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AMANI *United*



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER AT MOODY PARK

by Scottie Posey & Nicole Franklin, COA Youth & Family Centers

It will be a fun-filled summer for families in the AMANI Neighborhood at Moody Park!

On June 9, 2017 we kicked off the summer with our 2nd Annual *Safe Summer Kick-off*. Close to 500 people attended this community event which included community resources, local talent, food, and fellowship.

The *Moody Park Splash Pad* will be open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. through out the summer! Kids can cool down and have a splashing good time!

The Hunger Task Force continues to have it's *free Summer Meal Program*, Monday-Friday from noon -1 p.m. (lunch) and 3 - 4 p.m. (dinner). If you or your family want a hot meal, please stop by. And there are lots of activities for the kids at the same time. The program runs from June 19, 2017- August 25, 2017.

Beginning June 12th in Moody park, PeppNation offers *sports leadership camps* (including rugby, LaCrosse, and basketball) for kids of all ages, including elementary, middle and high school levels. Students are taught rugby as a means of improving their health, fitness, communication, discipline and leadership, with an end goal of preparing students to market themselves to universities and secure athletic scholarships. For more information please contact Brandon Culpepper at (414) 698-6843.

Simba Soccer will begin for summer on the 26th of June. This Milwaukee based soccer club focuses on the complete development of its players as good citizens and excellent soccer players. They will be using soccer to attract underserved urban, minority, and low income youth into an organized activity that promotes not just soccer but, family values, health, and education. For more information about Simba Soccer please contact



Amani Youth Perform at the Safe Summer Kickoff

Demetrius White at (262) 219-2122.

COA's Goldin Center will offer the CLC Pre-Teen *Day Camp* program starting Monday, June 19th, 2017 until Friday, August 25th. There will be weekly field trips, academic programs, arts, computer programs, outdoor recreation, and more. Sign your child up today by contacting Daysha Smith, COA Goldin Program Coordinator, at 414-449-1757.

Teens, ages 13 to 18, are welcome at COA Monday, June 19th until Friday, August 25th from 1:00 pm to 8:00 p.m. Teens can sign up by contacting Tamika Glenn, Goldin's Teen Coordinator at 414-449-1757. Please note, that teens must enter the building by 5:00 p.m.

Youth ages 8 to 17 are also able to attend Camp Helen Brachman, a beautiful 206-acre camp facility in central Wisconsin, for 13- or 6- day sessions. For information or registration please contact Leslie Woodruff, Camp Registrar, at 715-366-2234.

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Helping Others Obtain Direction

Princess Byers, Goldin Family Resource Center

Neighborhood Ambassadors was originally named Safe Zone and has been in Milwaukee urban communities for around 4 years. The Neighborhood Ambassadors are a group of Milwaukee natives that want to inspire and bring positive change in their community. The group was started by Shawn Moore, after the death of a young family. Moore decided he wanted to make a difference by addressing fatal and non-fatal shootings as well as other negative behaviors in the Milwaukee urban community.

A typical day for the Ambassadors involves community engagement and advocacy. On Mondays and Wednesdays the group does training on community engagement to prepare for any situation that may arise while on the job. They are also able to discuss with residents community topics that they aren't use to discussing. Every other day of the week the Ambassadors are walking the streets and knocking on doors talking to residents and uplifting people.

So far members say they have seen less violence in the community when the Ambassadors are present. They still hope to see a decrease in violence, a decrease in law enforcement intervention, and more emphasis on community and family unity.



While the Ambassadors do great things for the community, this job has also done things for the members themselves. Members say that being neighborhood Ambassadors has made a huge difference in their lives. Some say that they were troubled youth and since they joined the group they are now on a more positive path in life. Others say that being an Ambassador simply inspired them to make a better effort in their own lives as well as the community. As a group they say they are more appreciative towards what they have and who they have come to know from doing the work that they are doing.

Summer Asthma Triggers

By Destinny Fletcher, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin - Community Health Navigator

As the summer season approaches, often times we expect to know more on the factors of our children's health. What we don't know is that many parents and residents are preparing for the epidemic of Asthma triggers. Asthma is a chronic disease involving the airways in the lungs. These airways, or bronchial tubes, allow air to come in and out of the lungs. When an asthma attack occurs, those who are diagnosed have difficulty breathing, wheezing, chest tightness, fast heart rate, or throat irritation. The summer triggers of children who have Asthma are as follows:

- Tobacco Smoke
- Seasonal Allergies
- Emotional Anxiety or Stress
- Common Cold/Bacteria Infection
- Exposure to Hot, Cold, or Dry Weather
- And Many More

At Children's Hospital, we provided a free service in the attempt to face Asthma head-on with our Asthma Management Program Coordinator, Rita Higgins. The Asthma Care Program is available for families who experience frequent emergency room/urgent care visits or missed school/work due to Asthma; and to manage symptoms, medication knowledge, and to connect with resources on how to create action plans to keep our children safe in schools and at home.

For more information, please contact Rita Higgins at chiggins@chw.org or by phone at [\(414\) 231-4906](tel:(414)231-4906) to get the help today!



Kids deserve the best.

Summer at Moody Park [CONTINUED FROM COVER]

COA's *Burke Early Education Center* provides a safe and nurturing environment for children to learn and develop 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 130.

The COA *Family Resource Center* offers families an opportunity to participate in a full range of fun and stimulating activities including family drop in for families with children ages newborn to 6 years old. The center is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 am – 11:30 am. Please contact Alicia Morgan, FRC Coordinator, at 414-449-1757.

Teens Grow Greens will hold programming at the gardens located in COA's Selig Field and Moody Park; and they will help maintain the garden beds. They will also hold nutrition classes on Wednesdays and Saturdays for youth participants.

Summer Stars, a free evening recreation program held at North Division High School for teens ages 13-17 is available Monday through Thursday from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. Activities include sports leagues, swimming, enrich-

ment classes and workshops. Registration is required and can be done at Moody Park. Transportation is available from Auer Avenue for youth that are registered for the program. For more information about Milwaukee Recreation programs call (414) 475-8811.

Additional Summer Programs offered at Moody Park this summer, include the following:

- Social Fitness Club– Monday and Friday from 2:30 - 4 p.m. (Begins July 10, 2017 – August 4, 2017)
- Simba Soccer–Tuesdays & Thursday from 2-3:30 pm
- Stories in the Park– Wednesdays from 1 - 2 p.m. (Begins June 28, 2017)
- Shoe Decorating Event–July 18, 2017 - 10 am - 2pm FREE shoes and books for children ages 2-12!
- AWE (Artists Working in Education) Truck Studio – July 24-28, 2017
- Kohl's Wild Theatre– July 27, 2017 (1:30 p.m.) and August 21, 2017 (1:00 p.m.)
- Milwaukee County Parks Summer Concert f/ Cigarette Break– August 24, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
- Back to School /End of Summer Event– August 25, 2017

Empowering Parents One Payment at a Time

by Ashley Harrell, Center Director - Burke Early Education Center

Over the last couple of months, there has been mixed reviews on the new method of payment for child care providers from both parents and child care providers. A new payment system has eliminated the need for child care providers to request payments from the State by submitting weekly attendance. What was once known as WI Shares is now referred to as MyWICildCare Electronic Benefits Transfer Edge, also known as EBT Edge. MyWICildCare Electronic Benefits Transfer Edge payment system went into effect in Milwaukee on April 1st, 2017 and is modeled after private pay parents. The goal is to empower parents who receive child care benefits by giving them the responsibility of making payments to the child care provider of their choice on their own behalf. Parent empowerment is growing among parents and conscious decisions are being made when it comes to selecting quality early education programming. Parents are now being asked to select child care centers based off what they can afford once their EBT Edge payment has been made, which is known as their



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

parent share.

The EBT Edge payment system also promotes communication between parents and child care providers with hopes of building stronger relationships between the two. The EBT Edge payment system is still in the rough stages of implementation and will take some time for both parents and providers to get used to. With all new systems comes pros and cons, for both parents and providers. Parents have shared mixed feelings about the EBT Edge payment system, both good and bad.

Shypal Parker, a mother of two feels the new system is complicated and has put way more unnecessary responsibility on the parents. "If it's not broken, don't fix it" another parent stated as she stood in line at the receptionist desk of her child's child care to make a payment with her new EBT Edge card.

AMANI Community Happenings

July

THURSDAYS AMANI Food Pantry - Greater Little Hill Church 9:30a.m. - 11:30a.m.
7/8 1st Saturday Meeting (Dominican Center) 8:30a.m.
7/10 Amani Safety Committee Meeting (COA) 6:00p.m.
7/15 Pulling Together for Peace and Solutions 2017 (Salvation Army, 1645 N. 25th Street, Milwaukee, 53205) 10a.m.- 2 p.m.
7/18 Shoe Decorating Event — FREE shoes and books for children ages 2-12 (Moody Park) 10a.m.—2 p.m.
7/20 Friends of Moody Meeting (Park Pavilion) 4 p.m.
7/24 - 7/28 A.W.E Truck Studio (Moody Park)
7/25 Amani United Meeting (COA) 4:30p.m.

August

THURSDAYS AMANI Food Pantry - Greater Little Hill Church 9:30a.m. - 11:30a.m.
8/2 District 5 Crime and Safety Meeting (King Library) 5:00p.m.
8/5 1st Saturday Meeting (Dominican Center) 8:30a.m.
8/7 Amani Safety Committee meeting (COA) 6:00p.m.

8/17 Friends of Moody Meeting (Park Pavilion) 4p.m.
8/22 Amani United Meeting (COA) 4:30p.m.
8/24 Anniversary Concert F/Cigarette Break (Moody Park) 6:00p.m

September

THURSDAYS AMANI Food Pantry Greater Little Hill Church) 9:30a.m. - 11:30a.m.
9/2 1st Saturday Meeting (Dominican Center) 8:30a.m.
9/11 Amani Safety Committee meeting (COA) 6:00p.m.
9/21 Friends of Moody Meeting (Park Pavilion) 4p.m.
9/26 Amani United Meeting (COA) 4:30p.m.

Amani United is the *Amani neighborhood association*.

- *Meet your neighbors.*
- *Talk to your elected officials.*
- *Plan Amani events.*
- *Learn what's happening in Amani.*
- *Make Amani a better place for every resident.*
- *Attend Amani United meetings.*

Amani Means Peace

by Clifton Agee- NOVA Student Advisor

Recently a group of NOVA students were involved in an awesome activity that helped them take ownership of their neighborhood as well as bring some life and peace to it.

In February of this year, we were asked by the Dominican Center to assist them on an art piece that would brighten up and hopefully bring some peace to the neighborhood.

One of the students - Stephen Pinkston - came up with a sample of what the piece might look like. The group went to work immediately to bring the piece of art to life. During the three month period these students worked on this art, they became a family- putting all of their extra time and energy into the masterpiece. They learned teamwork, trial and error, and patience. At times it was difficult because things were not going how they wanted, but they would go back and try it again.

Marcus Jackson said, "The painting process represents respect for the community." For many of them it has been the only thing that they have started and finished. It was something to call their own and be able to share with the community around them.

On June 14th the sculpture was installed on the corner of 24th Place and Burleigh for the community to see. The community around lit up as residents and business owners in the area came out to view the sculpture. The artists spoke on how it made them feel.

One young man, Peter Griffin said "To me the project was fun. I felt calm and collected while painting."

Another young person, Carrell Quinn said that "The process was very rewarding."

The community just hopes that this sculpture is one more thing that helps bring peace to Amani this summer.

