

How does their garden grow? With help from students, of course

By LINDA MCALPINE
Daily News Staff

KEWASKUM — Thanks to a grant, fifth-graders in the Kewaskum School District will be getting their hands dirty while helping their health and that of others when school starts in a few weeks.

When classes resume, students will find seven additions to the grounds behind Kewaskum High School. Seven raised garden beds have been built in the past week and an assortment of veggies have already started to sprout.

"We received a grant from the Healthy People Project of Washington County and have used it to create these raised beds to serve as vegetable gardens," said Terri Miller, food service director for the Kewaskum School District, as she and other volunteers watered and weeded the freshly planted plots with their green sprigs of radishes, kale and marigolds rising from the rich black top soil and past mounds of carefully-laid mulch.

Miller credits Heidi Anderson of BUFF — Best Youth Food Force — for tipping the district off about the availability of the grant and the Kettle Moraine YMCA for actually writing the grant.

Help for the gardens has also come in the form of discounts from local vendors for the purchase of the wood to build the raised beds and a donation of trucking in many cubic yards of soil, Miller said.

The new beds are located in what in the past had been space for a community garden, but due to the wet spring and drainage problems for the traditional in-the-ground-gardens, the area behind the high school wasn't being used.

The raised beds, which are made with wooden frames filled with soil, won't suffer the flooding problems that the community garden did, Miller said.

Students in fifth grade



John Ehлке/Daily News Staff

Kewaskum Elementary School food staff member Kathy Mertz helps put a cover over one of the raised garden beds Wednesday morning outside of Kewaskum High School. Schools in Kewaskum will be able to use the food grown in the garden for their lunches this year.

along with members of the local Boys and Girls Club will have the opportunity to plant and tend to the gardens, said Francie Szostak, education coordinator at Wellspring Organic Farm, who is assisting with the garden project.

"So many kids today are disconnected from where their food comes from," Szostak said. "They think carrots come from the grocery store. Some have no idea that carrots grow underground."

Because of the late season, Szostak said the veggies selected for the gardens are the kind that grow quickly, are harvested and then replanted, such as radishes, lettuces, carrots, broccoli, red and gold beets, and parsley.

Plans are being considered for adding an herb garden in additional raised beds next spring, she said, giving the school district cooks the advantage of using freshly picked oregano, basil, thyme and rosemary in their recipes, Szostak said.

The gardens are organic, so no insecticides will be used, Szostak said, noting

there are less harmful ways of dealing with unwanted pests, such as the light covering placed over each bed, which lets the sunshine in but keeps bugs, birds and rabbits out. The marigolds, which are not veggies but flowers, were planted to deter insects from snacking in the garden.

All of the fresh veggies will be used in the kitchens of the Kewaskum School District, and will be making appearances on student lunch menus, Miller said.

Food service staff, who will be making use of the end results of the gardens, were among the volunteers Wednesday.

"I think it's wonderful to be able to say that we planted and grew it in addition to cooking with it," said Mindi Gonnering, lead cook at Farmington Elementary School.

She was joined in volunteering by food staff members from other schools in the district, including Kathy Mertz, Lisa Jurss, Becky Ehmer and Tracy Werner.

Kathy Bublitz, food staff member, made the garden work a family affair by bringing along twin sons,

Dylan and Derek Bublitz, both 14.

Another family lending a hand included Paula and Todd Carlton and sons Jordan, 13, and Andrew, 11, all members of BUFF.

"I think the new gardens are really cool because I helped plant them and I will be eating from them," said Andrew as he shoveled some of the rich dirt into a waiting wheelbarrow. "I like all vegetables, but my favorites are lettuce and carrots."

His brother, Jordan, while not a big veggie fan, said he'll be glad to see more of a variety of them on the daily school lunch menu.

"I don't like a lot of veggies, but I do eat the simple ones, like carrots," he said. "I will be happy to see more healthy choices for lunch, though."

The Carlton brothers know the difference between kale and cauliflower, as they come from an organic gardening family.

With the gardens in place and monthly visits from Szostak for educational purposes, hopefully many more kids will also find out the difference and be all the healthier for it.

OBITUARIES

John F. Hefter, 70

John F. Hefter, 70, formerly of Kewaskum, passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2013, at Hope Health and Rehabilitation Center in Lomira.

He was born on Feb. 27, 1943, in Allenton, the son of the late Raymond and Viola (Peter) Hefter.

John was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Kewaskum. He owned and operated Hefter Auto Salvage in Kewaskum from 1969-1985.

Those John leaves behind to cherish his memory include two children, Tim Hefter of Mayville and Kathleen Hefter of Chipewa Falls; a brother, Thomas (Lorraine) Hefter of Allenton; two sisters, Betty Matenaer of West Bend and Annabelle Sauer of Thorp; three sisters-in-law, Doris Hefter and Darlene Hefter, both of Allenton, and Cecilia "Tootie" Hefter of West Bend; a special friend, Darlene Baerenwald of West Bend; and many other

relatives and friends.

In addition to his passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2013, at Hope Health and Rehabilitation Center in Lomira. He was born on Feb. 27, 1943, in Allenton, the son of the late Raymond and Viola (Peter) Hefter.

A Mass of Christian burial for John will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 16, 2013, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Kewaskum with the Rev. Edwin Kornath officiating. Cremation will follow and burial of his remains will be at St. Peter and Paul Cemetery in the town of Addison.

The Hefter family will greet relatives and friends at the church on Friday from 4 p.m. until the time of Mass.

The Miller Funeral Home in Kewaskum has been entrusted with John's arrangements. Additional information and guestbook may be found at www.millermartinfh.com.

Pauline A. Kieferndorf, 100

Pauline A. Kieferndorf (nee Slesarik), at the age of 100, died peacefully at Cedar Community of Cedar Lake, town of West Bend. She was born in Milwaukee on Oct. 26, 1912, the fifth of 11 children of Stefan and Pauline Ann (nee Dohnansky) Slesarik.

She is survived by her son, Herb (Kay); grandchildren, Carla (David) Krueger of Menomonee Falls, Rick (Jenny Guerne) Fislisbach of Switzerland and Paula (fiancé Dale Raab) Kieferndorf of Milwaukee; four great-grandchildren, Max, Ben, Robby and Emily; sister, Marge (Ed) Heider; and many, many nieces and nephews.

"Favorite" Aunt Pauline, raised in Fussville and Lannon, will be remembered as a good cook, outstanding baker, and sitter for grandkids, relatives and family pets.

The funeral service will

be held on Saturday, Aug. 17, 2013, at noon at Phillip Funeral Home (1420 W. Paradise Drive, West Bend) with the Rev. Richard Stoffel presiding. The visitation will be held on Saturday, Aug. 17 at the funeral home from 10 a.m. until the time of service at noon. Interment will take place on Monday, Aug. 19 at 10 a.m. at Wisconsin Memorial Park in Brookfield. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Cedar Community Foundation (113 Cedar Ridge Drive, West Bend, WI 53095).

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff at Sunrise Cove of Cedar Community for their exceptional loving care.

The Phillip Funeral Home of West Bend is assisting the family; (262) 338-2050 / www.phillipfuneralhome.com.

New MPTC students break the ice with 'Race'

By LINDA MCALPINE
Daily News Staff

Jacob Fenton, 18, a recent graduate of Kewaskum High School, didn't expect his introduction to college to be so much fun.

Fenton and about 30 other students, ranging in age from 18 to 50, took part Wednesday afternoon in a first "Amazing Race"-themed event as a way of welcoming them to the Moraine Park Technical College campus.

The incoming students gathered in the college's cafeteria and were organized into teams, said MPTC Dean of Students Scott Lieburn.

"We separated the students from their parents, spouses or friends they may have come with, to get them out of their comfort zones, because they won't be able to bring that other person with them to classes," Lieburn said. "At the tables where the teams sat, we had a list of questions they could share among themselves as an ice-breaker."

Then the games began. Each team was assigned a locker. They had to find it, then figure out how to open the combination lock, find the clue inside and decipher where on campus they were to go next.

With clues in hand, the teams streamed up and down the halls. Lieburn said the clues would lead the teams to about a dozen spots on campus, such as the library, and the offices of Student Services, the Career Center, on-campus advisers, Disability Services and the bookstore.

Once at the location of their clue, the teams had to perform assorted tasks.

Peggy Bowser, who isn't a new student, having taken classes on campus since 2010, said she attended Wednesday's Welcome event to "help me get back in the flow of school."

"They didn't have anything like this when I first started and I still remember how nervous I was about finding my way around campus," she said. "This is a

great idea and it's a lot of fun."

Once all the clues had been collected and tasks completed, the teams — all wearing T-shirts with "The Amazing Moraine Race," written on the front — returned to the cafeteria to participate in drawings for prizes.

And this being an institution of higher learning, there was indeed a test at the end of the fun.

"We're giving the students a quick matching quiz to help us determine what they've learned from this experience," Lieburn said. "We'll also use that data for our incoming students next year, to tell them that this is a good program to attend. It is not mandatory."

The college also plans to track the students who participated in Wednesday's fun event for an even more serious reason, Lieburn said.

"We want to find out if this kind of orientation to the campus helps these students be more successful in their college career," he said.

Using a popular television reality show as a springboard for college orientation is new to Moraine Park, Lieburn said.

"Orientation used to consist of staff standing up and speaking to the students for an hour or hour and a half and you could see it bored them," he said. "We wanted to try something different, that would get the students to know each other and to have them be active participants in learning about all the services on campus. Hopefully, by being here today, their first day of classes will be less stressful."

Max Niemuth, 19, a recent West Bend East High School graduate who will take Moraine Park's technical support program, said attending the event was worth it.

"I really liked finding my way around and finding out that everyone here is so nice and that you don't have to be afraid to ask questions," he said.

West Bend hopes new program can aid TIF District

By DAVE RANK
Daily News Staff

West Bend knows exactly how to it would use a \$1 million grant from a new program announced by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. on Wednesday.

"The Gehl property," said T.J. Justice, Department of Development director and interim city administrator.

Two Department of Development staffers were scheduled to travel to West Allis today for the first of nine informational sessions this month to learn more about the WEDC's Idle Industrial Site Redevelopment Program.

"This new program is structured to further the marketability of sites that have been neglected, with preference given to sites that are located in high-density urban areas or in central business districts," WEDC CEO and Secretary Reed Hall said.

The program is designed to assist communities develop industrial

sites larger than 10 acres that have been abandoned or require extensive improvements, according to a statement released by the governor's office Wednesday.

Wisconsin communities can receive grants of up to \$1 million to implement redevelopment plans for large industrial sites that have been idle, abandoned or underused for at least five years because of site conditions.

Mark Piotrowicz, city planner and Department of Development operations manager, and Amanda Knack, economic development specialist, were heading for the WEDC's meeting, Justice said.

"I would have liked to go," Justice said, but a schedule conflicted prevented that. "We're definitely interested in exploring if we can qualify."

The city has begun remediation efforts to clean up what had been the site of the Gehl Co.'s manufacturing plant off of Water Street downtown in what is now city-owned Tax Incremental Financing

Gehl property shuffle

In 2007, officials from the state, city and Gehl Co. worked out a \$20 million project that turned the company's closed manufacturing facility on Indiana Avenue into a research and development center. The company also built a new corporate headquarters there.

As part of the agreement, West Bend bought the 15-acre Gehl property on Water Street for \$1.1 million. The site once housed Gehl's headquarters, a production plant, engineering department and a parking lot. Those buildings have been removed. The property became the city's Tax Incremental Financing District 12.

District 12.

Those cleanup costs likely will have to be borne by the city, Justice said, before any commercial development would be interested in buying the property.

An Idle Industrial Site Redevelopment grant could help cover those expenses, Justice said.

"I'm excited at what I'm seeing," he said. "I did millions of dollars in similar grants when I was in Ohio. It's a great step

for the state."

The new program was approved by the WEDC Board as part of the organization's fiscal year 2014 operations plan. WEDC will award \$3 million annually in competitive grants.

"Redeveloped idle industrial sites can again become generators for economic development and an improved quality of life for the cities and communities where they are located," Hall said.

IN BRIEF

Republicans unveil bill for voucher accountability

MADISON (AP) — A proposal in the works for two years that's designed to make more information available about the performance of private schools participating in Wisconsin's voucher program has been introduced.

Chairmen of the Senate and Assembly's education committees unveiled the bill on Wednesday.

The measure would allow for private schools that accept taxpayer-funded vouchers to be kicked out of the program if students don't perform well. The measure also includes voucher schools in the state report card for the first time.

Rep. Steve Kestell said the goal is to give parents the best information possible while making sure all their options are quality ones.

DNR wolf permit drawing is today

MADISON (AP) — Wisconsin wildlife officials will start deciding this week which hunters and trappers will get a wolf permit.

The Department of Natural Resources has set this year's quota at 275 wolves. The state's Chippewa tribes have laid claim to 24 wolves, leaving 251 available for nontribal hunters and trappers. The DNR has established a 10-to-1 permit-to-wolf ratio, which means the agency will issue 2,510 permits.

A total of 12,108 hunters and trappers have applied for a permit, down from 17,377 applicants for last year's inaugural hunt. The DNR will award the permits through a lottery today. Applicants not selected earn a preference point that improves their chances in next year's drawing.

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