

LOCAL

Demand Up at Food Pantries Around the Area, Donations Needed

DANE COUNTY—Some of the largest pantries in Dane County, including Middleton Outreach Ministry (MOM), say while demand is up, donations are down.

“We’ve been able to meet this rising demand to this point because of the support and generosity of people in our community,” said Ellen Carlson, Executive Director of Middleton Outreach Ministry (MOM). “With the increase in the number of people accessing our services, we need to come together now more than ever to build food security for our neighbors.”

The number of monthly visits to the food pantry at Middleton Outreach Ministry (MOM) and the amount of food distributed has increased by 116 percent since this time last year.

All area food pantries are seeing record numbers with rising demand and inflation, and that has operational leaders worried about the immediate future. The newest data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows prices in September hit another 40-year high. Rent is up by 7.2 percent, electricity prices are up 15.5 percent, health insurance is about 30 percent more expensive, and groceries are up 13 percent.

“The number of families using our food pantry has increased significantly from 2021 to 2022. We’re serving

one car per minute during a three-and-half hour span of time,” Chris Kane, Senior Director of Client Services at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul-Madison, said.

With the rising cost of food, fuel, and utilities, and with traditionally high pantry usage in the colder months, there is much concern over food availability, budget shortfalls, inadequate volunteer levels, increases in staff and volunteer workloads and stress. Given these factors, area food pantries face the possibility of not having enough total resources to respond to any future disasters, including a pandemic, financial crisis, and extreme weather events.

“Since January, over 1,300 new households throughout Dane County have registered for our services this year,” Rhonda Adams, Executive Director of The River Food Pantry, says. “As inflation continues to hit low-income households hard, we are gearing up for a very busy holiday season to meet the community’s growing need for food and household items.”

Many pantries are reporting that individuals and families are traveling longer distances to receive food and coming from not only the greater Madison area but from rural communities all throughout Dane County. St. Vincent de Paul-Madison has noticed a trend of people carpooling

from farther distances and picking up food for up to five families at a time. BPNN reports that many of the families that visit the pantry have employment or live on fixed incomes, and yet it’s not enough to cover the necessities.

“We will serve a record 35,000 individuals in 2022—up 85 percent from last year—no small feat for an entirely volunteer organization serving all of Dane County,” says Bob Kasietka, Board President of Badger Prairie Needs Network. “We stretch volunteer and funding resources so that families have enough food, and yet it’s not enough. We know our great community will step up yet again.”

Catie Badsing, Manager of Food Security Programs at the Sun Prairie Emergency Food Pantry echoes these sentiments. “October was a record-breaking month for us. As of October 21st, we’ve served more individuals and families with more visits than in all of 2020, which was previously our busiest year ever. We’ve taken the highest number of reservations for Thanksgiving baskets ever. We’re lucky to have a very generous community, but we’re concerned that with the cold months coming up we haven’t hit the ceiling yet.”

To learn more, visit mom-helps.org.



Photo Courtesy of MOM

The pantry at Middleton Outreach Ministry (MOM) has seen increased traffic and decreased donations recently, as have food pantries around the county.

Sustainability Awards Applications Open

MIDDLETON—Do you know of any individuals, businesses, or organizations in Middleton that have been making a positive difference to help make our community more sustainable?

After 81 percent of Middleton voters overwhelmingly called for climate change action, Middleton’s Common Council adopted a resolution with goals for ending community wide use of fossil fuels. To

meet these goals, a major effort is needed to promote renewable energy and to reduce energy consumption through conservation and efficiency.

To help raise awareness to meet this challenge, Middleton’s Sustainability Committee is launching a “Sustainable Middleton Awards” program. This awards program will recognize individuals, businesses, and organizations that have taken significant sustainability actions over the past year or more. Actions being considered include: Energy (renewables, efficiency, or conservation);

Land stewardship; Environmental education; Food; Transportation; Waste reduction; Water conservation and runoff reduction. These awards are also meant to inspire and motivate other residents, businesses, community groups, and nonprofits to implement similar sustainable actions.

Applications for the 2022 awards can be found at the City’s Sustainability website, www.cityofmiddleton.us/118/Sustainability. Applications are due by Jan. 31, 2023, with awards given to selected recipients in April.

MIDDLETON SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

All activities are now in person unless otherwise stated.

Middleton Senior Center

7448 Hubbard Ave., Middleton

For more information call 608-831-2373 or visit the city’s website: cityofmiddleton.us

December Activities

- Dec. 15 9 a.m. Middleton Jazz
- 10 a.m. Cribbage
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Open Cards
- 12:30 p.m. Christmas Tree Ship Program
- 12:30 p.m. Queen of Spades
- 1 p.m. Stitchers
- 1 p.m. Line Dancing
- 1 p.m. Mexican Train Dominoes
- 2 p.m. Ageless Grace
- Dec. 16 9 a.m. Strength & Flexibility
- 9 a.m. Rummikub
- 9 a.m. Scrabble
- 10 a.m. David on Piano
- 10 a.m. Social Seniors
- 10:30 a.m. Video Lecture
- 11 a.m. Dane County Library
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12 p.m. Poker
- 12:30 p.m. Open Cards
- 1 p.m. Mah Jong Jokers
- 1 p.m. Spanish Movie
- Dec. 19 9 a.m. Wood Carving
- 9 a.m. Spanish
- 9 a.m. Scrabble
- 10 a.m. Cribbage
- 10 a.m. Bakery
- 10 a.m. Mary on Piano
- 11:15 a.m. Robert on Piano
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12 p.m. Silver Divas
- 12 p.m. Pinochle
- 12:30 p.m. Open Cards
- 12:30 p.m. Bridge
- 4 p.m. Commission on the Aging
- Dec. 20 8 a.m. Newsletter Assembly
- 8:30 a.m. Foot Care by Appt.
- 9 a.m. Spanish
- 10 a.m. Forget-Me-Nots
- 10 a.m. Mah Jong Bams
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Open Cards

- 12:30 p.m. Mah Jong Dots
- 1 p.m. Chess
- 2:30 p.m. Tai Chi
- Dec. 21 9 a.m. Equipment Repair
- 9:30 a.m. Al-Anon
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Euchre
- 1 p.m. Learn Mah Jong
- 1 p.m. Spanish
- 1 p.m. Card Stamping
- Dec. 22 10 a.m. Caregiver Support Group
- 10 a.m. Cribbage
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Open Cards
- 12:30 p.m. Line Dancing
- 12:30 p.m. Queen of Spades
- 12:30 p.m. Mexican Train Dominoes
- 1 p.m. Stitchers
- 1:30 p.m. Ageless Grace
- Dec. 23 Closed
- Dec. 26 Closed
- Dec. 27 9 a.m.-12 p.m. eReader Appts.
- 10 a.m. Mah Jong Bams
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Open Cards
- 12:30 p.m. Mah Jong Dots
- 1 p.m. Chess
- 1 p.m. Genealogy
- Dec. 28 9:30 a.m. Al-Anon
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Euchre
- 1 p.m. Foot Care Appts.
- 1 p.m. Spanish
- 1 p.m. Learn Mah Jong
- Dec. 29 10 a.m. Cribbage
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Open Cards
- 12:30 p.m. Queen of Spades
- 12:30 p.m. Mexican Train Dominoes
- 1 p.m. Stitchers
- Dec. 30 Closed





Mitchell Steinhoff
Insurance Agent

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ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

2023 MIDDLETON ASPHALT PUMP TRACK CONSTRUCTION
QUEST PROJECT #8352296
CITY OF MIDDLETON, WI

The City of Middleton will receive Bids in electronic format only through QuestCDN.com (Quest project #8352296), for Asphalt Pump Track Construction until 12:00 PM (noon) January 10, 2023 at which time bids will be publicly opened in City Hall and read aloud. Bid opening will also be available remotely at Zoom Meeting ID: 701 824 9066 with Passcode: 132661.

The work includes the construction of a world class asphalt pump track as detailed in the construction documents. The pump track shall seamlessly integrate with adjacent site infrastructure and improvements and contribute to the overall quality of the sports complex.

Digital Bidding Documents are available at the City of Middleton web site (www.cityofmiddleton.us) or through the Quest Construction Data Network (www.questcdn.com). You may view the Bid Documents at no cost. To become a planholder and eligible to submit a bid, you must download the digital Bid Documents from QuestCDN at a cost of \$30.00. Only planholders will receive addenda and other bidding updates through QuestCDN. Please contact Quest at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information. The online bid form is also accessed through the QuestCDN website.

The City of Middleton reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive any technicality, and to accept any Bid which it deems advantageous. All Bids shall remain subject to acceptance for 85 days after the time set for receiving Bids (consisting of up to: 60 days for issuance of Notice of Award; 15 days for Contractor to return signed agreements, bonds and insurance; and 10 days for City execution of agreement).

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