

Running Rebels Community Times

Running Rebels Community Organization

Volume 13

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NAACP Convention

Milwaukee is proud to be hosting the NAACP National Convention on July 9th, 2005. It is wonderful for Milwaukee to be a part of such an important event and to be recognized as a city deserving of such an honor.

We hope that the plans for the preparation of this event include the input of some of our local, grass-roots organizations. It would definitely be beneficial for the event to have the perspectives of those agencies that are on the front lines everyday assisting the youth and families of our community with improving the social conditions that affect all of us.

City Hall Tour

Recently, Mayor Tom Barrett welcomed youth from the Running Rebels Community Organization at City Hall. The youth took a tour of the facility and were surprised that they were able to have access to such a professional place. Thank you Mayor Barrett for taking the time to visit with our youth. It was an experience that they will always remember.

If your business or organization has job opportunities or would like to advertise in our newsletter, please contact Natasha at (414) 264-8222, or Natasha@runningrebels.org.

Stop the Violence!

In the wake of the recent wave of homicides and violent crimes committed in Milwaukee, we are hearing more and more about new initiatives and creative ideas on how to stop the violence. As we listen to various politicians and community leaders lay out their plans, one question seems to come to mind- Is this really going to make a difference?

I don't believe that any one initiative or plan will work by itself. The only way for us to reverse the cycle of violence and negativity in Milwaukee is for all the various community organizations, faith-based organizations, politicians, community leaders and citizens to come together, learn about the positive efforts that we all are making, and talk about how we can support one another. We all have different resources, strengths and gifts to offer at this crucial time of need. There are individuals and agencies that are on the front lines doing what they do best with very limited resources. Imagine the impact we might have if we join our talents and resources to form a strong, unified front. Not against each other, but side-by-side against the real enemies - violence, poverty, crime, unemployment and social injustice. Can this happen? Let's put aside our egos and differences, listen to each other, learn from one another, and we'll see. Let's work together! Is there really any other option?

Running Rebels Sports Challenge

The Running Rebels Community Organization would like to present an official challenge to any school, community organization, agency or business who feels they can "hang" with us in softball, flag football, or basketball. We are looking to put together informal games with the purpose of bringing unity back into the community. Teams will have the opportunity to come out and have a safe, enjoyable time while bonding and networking with others in the community. At the same time, individuals will get a chance to show their skills.

Warning: Our organization employs some very good (actually excellent) athletes.

All interested parties can contact Victor Barnett @ (414) 264-8222.



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Youth Activities

The Garden Project

By: Derrick Shoates



Ding! Ding! Ding! It's time for round 4 of the Running Rebels yearly "Garden Project". The Garden Project started in the spring of 2002 and has now grown into one of the most colorful youth projects in the city of Milwaukee. The Running Rebels and UW-Extension started it 3 years ago by taking youth out to the garden and teaching them things about agriculture that they might not have learned in school, then bringing them back afterwards to start a fun learning activity.

On June 4th, 2005, the opening ceremony of this year's garden was held. With over 50 people in attendance, many organizations came and spoke about their involvement and plans for the garden. On Saturday, we planted plants like greens, tomatoes, and other vegetables. There was even a performance by OKI and Yung Legend from Rebel Life Entertainment, where they performed their original garden song that they wrote. As an organization, we look forward to having a fun and productive season at Alice's Garden.

Summertime Activities

Unity Picnic

Nehemiah project, Inc, has organized an event that encourages people of all ages, races, and backgrounds to come together for a day filled with excitement. The 3rd Annual Unity Picnic will be held Saturday, June 18th, 2005 at Tiefenthaler Park from 2:00pm-5:00pm. There will be multicultural food samples, games, live music and dancing, and much more!

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The Running Rebels Community Organization has set up a collaborative program with the Midwest Youth United Farm (MYU Farm), based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The MYU Farm will initially offer youth and their families in the Milwaukee area the opportunity to be involved in equine education, care/maintenance, horsemanship, & riding programs.

www.MYUFarm.homestead.com

The MYU Farm will also offer a 4-H Club and Club activities. The *Running Rebels 4-H Club* will begin with an emphasis on the Running Rebel Riders, the equine/riding program, but will offer programs and exposure to all 4-H Club projects. The Running Rebel Riders 4-H Club can be seen by accessing the MYU Farm website Programs or by going to the Programs on www.RunningRebels.org and linking to the MYU Farm.

For more information, please log onto the websites and sign the guestbook while you're there! Or, feel free to contact Diane Drinkard, MYU Farm Director or Jody Converse, MYU Farm Assistant Director at the following email address: MYUFarm@yahoo.com