Summertime Fun for Amani Residents at Moody Park

Golden Gardeners will begin on Tuesday, June 28, 2016 with an orientation from 2 - 3 pm. Golden Gardeners is an 8-week entrepreneurship gardening program for youth 13 to 15 years old. The goal of the program is for youth to create a successful teen gardening business with 100% customer satisfaction and all natural products. Educational workshops each week focus on creating a business plan, resume writing, marketing, customer service skills. Youth will also sell products during the COA Skyline Music Series and split their earnings. For information contact Scottie Posey, COA Golden Operations Manager, at 414-449-1757.

Youth ages 8 to 17 are also able to attend Camp Helen Brachman. For more information or registration for a 2 week or 1 week session contact Leslie Woodruff at 290-7905.

Do you have a child in grades K5 through 8th grade that could use some extended academic learning in Literacy or Math? Enroll in the Auer Avenue Summer Academy. The Summer Academy will be held Monday through Friday from 7:30 - 11:30 am starting Monday, June 27th until Friday, July 29th.

Your child does not have to be a student at Auer Avenue to attend. There is no charge for City of Milwaukee residents. Lunch will be provided, however no transportation is available. If child care is needed after school, students can contact COA or MPS Recreation. To register or get more information stop by Auer Avenue School, 2319 W Auer Avenue or call (414) 875-4500.

COA’s new Burke Early Education Center provides a safe and nurturing environment for children to learn and develop the skills needed for future academic and social success. They are now enrolling children from 6 weeks to 6 years old. COA accepts both Wisconsin Shares and private pay. To learn more about the Burke Early Education Center contact Program Director Ashley Harrell at (414) 447-9039 x 3170.

Are you having an event and would you like to rent the Moody Park Pavilion? Contact Scottie Posey, COA Goldin Operations Manager, at 449-1757 for more information.

Teens (13 to 18) are welcome at COA June 20 through August 26 from 1:00 - 8:00 pm. Teens can sign up by contacting Marvin Jones, Goldin’s Teen Coordinator, at 449-1757.

Youth ages 6 to 17 can sign up for Free Summer Meals daily Monday through Friday, June 20 through August 26 at the Moody Park Pavilion. Lunch will be served daily at 11:30 am and dinner will be served daily at 2:30 pm.

Summer Stars, a free MPS evening recreation program is held at North Division High School for teens ages 13-17, Monday through Thursday from 6 - 9 pm. Activities include sports leagues, swimming, enrichment classes and workshops. Registration is required and can be done at Moody Park or the COA Goldin Center. Transportation is available from Auer Ave or COA Golden registered youth. For information about Milwaukee Rec programs call 475-6811.

[CONTINUED ON BACK]
Someone You Should Know: Alderman Khalif Rainey

By Pepper Ray, Amani BNCP Coordinator, Dominican Center for Women

Khalif Rainey is a native son of Milwaukee, with roots deep in the heart of the city. Born and raised in Milwaukee’s 53206 zip code, Khalif has risen above adversity and has personally endured many of the social ills that our community and our nation seek to remedy to this day.

Khalif attended Milwaukee Public Schools and graduated from Riverside University High School. As a senior in high school, Khalif received a college scholarship from philanthropist Jack Rosenberg of Milwaukee – an opportunity that if not received would have prevented Khalif from attending school. The only stipulation of the scholarship was that Khalif give back to underserved populations within Milwaukee.

Aman of his word, after earning a Bachelor’s Degree from the Southern University Nelson Mandela School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs, Khalif returned to Milwaukee to begin his career of service. A committed man, Khalif later married high school sweetheart Manadra Rainey, another lifelong Milwaukeean, and they are currently raising their daughter Ayah Belle.

Khalif grew up with family values that have helped shape his commitment to service. Khalif’s father is a proud UAW member and is currently an organizer. Khalif understands the need for family supporting jobs. He understands from firsthand exposure how important a strong labor force is to securing those jobs.

Khalif knows this community, works in this community, serves and volunteers in this community.

Khalif has applied his education and training as a staffer for the local District Office of Congresswoman Gwen Moore. For nearly a decade Khalif addressed quality of life issues concerning housing, senior care, transportation, economic development, veterans, environment, taxes, energy and youth.

The AMANI community is pleased to have Mr. Khalif Rainey representing the 7th District of Milwaukee as our alderman.

Meet Nicole Franklin

Meet Nicole Franklin, COA’s new Community Engagement Coordinator.

Nicole Franklin has been part of COA since first attending COA’s Camp as a child. She went on to earn a degree in Early Childhood Education and Teaching from the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee, eventually coming to work at COA in early childhood education. After a decade of dedicated work in COA’s childcare, as Director of COA’s Having Involved Parent’s (HIP), and as COA’s Westside Academy Community Learning Center Coordinator, Nicole has a deep understanding of the programs and resources available, and an affinity for the neighborhood residents she’s dedicated to serving.

Her experience and commitment to Amani and the neighborhoods COA serves will translate to a better connected community, and more COA programs tailored to serve the people of Amani. Nicole is positioned as a bridge within the community. She said “As Community Engagement Coordinator, my goal is to give residents a voice, to empower them to be forces of positive change. Listening and understanding the community is critical to the future success of Amani.”

Also joining the staff at COA are: LaTisha Franklin, COA Director of Programs, Scottie Posey, Goldin Operations Manager, LaTroya Willingham, Goldin Youth Program Manager, Destiny Fisher, Goldin Administrative Assistant.

Meet Nicole Franklin

Someone You Should Know: Alderman Khalif Rainey

By Pepper Ray, Amani BNCP Coordinator, Dominican Center for Women

Khalif Rainey is a native son of Milwaukee, with roots deep in the heart of the city. Born and raised in Milwaukee’s 53206 zip code, Khalif has risen above adversity and has personally endured many of the social ills that our community and our nation seek to remedy to this day.

Khalif attended Milwaukee Public Schools and graduated from Riverside University High School. As a senior in high school, Khalif received a college scholarship from philanthropist Jack Rosenberg of Milwaukee – an opportunity that if not received would have prevented Khalif from attending school. The only stipulation of the scholarship was that Khalif give back to underserved populations within Milwaukee.

Aman of his word, after earning a Bachelor’s Degree from the Southern University Nelson Mandela School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs, Khalif returned to Milwaukee to begin his career of service. A committed man, Khalif later married high school sweetheart Manadra Rainey, another lifelong Milwaukeean, and they are currently raising their daughter Ayah Belle.

Khalif grew up with family values that have helped shape his commitment to service. Khalif’s father is a proud UAW member and is currently an organizer. Khalif understands the need for family supporting jobs. He understands from firsthand exposure how important a strong labor force is to securing those jobs.

Khalif knows this community, works in this community, serves and volunteers in this community.

Khalif has applied his education and training as a staffer for the local District Office of Congresswoman Gwen Moore. For nearly a decade Khalif addressed quality of life issues concerning housing, senior care, transportation, economic development, veterans, environment, taxes, energy and youth.

The AMANI community is pleased to have Mr. Khalif Rainey representing the 7th District of Milwaukee as our alderman.

Meet Nicole Franklin

Meet Nicole Franklin, COA’s new Community Engagement Coordinator.

Nicole Franklin has been part of COA since first attending COA’s Camp as a child. She went on to earn a degree in Early Childhood Education and Teaching from the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee, eventually coming to work at COA in early childhood education. After a decade of dedicated work in COA’s childcare, as Director of COA’s Having Involved Parent’s (HIP), and as COA’s Westside Academy Community Learning Center Coordinator, Nicole has a deep understanding of the programs and resources available, and an affinity for the neighborhood residents she’s dedicated to serving. Her experience and commitment to Amani and the neighborhoods COA serves will translate to a better connected community, and more COA programs tailored to serve the people of Amani. Nicole is positioned as a bridge within the community. She said “As Community Engagement Coordinator, my goal is to give residents a voice, to empower them to be forces of positive change. Listening and understanding the community is critical to the future success of Amani.”

Also joining the staff at COA are: LaTisha Franklin, COA Director of Programs, Scottie Posey, Goldin Operations Manager, LaTroya Willingham, Goldin Youth Program Manager, Destiny Fisher, Goldin Administrative Assistant.

Drug Free Communities and 53206

by Kari Lerch, Deputy Director, Community Advocates Public Policy Institute

The Drug Free Communities Project, funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, was awarded to the Milwaukee County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (MCSAP) through Community Advocates in October 2015.

The DFC initiative focuses on preventing youth substance abuse through environmental strategies, or broader collective community efforts. In preparing for the grant, MCSAP took a look at Milwaukee’s data in an effort to determine where the need would be the greatest. Not surprisingly, statistics revealed higher substance use among youth in 53206, compared to other communities. What also stood out, and was equally as important, was that despite the staggering statistics, there are a wealth of resources and community members who are passionately driven to make a difference in the community.

In reviewing the data, MCSAP decided to focus on preventing and reducing youth marijuana and alcohol use. We have been focusing on connecting with stakeholders for several months now, and have some fantastic partners around the table! Workgroups will include youth (including youth themselves, and youth workers), communication and outreach, and a parent group.

If you have interest in joining this work, please contact Kari Lerch at 414-270-2950. We look forward to working with you in the community!

Restoration of the Mural: MAFA: A People on their Journey

By Clayborn Benson c/o Pepper Ray, Amani BNCP Coordinator, Dominican Center for Women

The corner of North 27th and West Center streets once housed the Engine No. 2 Fire Station, constructed in 1899. In 1928, these buildings were converted into the Center Street Public Library. The library later relocated in 1987 and the Wisconsin Black Historical Society and Museum has called this place home ever since. Founder and current executive director Clayborn Benson was inspired to create the museum while working to produce a documentary called Black Communities/Wisconsin.

The Museum exhibits, collects and disseminates materials depicting the heritage of African Americans in Wisconsin. Over the years, the facility has hosted; annual Kwanzaa events and genealogy conferences.

In 1994, Ammarr Naaromin created the mural on the side of the building, later named the MAFA, “A People on Their Journey”. The artwork reminds the community that somebody has come before them and has paved the way for them to be here today. It speaks to the importance of history, residents connecting with each other, and doing the best that they possibly can—simply because they are the sum of all past struggles.

Currently the mural is in need of a $30,000 facelift, and efforts have already begun to restore this historic piece of art in the Amani neighborhood. June 25, 2016 was a special kick off celebration to commemorate the start of the restoration. For more information about this project, please visit and https:/www.gofundme.com/wbhsmural.