first neighborhood fight to reverse the deterioration of Williamson Street.
THE MARQUETTE HOTEL:
James Montgomery, owner of 412-414 S. Baldwin St. (former home of Children’s House daycare), proposes to construct a boutique hotel with a total of 11 guest rooms, two of which would be in the existing structure at 412 S. Baldwin and nine would be built in a new adjoining three-story addition. The addition would also include a small café, capacity 25, to serve patrons and neighborhood residents. A small kitchen would be located in the basement. Many of the bakery and other prepared items would come from the Marquette Café’s sister café, the Mermaid Café at 1925 Winnebago St.

A neighborhood meeting was held on October 27 and there was general support for the boutique hotel concept. The attendees asked the owner to provide a plan for off-street parking. The owner will present a parking plan as part of his formal application to the city, expected in early 2016.

MARLING:
1801 E. WASHINGTON AVE.
Campbell Capital Group, LLC proposes a mixed use development project at the Marling Lumber Company site, 1801 E. Washington Ave. The proposal is for two- to four-story mixed-use buildings wrapping a five-story parking garage. There would be two stories along E. Main St., three stories along the river, and four stories on E. Washington Ave. The first floor on E. Washington Ave. would include over 8,900 square feet of commercial space. There would be a total of 232 apartments, and the parking garage would have 334 stalls. A neighborhood meeting held on September 30 was generally positive; city staff was on hand to share their concerns with lack of conformance to the Cap East BUILD Plan for Traditional Employment zoning.

They will be submitting a formal application for rezoning, demolition, conditional use, and development in Urban Design District 8. They will show more architectural details at that time. They will also need to submit an application to the Landmarks Commission because they are proposing to construct a building adjacent to the landmarked Yahara River Parkway. Stay tuned for a neighborhood meeting sometime in January 2016.

COSMOS:
800 S BLOCK E WASHINGTON AVE
In July, Otto Gebhardt and his team reported to the Capitol East District Committee that instead of building one building, they propose to divide the 800 block South E. Washington Ave. lot into two parcels. Gebhardt will build one structure with office, a 2300 person capacity music venue, culinary center, retail and a rooftop event space. American Family will finance and construct a separate structure that will house Starting Block Madison and office space for AmFam.

MGE and the city are currently discussing a draft agreement for the use of MGE’s property at Livingston St. and E. Main St. to build a city owned and operated 400 stall parking structure to serve the Capitol East District.

The adopted 2016 capital budget authorizes $1.5M for Starting Block and $7M for a parking structure. The music venue will not receive any TIF funding. Mr. Gebhardt was selected by an RFP process in November 2014 to construct an office and retail building to house the business incubator Starting Block.

FRIENDS NEEDED

Volunteer

Assist with a craft project, serve a meal or just engage in conversation with the young at heart whose health is frail. Or be an escort on van trips into the community.

Weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Come help make someone’s life happier and emotionally healthier.

To view “A Life Transformed” and “The Best Day” go to www.stmaryssmadison.com and click on “Patient Stories”.

St. Mary’s Adult Day Health Center
2440 Atwood Ave • Madison, WI 53704
(608)249-4450

906-910 WILLIAMSON ST.

The project was approved by the Plan Commission on October 15, 2015, to demolish the existing single-family home and construct a new, four story mixed-use building with 25 units and 25 underground parking stalls with 4400sf of ground floor commercial space. The façade along Williamson St. will be three stories and the fourth floor stepped back at 30’. There is no designated parking for the commercial tenants(s). Louis Fortis, the owner, has agreed to subsidize two units as affordable at less than 80% of area median income. Atop the third floor roof, the building includes a green roof with usable open space.

722 WILLIAMSON ST.

Stayed tuned for news of a new developer for this site and a neighborhood meeting TBD in January.
The 2016 Dane County budget deletes funding for a controversial jail laundry. Last year the County Executive proposed to construct an inmate-worker laundry within the Public Safety Building. Over the past year, I (and others) raised concerns about racial disparities, union jobs, and living wages. I’m delighted and a bit surprised that “The County” reversed course and scrapped the proposal.

Currently, most laundry from the jail is contracted out to a private laundry company. That contract is subject to the Living Wage ordinance (which I co-authored) requiring that all those workers receive the county living wage of $11 and a half per hour. Those workers, primarily Hispanic, have also formed a bargaining unit for union representation. The proposal would have transferred those jobs into the jail to inmate workers who are essentially unpaid ($3 per day) and disproportionately African American. The savings of $200,000 per year would be used to balance the county budget.

The county budget is unrealistically tight because the State of Wisconsin has imposed a levy cap on county property taxes. But this cannot excuse a proposal that takes living-wage, union jobs away from a primarily Hispanic workforce and exploits jail inmates for “voluntary” unpaid labor. This sets a bad precedent and looks a bit too much like slavery. There are genuine work-experience and job-training programs that can help inmates reintegrate into society but this was not one of them.

Thanks to the advocacy of several supervisors and other citizens, the Sheriff and the leaders of the county board created a budget amendment that replaced the anticipated savings in the County Executive’s budget. This was passed along with the amendment that I sponsored deleting the construction money for the proposed jail laundry. The Sheriff’s office will now proceed to replace the aging washers and dryers that are used by inmates for their personal laundry. I will continue to monitor this situation over the next two years.
Recently, I signed my 2016 Budget for Dane County. My budget focuses on providing our critical core services while expanding partnerships to better our community.

My budget includes the strongest efforts yet by Dane County to address mental illness. I am expanding our mental health teams to more schools across Dane County in partnership with local schools. Early intervention is the key to both preventing and knocking down the barriers that come with mental illness. I am also creating Community Crisis Teams to help law enforcement respond to mental health crisis situations available 24/7.

My budget continues our commitment to cleaning up our lakes through partnerships and conservation.

Homelessness is a complex problem that no one entity can solve. We are continuing our work with the Homelessness Consortium and investing millions in direct services to our homeless population. I am also doubling our Eviction Prevention Fund which successfully kept 266 kids in their homes last year.

This budget furthers our work of criminal justice reform by creating a “Re-entry Team” in our Dane County Jail. We will assess inmates and make an individualized plan for each inmate. A successful re-entry reduces their risk of returning.

Seventy percent of Wisconsin’s population growth happens in Dane County, as does 56% of Wisconsin’s private sector job growth. We consistently have the lowest rate of unemployment in the state.

We are a thriving, growing community, with unlimited potential. While we are certainly not without our growing pains, I am proud of the manner in which our community faces its challenges head on. We will get there, and we will get there together - with respect; with spirited debate, and through partnering, together– the Dane County Way.
WHAT’S NEW AT WILLY STREET CO-OP

HELPING WITH NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS TO EAT BETTER

Many people pledge to eat better at the beginning of the New Year; some give up along the way as their resolve flags and old habits reassert themselves. This year we’re offering tips, recipes, product suggestions, samples, and more to help you keep your resolution. For details, see willystreet.coop or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

NOW ACCEPTING COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS

Since 1992, the Willy Street Co-op has contributed $342,000 to local nonprofits and cooperatives to support developmental and educational projects for our community. Grants from the Community Reinvestment Fund may be awarded to projects supporting food justice or access, cooperative development, sustainable agriculture, health and well-being, and/or social change. Grant applications and further details can be downloaded from www.willystreet.coop/charitable-giving#toc-3. The deadline for applications is February 29, 2016.

PANTRIES OF PLENTY (POP) COMMUNITY FUND DRIVE

In November and December, we collected thousands of dollars in donations from customers for our Pantries of Plenty (POP) Community Fund Drive. All money collected is being divided equally between food pantries at the Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center, the Goodman Neighborhood Center, Middleton Outreach Ministry and the Lussier Community and Education Center. This is our second year holding the POP Drive and the food pantries have greatly appreciated the donations. Thank you to all who donated!

RECENT COMMUNITY DONATIONS

In October and November, Willy Street Co-op donated to a great number of local nonprofits. Below are a few of them. If you know of a nonprofit group that is looking for a donation, please ask them to fill out our Donation Request Form at willystreet.coop/donation-request-form.

- East Madison Community Center
- Big Oak Child Care
- Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center
- Mentoring Positives
- Community Living Alliance
- Madison Senior Center
- Shenck-Arwood-Starkweather-Yahara Neighborhood Association
- Yahara House
- Aynah
- Jirani Project
- Van Hise Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization

Information provided by and space paid for by Williamson Street Grocery Cooperative
willy street co-op

We can help with your New Year’s resolution to eat better!

Fresh. Local. Organic. Yours!

Join for as little as $10 for the first year, or a one-time payment of $58.

www.willystreet.coop