



**Sections**

**News**

- Awards
- Columnists
- Community
- Editorials
- Letters To The Editor
- Local News
- Obituaries
- Political Eye

**Entertainment**

- Calendar
- Horoscopes
- Hot Sheet
- Living It
- Partyline
- Soapnet.com

**Business**

- Business Briefs
- Local Business
- People On The Move
- Personal Finance
- Business Directory

**Sports**

- Local Sports
- Sports Eye
- Sports Quiz
- This Week's Sports Pics

**Salute to Excellence**

- Business
- Education
- Healthcare

**Religion**

- Local Religion
- Church Directory

**Career Center**

- Automotive News
- Bids And Public Notices
- Classified Ads
- Display Ads
- Employment Columnists
- Employment News
- Jobs

## Local News

### Wellston on the move - after school

Wednesday, February 1, 2006 6:55 PM CST

Rebounding district partners with community to host new programs

By Meliqueica Meadows

Of the St. Louis American

The Wellston community is coming together to offer a unique blend of activities for the new after-school program in the district beginning this month. Students and their parents will be able to take part in classes teaching everything from leadership development to aerobics. All this activity is part of the effort to improve academic achievement in the district.

"We need to have a place for school to begin in the evening. This is a wonderful community with a lot of hardworking, dedicated and committed individuals," Wellston School District Superintendent Charles Brown said about the new program.

Brown put the call out to those dedicated community members, and they offered their expertise to encourage academic achievement. **Gerald Higginbotham of Unity for a Better Community will provide leadership training to families in the area.** Larry Clark, program manager for the North St. Louis Arts Council, has created a photography class for students.

"Seven years ago we designed a program for photographers, where they could teach children in St. Louis Public Schools photography. Then we go out in the hood and photograph what happens," Clark said.

"We're going to take a version of that same program and do it in Wellston, and we're going to call it 'Picture Wellston.' Through the photography program we have to talk about literacy, because they go hand in hand. You don't find a picture in the newspaper without a caption."

Former boxer Anthony Willis will teach area kids about the sport he loves. There are also plans underway to bring the Boy and Girl Scouts programs to Wellston, as well as after-school sports including volleyball, softball and baseball.

"We have some dynamic leaders in this community, and with their help Wellston can and will once again be that shining star in the area," John Jackson, program director of the Wellston after-school program, said.



Wellston School District Superintendent Dr. Charles Brown put the call out to those dedicated community members, and they offered their expertise to encourage academic achievement.

## Job Highlights

- REGIONAL YOUTH SERVICES SPECIALIST
- DIVERSITY DIRECTOR, 06-
- PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST II
- COMMUNITY ORGANIZER
- ATTORNEY

## Partyline Gallery



[Click here to view Partyline Gallery photos, past and present.](#)

## Display Ads

[More Display A](#)

## Salute to Excellence

**Special Sections**

- [View Directory](#)
- [Salute to Business](#)

**Online Poll**

Students seem excited. Eskridge High sophomore Dwight Harkless touted his district's efforts to improve academic achievement.

"Wellston has some of the most intelligent kids in the area. We just have to dig deep and pull it out," Harkless said.

"Among all the students at Eskridge High, there is lots of determination and hard work being done. We are moving and on the move," Eskridge High sophomore Kameal Parks said.

Madeline Long-Gill is working with the district on some of their new after-school and community initiatives.

"We're on the move to make history and to set the standard in the country. We're excited about this after-school program, and without the partners this wouldn't have happened," Long-Gill said.

"Everything that we do in the Wellston community is targeted around supporting academic achievement. That's the focus during the day, and it's tied directly to what we will do in after-school programs," said Joyce Roberts, chief academic/operating officer of the Wellston School District.

"We're focusing on literacy, leadership, and the math, science and social studies - all the key things that boys and girls learn during the day is applicable in the after-school programming. We are on the move, and this mission is possible."

Brown said that Wellston community members continue to come forward, offering to teach chess, twirling and backgammon to students during the after-school program. He said the entire community must pull together to ensure the academic success of the students.

"We want our children to see school as home. The after-school program is going to be an integral part of our educational program, because there has to be a link between what happens in the morning and what happens in the evening for students," Brown said.

"It's about having a sense of community all day long."

 [printable version](#)      [comment on this story](#)       [e-mail this story](#)

Copyright © 2006 The St. Louis American

[Contact Us](#)   [Jobs with Us](#)   [FAQ](#)   [Terms of Service](#)   [Privacy Policy](#)   [Guestbook](#)

Would you like to send us an editorial letter or make a comment?  
Please email us at [letters@stlamerican.com](mailto:letters@stlamerican.com)



Salute to Excellence in Education



Salute to Excellence in Business



Salute to Excellence in Health

**Photojournalism**



Click to view exclusive photos of our award-winning photojournalist W. Price.

