

CHOICES

A Newsletter about Self-Determination in Dane County written with individuals with developmental disabilities for individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and supporters.

Vol. 17 No. 3 | Fall 2015

Volunteering

Jeff Hopwood

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Events

My name is Jeff. For almost a year now I have been volunteering with a pet transport. This transport brings dogs and cats from kill shelters in the southern states through Wisconsin into Minnesota. Transport runs like a relay and stops in several states including Wisconsin. At every stop along the way the dogs would potty and get water so they are ready for the next leg. Everybody involved in transport is a volunteer. I am one of many volunteers who help make this transport possible. My job is to make sure the paperwork is handed off to the next person. The paperwork is a very important job because it has the dogs' and cats' vet records and other important information. Without the paperwork the dogs and cats we are transporting would not be able to be fostered or go to a rescue to await a loving family to adopt them.



Call for Writers and **Artists!**

Are you interested in contributing an article or comic to Choices?

Please contact Angie Klemm, Editor: klemm.angela@ countyofdane.com

The other part of the transport that I am involved in is fundraising. The animals we transport come from poor living conditions and need proper healthcare. Without funding it is hard to get all the animals the care they need. That is why I have recently decided to make blankets to sell to help raise money for them. I am also selling a yard game, Yard Yahtzee.

What I like about transport is knowing I am helping others less fortunate and it

makes me happy to see animals get a better life. I have also met so many nice people too. I would encourage anybody reading this to find a cause they enjoy and really care about to go out and volunteer.



<u>Bear in Mind...</u>



Monica Bear is Dane County's Community Services Manager for Developmental Disabilities

ecent frost has signaled an end to this year's gardening season. As I spread mulched leaves across my raised beds I envision the fertile soil that will produce next year's lilies, tomatoes and green beans. A parent recently noted that Dane County's long term practice of supporting individuals to maintain paid employment has created fertile soil that enhances her son's community inclusion. She reported that because so many Dane County citizens have hired or worked with people who have disabilities, they naturally greet and assist her son when he visits the local library, shops at local stores or attends a movie, regardless of whether she is present.

While imperfections abound and much work remains to be done, harvest season provides the opportunity to take stock of Dane County's bounty. At the Central Library on September 30th the DD Network sponsored a day of inspiration and celebration entitled "Bringing Innovation to Light: What We Hold Dear In Dane County". Over 200 individuals, families, providers, employers, civic leaders and elected officials such as County Executive, Joe Pa-

risi; County Board Chair, Sharon Corrigan; State Representative Melissa Sargent and staff from Mark Pocan's office attended.

Through videos, storytelling, music and art the day shined a light on decades of shared accomplishments. Did you know 1405 adults receive support from Dane County? That 1353 of these people direct their own supports with the assistance of 92 support brokers? 890 businesses employ 841 people with developmental disabilities who earned over \$3.86 million last year? 49 individuals own their own businesses? Rocky Rococo's was the 1st supported employer over 37 years ago? 40 individuals have held their jobs for over 20 years? Movin' Out has helped 165 individuals and families buy their own home? 806 people use self-directed support funds to purchase the assistance they need to live in their own place, alone or with housemates? 33 people have created the assistance they need to live in their own place using available resources outside the funds budgeted for residential support? Only 11 people live in a group setting with 4 or more people with disabilities? In 2014 Metro Plus provided over 183,000 rides to adults with developmental disabilities supported by Dane County?

September's celebration offered the opportunity to reflect on the home grown, social innovations that have resulted from 30 years collaboration between individuals, their families, schools, businesses, County staff, human service providers and civic institutions. Which innovations matter most to you? The ability to hire your own broker or staff? The help you receive to maintain paid work from one of 14 supported employment agencies? The small business you started? The families you have met or community connections you have made through LOV-Dane? The assistance you get from one of 18 supported living agencies to reside in your own place? Sound Response? The extra help or training you receive from Community TIES, Crisis Response or a WIN nurse when you need it? Creative ideas for home modifications that keep you safe in times of behavioral dysregulation? The ability to get door-to-door drop-off from Metro Plus paratransit at a reasonable cost? Housing counseling or access to down payment assistance from Movin' Out? The ability voice your concerns to a local director, County staff or your elected official when quality lapses occur? Support to invent a new self -directed solution when none currently exist?

All of us have the opportunity to ponder what we hold dear as Wisconsin prepares to reorganize its long term care system. Act 55 in the 2015-2017 state budget instructs Wisconsin's Department of Health Services (DHS) to redesign long term care. Key elements include the mandate to integrate primary, acute and long-term care under an Integrated Health Care Agency (IHA). IHAs are to be operated by one or more large insurance companies overseen by the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance. DHS must submit a concept plan to the legislature by 4-1-16. DHS has held 3 public hearings in Madison and is soliciting testimony until October 30. Now is the time to let state staff and legislators know what you want preserved in the new plan they develop.

To hear what your fellow citizens have said on the topic, keep abreast of proposed long term care changes or submit written comment, click on the following link. https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/familycareiris2/index.htm

Connections

Need to find or get rid of stuff?

- Make a friend?
- Find someone to date?



Note: Connections Ads on in the print version only.

<u>Submit Connections Ads to:</u> Angela Klemm, Editor, 1202 Northport Drive Madison, WI 53704

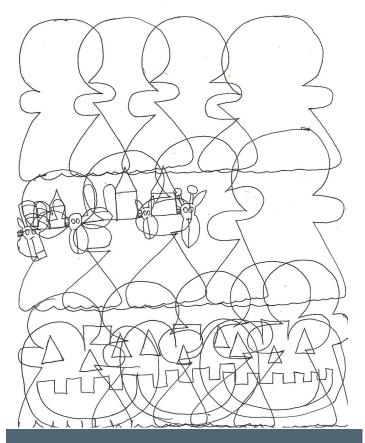
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We will run your ad for at least 3 issues unless you tell us otherwise.

Be sure to keep yourself safe. When meeting someone for the first time, meet in a public place and do some-thing with a group of people you feel safe with.

COMICS

Bill Worthy "Fall Fun"



COLUMNISTS

GIFTS

Catherine E. Clodius

A gift is not a present per say.

A gift is when you wake up and think to yourself that you are alive.

A gift is when you attend church, hearing some really good readings and listening to a sermon that really makes you think of what is important. A gift is a church family that welcomes you with wide open arms and makes you feel that they are glad that you are part of a church family. A gift is when someone really makes a delicious meal and you are ever so thankful for the bounty of food and for the fellowship of dear and everlasting friends and family. A gift is when you pet a dog or a cat and they look up at you with those adoring eyes and in their own way tell you how much they really love you.

Most importantly of all, a gift is having a family that you really love and that equally, they return love to you as well.

COLUMNISTS

Connections: Season One Review

Greg Pesl

Episode 7: "The Long Chain"

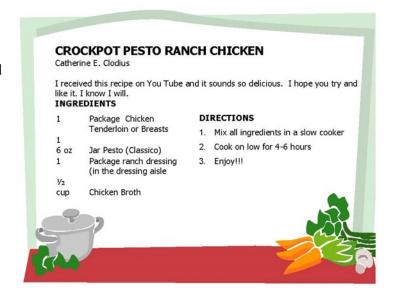
It all started in the 17th century, when the Dutch decided they needed a better cargo ship. So they built one--the fluyt, a bigger, squarer ship that could carry more cargo. Trade boomed, England created a bank and an insurance company, people started trying to do things with coal tar, rubber became important, people tried to make artificial quinine and ended up with artificial dyes, German chemistry took off,

World War I was fought, and the first plastic was made in the 1930s. If all this sounds crazy, watch the episode and see for yourself (it's on DVD and at the Library).



Episode 8: "Eat, Drink And Be Merry"

This journey begins in the Middle Ages, with kings fighting wars on credit. Somehow this led to advances in military technology, bigger armies, food preservation (the first preserved food came in bottles), air conditioning, refrigeration, German beer, the Thermos bottle, and the rocket. (Incidentally, each episode begins where the last one left off; so Episode 8 begins with the plastic credit card, just as Episode 7 began with a look inside a 747--today's version of the fluyt.)



COLUMNISTS

SPORTS

By TJ Schloss



I know Maria Sharapova can make a recovery all of her injuries, shoulder injuries etc. My friend Valeria would always tell me, "T.J, never give up on her." The U.S. Open has just started. Maria Sharapova isn't playing in the U.S. Open. I read an article in the

Wisconsin State Journal, and found out she withdrew from the U.S. Open. I told Mama, "I'm glad she made her decision before taking the chance of getting hurt." Mama agreed with me. Maria said on her Facebook page that she did everything she could to get ready for the U.S Open, but it wasn't enough time. I've followed professional Tennis ever since I was a kid. A lot of tennis players retired from their injuries, but some have played through them. Serena Williams is a player who has beat the pain. If she wins the U.S Open, she'll be the first player since Steffi Graf in 1988 to win all four grand slams. I have to admit, I'm not a Serena Williams fan, but Maria is true friends with Serena. I miss Maria Sharapova a lot; she still has a place in my heart. I hope people read this article. Men should never give up on special women, especially athletes.

What It's Like At Camp Albrecht Acres 2015

Jeffrey Johnson

My two friends Robert and Zack introduced me to Camp Albrecht Acres in Shelly, Iowa. I have been going there every summer since 2009. Several of the camp counselors are from England. All the counselors work really well with people with disabilities. This year, I met my first camp counselor, Raggen. I stayed in the Kehl Center. All of the dorms are named after different Indian tribes.

On Sunday, after everyone was checked in, the first activity was swimming. On Monday, everyone gathered in the gym for fun and games while some other groups played music. After that, all the campers gathered and played some bocce ball. We had two teams, girls verses boys and

Continued on page 8

Recovering From Many Kinds of Addictions: Part 2

Michael Hwang

Do you overly depend on drugs or alcohol? Rather than drinking alcohol, do you find alternative things like volunteer programs or an activity during free time? There are many ways to prevent many kinds of addictions. Do as many things as you can if you struggle with drug problems. Learn how to recover from alcohol addictions.

First, find someone who can help you to overcome your drug problems. Talk to psychologists, doctors, and drug counselors if you struggle with drug problems. Have a conversation with them when you're feeling concerned about yourself. They offer their assistance and encouragement to you. It's better to get treated as early as possible. If you wait too long, your health can be weakened. Next, don't criticize yourself. Drug counselors can help you with issues of drug addiction and support treatment. Getting help from a therapist will help you deal with your addictions. Your family members or friends can also support you to make smart decisions. Sometimes you might disagree with your parents, but you can go to the National Institute of Health webpage to get information on drugs and learn about recovery from drug addiction. And also, if you're in physical pain, go to an outpatient center for rehabilitation. Print out materials about the drugs and then look at it with your parents and professionals. Discuss with them the risks you're taking with drugs (your brain and your behavior might be changed). There are many people who can help you to deal with your problems. Learn how to recover from alcohol addictions. You could go to an alcohol rehabilitation clinic. You'll get medical supervision, because there are side effects to withdrawing from alcohol. There are maybe medicines you can take that will help you to decrease side effects

Get involved in a sober social community. If your old social life is spinning around alcohol and drugs, you need to find some new networks. It's crucial to have good friends who are encouraging you to recover from addictions. Try joining after school clubs, sports teams, or be a part of church groups. When you're doing these great activities, you'll be proud of yourself and your old habits will decrease. Furthermore, find new meaning in your life. This involves finding activities or work that gives you a sense of purpose. Try to exercise more, get plenty of sleep, and eat a healthy diet. These things can help you to get rehabilitated.

LET'S TALK ABOUT: WORK

My Job at Barriques

Polly Naughton



ell, I scoop the cookies and then freeze them, I also clean up the kitchen after. Then I clean the trays and I sometimes clean other dishes. The cookies I scoop get frozen and sent out to store all over Madison to be baked fresh on site. I have worked about almost 4 years. I do get a discount there so I can get hot chocolate and anything else to bring home. They do have salads, hot and cold sandwiches, bakery, wine, tea, and coffee. I have been making friends. I like working so I don't stay bored.

Barriques has 6 different locations around the Madison Area:

127 West Washington 1825 Monroe St 961 Park St 8410 Old Sauk Rd 5957 McKee Rd, Fitchburg 1901 Cayugo St, Middleton



Q&A with Chris Larson

On Leaving School and the Employment World

Where are you working and what do you do?

I work at Promega in Fitchburg, Monday-Friday from 9-1:00. I have a lot of different coworkers. My boss is Nate and some of my coworkers are Reed, Greg and Shawndra. I work in the cafeteria where I do stocking and food delivery. For stocking I stock the salad bar, condiment station, coffee station and drink cooler. Food delivery is taking food orders to customers who are at tables in the dining area when it's ready. I've been there since March of this year.



What did it take to get your job?

My teachers at Verona High School helped find the job for me and helped get me started along with Kim Kessler. They started looking for me last fall after we learned that Project Search (which I

participated in for a while) might not lead to a job by the time I was to finish school.

Did you experience any challenges on your journey to employment and getting a job?

Finding the right fit was a little challenge. I first worked at the kitchen at Gray's Tied House in Verona, but that wasn't quite the right fit for me and would not give me enough paid work hours.

What do you like best about your job?

Getting along with my coworkers!

Do you have any advice for people who are currently looking for a job?

Be flexible and have a good attitude!

Is there anything else about your job or plans for life after school that you would like to share?

I like working at my current job. Everybody at my job has been so kind and helpful and have made my transition so positive.



LET'S TALK ABOUT: MOVEMENT, MINDFULNESS & YOGA



Yoga for People with Disabilities

Jeffrey Johnson

There are different kinds of yoga exercises for different abilities. A yoga teacher works with the student to teach them the proper poses, meditation, and relaxation. Yoga is fun and relaxing workout for people with disabilities. There are different kinds of exercises that the teacher can provide for the student with a disability. Yoga can help people with disabilities connect with others in the community. They can do yoga in their own home or at a yoga school in Madison.

There are many choices of yoga schools for the people with disabilities in Madison. Yoga schools help create exercises to help with their body in many different ways. Yoga helps with reducing tension and anxiety to feel more comfortable and to feel more grounded. Some of the different yoga studios and classes available in Madison include YogAutism, for people with autism and Madison School & Community Recreation. The YogAutism group works along with the Center for Investigating Healthy Minds to keep track of progress made by students.

There is also a non-profit organization in Madison called Exceptional Kids Yoga Project (EKYP) that helps children with developmental disabilities and their families by teaching them yoga. EKYP classes are offered free of charge but donations are gladly accepted. There are Yoga classes for children 5 and older. Each session is about 45 minutes long. There are also yoga classes for caregivers.



The Rhythms Program

Jeffrey Johnson

The Rhythms program started about 2 years ago. I interviewed Nan Negri who is the program lead. She is supported by Gail Jacob as a co-facilitator. The Rhythms support program is designed to combine communication supports and other services that promote independence for a select group of individuals with complex sensory and movement differences.

The program provides support to 18 focus individuals through a variety of community agencies. They provide consultation, and some direct support to individuals at agencies in the community, and individual's homes. Nan consults with teams that are supporting the focus individuals and also other teams that request support. Support staff includes brokers, vocational and day support staff and residential staff. Nan and Gail hold a learning group every month for community agencies and conduct training sessions around sensory and movement differences.

The Rhythms Program also provides trainings to an individual's team and conducts mindfulness groups and facilitates a mindful movement group. Individuals become more comfortable in their bodies and are able to move and communicate easier and hopefully enjoy life more. The services they offer are yoga, dance, exercise, and affirmations. Nan has an office at Olin Ave. She thinks the Rhythms program is good for people with disabilities and their teams.

Learn more about the program that is offered by the Waisman Center and Dane County Human Services at http://cow.waisman.wisc.edu/rhythms Anyone who is interested may contact Gail Jacob or Nan Negri at nanegri@wisc.edu.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS/OPPORTUNITIES

JUMP INTO THE WINNERS CIRCLE

Catherine E. Clodius



Are you or someone you know looking for a fun way to give back to the community? If yes, you should check out the Winners Circle Lions Club. This new Club provides the opportunity for adults with disabilities, their family and friends to give back to the community through an organized service club. The Club members run the club, with the support of mentors, including determining their own projects and fundraisers. Members are encouraged to participate in meetings, project and fundraisers to the extent that they are able.

Lion Pete Taylor, a former Wisconsin Lions Camper and Club founder, dreamt of starting a club that would allow him and others the chance to do community service and interact with others. Says Taylor, "I have been a Lion in a regular Lions Club for a long time and it's

been hard for me to participate because of my disability. I'm excited to be part of this new Club where I will be able to participate in all the projects and fundraisers and make new friends, too."

The Winners Circle Lion Club meets on the 1st Tuesday of every month from 7-8 pm at the Coliseum Bar, 232 East Olin Avenue, Madison. Those that want to have dinner before the meeting are encouraged to arrive by 6 pm, with the cost of the dinner being paid on your own.

Club dues are \$70 a year, billed twice a year \$35. These member dues cover the cost of the administrative for the Association so that every dollar donated to the Winners Circle Lions Club goes back to the community.

The Winners Circle Lions club is just forming and we are looking for members that we hope will join us. We hope to reach 20 members this fall so that we can have a big Charter Celebration before the end of the year. If you want more information about the Winners Circle Lions Club, contact Lion Jodi Burmester at jodi.burmester@gmail.com or 608/444-9123.

Camp Albrecht Acres, continued from page 5

the guys won the game. Next was art class; everyone made super hero capes in art class. After that, everyone went back to the gym where some cabins were competing in a different games. At the end of the day we watched Toy Story 2.

On Tuesday, the first activity my group did was art class. We went for a walk before we had lunch. Tuesday evening we went back to the gym and four campers preformed the Three Little Pigs. Later, some of the campers sang a song. On Wednesday, all of the campers and counselors had a cookout and played a game called toss across. My friend Alex from Wells, England was keeping score. The campers won their first game and the losing team had to get dinner for the winning. If the campers lost to the counselors, the campers had to get their dinner for the counselors. After the cookout, we had a dance. I asked almost all of the woman counselors from England to dance with me (I again was dressed up like a girl during the dance).

On Thursday, we had art class and then we went swimming. Later Thursday night my camp counselor, Raggen, gave all the campers awards. She give me the happiest camper award. On Friday, I got my new counselor, Alice. I went fishing but didn't catch any fish at all. On Saturday we watched another movie since it was raining. Sunday morning Chuck picked me up. I took some pictures of all the counselors before I left. I had two very good and nice counselors. I had another great year at Camp Albrecht Acres.

EVENTS

What We Hold Dear in Dane County: Innovation Celebration

Jeffrey Johnson & Angie Klemm

he Development Disabilities Network (DD Network) put on a free, open to the public, Innovation Celebration at the downtown Madison Public Library on Wednesday, September 30th 2015. The day was filled with sessions highlighting stories of innovation in Dane County followed by a celebration.

I attended the Community Building Through Gardening session presented by Gardening for Good, a Dane County sponsored pilot program and a nonprofit organization. They had a few speakers that talked about Troy Gardens, where Gardening for Good group meets. The Gardening for Good program brings people with and without disabilities together around gardening and nature. They meet every Thursday at 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Beginning next year they will be going into their 5th season.

I also attended a theater session that included Silent Movies. "Fathom" which featured Andre Brown, Milton Cordova, and Jenifer Cordova, produced by Mark Whitcomb and "Learning Journeys," which was developed by Beth Mount and is meant to inspire storytelling. Stories are told through imagery and music about building relationships.

Various other presenters also told their innovation stories: The Family Organizing and Community Partners session was presented by Living Our Visions, Inc. (LOV-Dane). The organization helps young adults with developmental disabilities live in and connect with the community.

Talented artists, Briana Richardson and Romano Johnson, joined Lance Owens to talk about ARTworking, an organization that provides professional art mentorship, specialized support, and training to talented artists with cognitive disabilities and unique artistic abilities.

The Partnerships in Business Development session presenter was Adam Notstad, owner of Adam Can Recycling with his mother, Deb Notstad. Adam Can is an aluminum can recycling business that operates in Dane County.

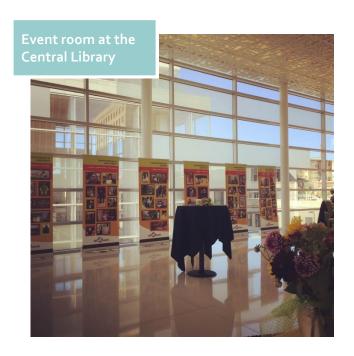
Kim Kessler, a consultant for Dane County working on job development and graduate transitions, and Jennifer Radle, Middleton High School Transition Coordinator presented on job development and customized employment for individuals with disabilities and featured the "Cardinal Transition Program" video.

Brittany Romine and partners showed a video about Brittany and her business, Tiger Lily Seeds. This seed-harvesting business was developed to deal with water runoff in Stoughton after the developmental of affordable housing units by Movin' Out.

The "Madison & Main Story" was a video presented that highlighted the collaboration and community development that contributed to the existence of a unique building in Waunakee that provides affordable housing for people with disabilities without relying on traditional public funding.

Michael, Rosie, and Lorin also presented and shared a recent video that was made about their story being long-time friends and roommates who have lived together for decades and consider one another family.

At the end of the day, there was an Innovation Celebration with various county level speakers and legislators, live music, and appetizers. The book, Pathfinders, was available at no cost. There were also life-size banners with pictures of people in Dane County showcasing their own innovations around the areas of employment, community life, housing, self-determination, adult life, and lifelong learning. Overall, the speakers were very good and the event was well attended. I think the people at the DD Network did a great job setting up for the celebration event. I really enjoyed it!



RECOGNITIONS MICHAEL'S RETIREMENT

Jeffrey Johnson

Michael Shinners is going to be retiring from the Wellness Inclusion Nursing Program in September. Before working at the WIN program, he worked at Community Living Alliance (CLA) for 8 years. He worked with the Wisconsin partnership program. Everyone moved from there to Care Wisconsin. Michael found out about the WIN Program when he got a phone call from Paul White for a nurse for the program. Michael started working as a WIN nurse back on March 5th, 2008; he has been with the Wellness Inclusion Nursing program for six and half years.

As a WIN Nurse, Michael goes to doctor appointments with clients and attends team meetings. He has a wide range of clients, some of his clients are very independent and others need lots of help. Michael says he learns something new all the time. He has met a lot of great people in the Developmental Disability system, both caregivers and clients.

Michael wants to retire because it's time. Michael doesn't want to work full time anymore. He might work part time but is not going to rush into anything. He thinks he will get involved in a Community Supported Agriculture project. He will go on bike rides and take walks. He will also volunteer at Troy Gardens. He will also spend time camping at Governor Dodge State Park.

Marcia and Joanne will take over until they hire a new nurse. They are still looking for a replacement. Hopefully they will have someone by October or November 2015. Michael said he enjoys this work. He said this has been a good job.



The Able Act

Jeffrey Johnson

The IRS issued a proposed rule this week on the implementation of the ABLE Act. The federal law provided tax free savings accounts about six months ago for people with disabilities. The new accounts should work in a way that helps the person with a disability save money. In the past, if the person with a disability saved more than \$2000 they could lose benefits. The person with a disability and their family can use their own money to fund the account. It's a tax free saving account. The ABLE Act account allows you to use it for health care appointments, housing, education, employment supports, and a few other things. Nebraska State Treasurer Don Stenberg says, "the proposed regulations state every time individuals with disabilities want to spend their own ABLE account, they must file paperwork." This is not necessary, this could cause problems. Requiring people to show where they are spending money from their ABLE accounts will raise the cost of having the account.

Transitions

Note: Transitions are listed in the print version only.

CHOICES Newsletter



The University of Wisconsin-Madison Waisman Center Room A 109 1500 Highland Avenue Madison WI 53705

...And the "Oh, Yeah's..."

CHOICES Newsletter

is published quarterly to provide information to consumers, families, guardians, and service providers about Self-Determination Services in Dane County.

The Next Issue of CHOICES

will be out in January 2016. Contact the editor with ideas for articles before November 15. Articles due by December, 15 2015 or until the issue is full.

To Place a Connections Ad:

Submit Connections Ads to: Angela Klemm, Editor, 1202 Northport Drive Madison, WI 53704 or

klemm.angela@countyofdane.com. We will run your ad for at least 3 issues unless you tell us otherwise.

Announce a Transition:

Tell us about a new job, an Engagement, a marriage, a new place to live, or say goodbye to someone who has passed away.

Choices is on the COW Website?!

Did you know that Choices newsletter has a fun color version that you can view online??

http://cow.waisman.wisc.edu/ publications.html

CHOICES by e-mail

Prefer to reduce paper coming in the mail? Choices newsletter is now available electronically via e-mail. If you would prefer to receive a PDF or link, please e-mail Angela Klemm:

Klemm.angela@countyofdane.com

Web versions do not include Connections ads or Transitions information.

Contributors to this issue:

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Please send your stories, comments and suggestions

Contributions, comments and suggestions are encouraged and may be directed to Angela Klemm, Editor

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