



The Vilas Neighborhood Association's purposes are enhancement of the neighborhood's residential character and attributes, and the promotion of camaraderie among the neighborhood's residents.  
(Article 2, Neighborhood Association by laws)

# VILASink

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All issues of the newsletter can be seen at: <https://www.vilasneighborhood.com/vilasink>

## President's Message *by Sarah Babauddin, VNA President*

This August, my family and I had the privilege of taking an epic road trip – over 4000 miles – to experience the great outdoors of Idaho. We had a lot of time in the car (with only a few fights between the kids in the backseat) to see the beautiful landscape of our country: green fields turning to golden wheat, the sage lands of southern Idaho, and finally the towering Rocky Mountains. We spent days hiking, camping, and soaking in the mountain air. While it only happens for me a few days out of a year to be without a device, it was glorious to be away from what seems to be a relentless stream of bad news about Covid-19 and its variants, climate disasters, and global crises. Seeing the landscape change back to the green trees and fields of Minnesota and Wisconsin as we drove back, I felt a strong sense of returning home— which was reinforced by arriving down Jefferson Street while the annual Vilas Summer Block Party was taking place the evening we got back. It was a happy sight to see all of you, neighbors safely gathering after such a long time of cancelled parties and get togethers.

Now, I am ready to get back to work for the neighborhood! This fall the VNA will be working on issues like what will happen with the old HotelRed, reviewing the Vilas survey results, and updating the VNA bylaws, as well as continuing

with the fun stuff – upcoming social events like the VNA Book Club and the Vilas Halloween Party. I am also looking forward to the District 13 Good Neighbor Gathering that will happen on September 25th at Brittingham Park. It will be great to see neighbors from the larger community including Dudgeon-Monroe, Greenbush, Bayview, The Triangle, Bay Creek, Monona Bay and of course, Vilas!

Fall is the time to start thinking about joining the VNA council! Every year the neighborhood elects 4 out of the 8 council members to serve for two years on the council. From my experience, it is a fantastic way to work for our community in a super local way – not to mention all the thoughtful neighbors I have met along the way! I truly recommend to anyone who lives in and loves our beautiful Vilas Neighborhood to consider running for a spot on the council this November. Look for more information on the nomination and election process later this fall.

In the meantime, I hope to see you out in the neighborhood and at a future Vilas Neighborhood Association meeting. ♦



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**Submission information for articles and advertising**

Vilas, Ink, with its circulation of 700 plus, is published quarterly for all residents of the Vilas Neighborhood. We welcome submissions, in particular letters, discussions of local issues, or services that might be of neighborhood interest. Deadline for the next issue is Nov 19, 2021. Please contact Pat for advertising availability. E-mail: pschecke@yahoo.com. Standard ad cost for 2020 is \$35 per issue or \$125 annually. The standard ad size is 2 1/4" x 3". We offer a double ad size when space permits at 3" x 4 1/2" at \$65 per issue or \$250 annually. (Ad size subject to change)

**Madison Good Neighbor Gathering**

Sep 25, 2021 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM  
Brittingham Park 829 W. Washington Ave

In honor of National Good Neighbor Day, the neighborhoods of Madison's 13th Aldermanic District (Bay Creek, Monona Bay, The Triangle, Bayview, Greenbush, Vilas, and Dudgeon-Monroe) are organizing the 2nd annual Madison Good Neighbor Gathering for the entire city to enjoy.

Please join us on Saturday, September 25th from 12noon to 5PM at Brittingham Park.

A DJ will be on hand to spin tunes and Madison's Panchromatic will provide a live steel drum performance. There will be fun and engaging activities for all ages, including an inflatable slide, art activities with the Monroe Street Arts Center, the Fit2Go Van, performances by the Madison West Poms Team with a special visit from guest mascot Reggie the Regent--and more!

This is a free, safe, outdoor, alcohol-free, all ages, family-friendly event. We strongly encourage masking--especially kids--and hope to be able to offer a free vaccine clinic on site. More information at DMNA.ORG/GNG2021

Questions?: please contact EITHER Tag Evers email at [district13@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district13@cityofmadison.com) OR Dana Scheckel at [dana.scheckel@gmail.com](mailto:dana.scheckel@gmail.com) ♦

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GATHERING



## **Gear Up for Dane County's Ever-Growing Network of Bike Trails**

*By Dane County Executive Joe Parisi*

Dane County is proud to have a vast network of bike trails that serve daily commuters, pedestrians, and recreation cyclists throughout the county. In fact, it's estimated that the Capital City Trail and Lower Yahara River Trail support more than 150,000 trips a year. Biking is good for our health, for our environment, and for our communities.

For ten years now, Dane County has provided matching grants to municipalities and non-profits for the development of regional bicycle trail facilities through our PARC & Ride Grant Program. Over \$3 million has gone to more than 30 different bicycle trail projects. A few examples include the Upper Yahara River Trail in Deforest, Wolf Run Trail in Mazomanie, Phase 1 of the Oregon to Badger State Trail near Oregon, and Phase 1 of the CamRock County Park to Glacial Drumlin State Trail.

It's exciting to have communities come forward with plans to strengthen Dane County's network of bike trails. These projects enhance our quality of life and heighten the overall experience visitors and residents can have while enjoying the outdoors.

Planning is underway for several other major bicycle trail projects as well, including a segment of the North Mendota Trail around the north shore of Lake Mendota through Governor Nelson State Park, Phase 2 of the Lower Yahara River Trail, and the Capital City Trail connection to the Glacial Drumlin State Trail. A nearly milelong section of trail at Anderson Farm County Park will also finish soon and connect the park with the Village of Oregon. When complete, all of these projects will provide Madison area residents with outstanding recreation and non-motorized transportation options throughout Dane County.

Dane County continues to be a leader in the planning and development of its regional bicycle trail network, providing safe off-road connections for riders of all ages to a variety of parks and other trails. Biking is a big part of our quality of life and a way for people to get out and enjoy our lakes and countryside. I encourage you to explore them this summer and beyond! ♦



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## Jewel in Madison's Crown: Our Park & Pleasure Drive

By Shawn Schey

Bordering the shoreline of Lake Wingra, between Edgewood Avenue and Woodrow Street, is a rustic road called the Park & Pleasure Drive. It used to be part of a commuter's shortcut to Vilas Zoo, Park Street and Edgewood College.

With Alder Ken Golden's guidance throughout the 1990's, a neighborhood group called The Friends of the Park & Pleasure Drive convinced the City Parks Commission that it should be treated as a "linear park"—not a street. There were 700 pedestrians using it in the summertime per day, and the mixture of traffic and peds had become dangerous!

The Friends garnered support from a majority of residents on the adjoining streets, and from the following groups to bolster their case: the Dudgeon-Monroe, Vilas, Regent and Greenbush neighborhood associations; the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin; Bicycle Transportation Alliance of Dane

County; UW-Madison Arboretum; Historical Madison; the Edgewood-Neighborhood Liaison Committee, and the Friends of Lake Wingra.

After 16 years (yep! 16!) of surveys, negotiations, debates, hearings, petitions and conversations, the hammerhead at the west end was constructed in the fall of 2006.

A tally conducted throughout this summer (2021) revealed just how essential this linear park has become—not just for Vilas residents—but the citizenry at-large. As the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 raged, there was an uptick in pedestrian visitors to this linear park, some of which parked their cars on adjoining streets, then unloaded tricycles and children for a trek of solace beneath the trees.

While there were over 700 users per summer day in 2002 prior to the elimination of car traffic, today there are now over 1200! These include

leisurely and "power" walkers; joggers (with dogs, and with baby-strollers); bicyclists; bicyclists with leashed dogs; roller skiers and in-line skaters; dog-walkers; parents pulling wagons of toddlers; children on scooters; teens on skateboards; elderly in wheelchairs, and couples carrying canoes.

If you haven't visited the drive yet this year, be sure to check it out while it's wearing its lushest late-summer best. ♦

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## Monroe Street Merchants

The Monroe Street Merchants Association is holding the 43rd annual Monroe Street Festival on Saturday, September 25.

Many of the traditional favorite activities will return, including street sales, activities for kids, Grab and Go food specialties, live entertainment and a book sale at the Monroe Street Library.

The entertainment will range from David Landau, children's entertainer, to the Breckenridge School of Scottish Highland Dance, to Mad City Funk.

This year's Festival will also include a special exhibit of photos of the LEGO models of the buildings on the west end of Monroe Street by landscape architect Aaron Williams, and the painting of a new mural sponsored by the Monroe Street Anti-Racist Project.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Sunne**, a new women's clothing boutique on Monroe Street - right next door to Colectivo.

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Do you follow Monroe Street Madison on Facebook and Instagram? Please tag us (@monroestreetmadison) in your Monroe Street adventures and use #monroestreetmadison. Check out our website for more information about events, businesses, and more: [www.monroestreetmadison.com](http://www.monroestreetmadison.com). ♦



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## News from the Monroe Street Library

**Monroe Street Library**  
266-6390

### **New hours**

After Labor Day Monroe Street Library will be open these three days:

Tuesday 10 - 6

Friday 10 - 6

Saturday 9 - 5

While other Madison Public Library locations will return to full service hours, budget cuts mean reduced hours at the Alicia Ashman, Central, Pinney and Sequoia libraries in addition to Monroe Street's, and the addition of Sunday hours to Goodman South Madison and Lakeview Libraries.

### **Book sale**

The Monroe Street Library League will hold a book sale Sat., Sept. 25 9:30 - 4 p.m. in conjunction with Monroe Street Days. Pick up gently used books and other treasures. Much of the inventory will be outside if weather allows.

We are always happy to receive your donations of gently used books, CDs, and DVDs.

### **Expired library cards?**

Library accounts expire every four years to ensure we have your contact info.

If your card expires you can log in and renew your checkouts, but you won't be able to place holds or use Libby/Overdrive until your card is renewed.

When libraries closed for in-person service, expiration dates were extended. Now that we have reopened, we'll be updating patron records for the rest of the year. The quickest and easiest way to renew your card is to come in with your card and a photo ID. Proof of address is not needed if the card has been expired for less than six months.

### **Go Big Read**

Each year the library partners with UW-Madison to extend its popular Go Big Read program into the broader community. This year's book selection is *Transcendent Kingdom*, fiction by Yaa Gyasi. Gifty is a PhD candidate in neuroscience studying reward-seeking behavior and the neural circuits of depression and addiction. Her brother was a gifted high school athlete who died after an injury left him hooked on OxyContin. Gifty is determined to discover the scientific basis for the suffering she sees all around her. Yet as she turns to the hard sciences she finds herself hungering for her childhood faith. It's a smart, moving portrait of Ghanaian immigrants in a novel about faith, science, religion, and love.

All locations except Monroe Street Library will hold in-person book discussions. An online discussion will take place Tues., Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. See <https://www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/go-big-read> for more info. ♦

## Innovative Products to Help You Save Energy.

*From Madison Gas and Electric Company (MGE)*

### Save Time and Energy—Smart Thermostats and Plugs Offer Simple Energy-Saving Solutions for Your Household

Fall is just around the corner. For many, that means busier calendars as we bid goodbye to long summer days and the slow pace of summer. While saving energy may not be top of mind, MGE has simple tips that can help set your household up to save time and energy all year long.

#### Consider Upgrading to a Smart Thermostat

These internet-connected thermostats automatically adjust your household's heating and cooling systems, lowering the temperature when you're away in the winter or raising it in the summer. Like other smart devices, smart thermostats can be controlled remotely and automatically adjust to your household routine.

#### Smart Plugs

Did the kids turn off the TV? Did we leave the lamp on? Investing in smart plugs, or smart outlets, can help you remotely control almost anything from electronics to lamps with a smartphone. They are available in a variety of styles and prices online and in local stores.

#### Save with FOCUS ON ENERGY®

Our energy efficiency partner, Focus on Energy, offers an incentive on smart thermostats for eligible MGE customers. Focus on Energy also offers free energy-saving kits, which include items like smart power strips that can cut off power to electronics when they are not in use. To learn more, visit [focusonenergy.com/smart](http://focusonenergy.com/smart).

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## A Message from Alder Tag Evers

Ever since I was elected as your alder, I've focused a great deal of attention on two key projects -- the Truman Olson project on South Park and Bayview's redevelopment project on the Triangle.

In July, I learned that Luna's Groceries, the grocery store selected to replace the aging Pick 'n Save, was not able to come up with their financing. Consequently, the entire project was at risk, including the grocery store and the 150 units of much-needed permanent affordable housing.

Working with city staff, we devised a plan for the City to purchase the 24,000 square foot condominium unit, the shell within which the grocery store would be built, an expenditure requiring a \$4.7 million budget amendment.

Food access in South Madison is an equity issue. It's important to note we have made investments to secure food access in wealthier areas of the City. For example, the Monroe Commons development housing Trader Joe's benefited from tax-incremental financing (TIF), a public investment considered necessary to make the project work.

Access to healthy food is a public good, and when the market is unable to deliver, it's an appropriate role for government to bridge the gap. By making this purchase, the Truman Olson project moves forward, with construction to start this fall.

Meanwhile, Kroger's, the owner of Pick 'n Save, has indicated a willingness to work with the City to avoid a grocery gap, our number one goal from day one.

While the Truman Olson project has experienced frustrating delays, the Bayview redevelopment has started construction of the first building at the corner of Regent St and West Washington. The official groundbreaking ceremony took place on August 18. This is very exciting news and I look forward to watching this project unfold.

Both Truman Olson and Bayview are of paramount importance. We have a duty to look out for each other, particularly those less fortunate. I'm grateful to have received positive feedback from many of you regarding these two projects.

The Lake Wingra Heritage Plan working group continues to meet as we focus on ways we can protect and enhance the jewel that is Lake Wingra. In August, we met with Mark Cupp from the Lower Wisconsin Riverway to learn about how a similarly treasured natural resource received legal status for aesthetic preservation.

The numbers from the Census confirmed we are growing city. If we are going to deal responsibly with climate change and traffic congestion, we have little choice but to grow up rather than sprawl out. However, that process of adding density and infill must be managed in the context of our greenspaces, our parks and our lakes. That's why I've been pushing city staff to update our lighting ordinance, so that the viewshed around Lake Wingra, for example, is not negatively impacted.

If you have any questions, you can reach me at [district13@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district13@cityofmadison.com).

Take care and stay safe.

Tag ♦



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## **VNA Social Scene**

*By Bethany Nelson, VNA Social Chair*

As we welcome warmer weather after our 'February deep freeze', we can't help but notice the extreme shifts in temperature an Hello! For those of you I haven't met yet, I'm Bethany Nelson, the new Vilas Neighborhood Association Social Chair. I have lived in the neighborhood for (almost) eight years and am looking forward to finding ways to help engage with all of you and bring us together.

The neighborhood recently hosted a very successful summer party filled with food, fun, face painting, and bubbles, and I really appreciated meeting many of you for the first time as well as reconnecting with familiar faces. I hope everyone who attended found that time out in the world after such a difficult year+ to be a positive experience. A special thanks to our treasurer, Pat Scheckel, for taking the lead on putting it all together.

As of printing, the Back to School treat table will also have happened on September 3rd where we hope to have connected with current, future, and former students during the back to school season. As I have no time machine, I will assume that fun was had by all!

Here's some upcoming events to watch for:

### **VNA Book Club**

Do you love to read? Or maybe just love to chat with neighbors about interesting books?

Then consider joining the VNA Book Club. We meet every other month virtually, and hope to do so in person very soon. Books are chosen through voting, and while we have 2021's choices ready to go, we will soon be thinking ahead to 2022 so your favorites can be on tap.

Our upcoming reads are:

*October-Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell, A fictional accounting of the events surrounding Shakespeare's son and the writing of Hamlet.

*December-Finding Mother Tree* by Suzanne Simard, A non-fiction book that is both memoir and scientific literature that talks about the ecosystem of trees and the interconnected world they form.

Reminders will be sent on the list or please feel free to email me to join!

### **Good Neighbor Gathering**

The Good Neighbor Gathering will take place on Saturday, September 25th, 12-5pm in Brittingham Park. This event is coordinated amongst several different neighborhoods and is a family friendly gathering with music, food trucks, and activities.

Please watch the listserv for more details.

### **Halloween on the Horizon**

Ghouls, ghost, and goblins will be descending on our neighborhood on October 31st so grab your costume and get ready!

We will once again plan a trick or treating time and provide a map of treat stops for all interested parties to make navigation more straight forward. We also hope to have jack- o-lantern and decorating contests and a few other surprises.

Stay tuned for more details.

### **Neighborhood walks**

We're looking for volunteers to host neighborhood walks where they take residents on short tours through our amazing space and cover whatever topics they are well versed on, including history, plant life, architecture, or whatever other theme may strike them. Please contact me if interested in leading a walk and I will work with you to make it happen.

Do you have an idea for a social event or want to volunteer to help host?

Please let me know as I'd love to hear your ideas and see what we can do to make it happen!

To participate or provide feedback, please email [socialchairvilas@gmail.com](mailto:socialchairvilas@gmail.com) ◆

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**Did you know you can pay your VNA dues via PayPal?**

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## JOIN THE DISCUSSION

The VNA sponsors an online listserv for our members:

<https://groups.io/g/VilasNA>

The neighborhood email list has moved but is still very much alive. You can ask to join by sending an email to: [VilasNA+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:VilasNA+subscribe@groups.io). Please identify yourself by name and address to facilitate this process, since this listserv is primarily for those who live within the VNA boundaries.

**Renew & Join for 2021!** Annual Membership runs from January 1 - December 31 - - - - -

## VNA Membership Form

Membership dues are \$20/household or \$10/individuals.

- I wish to renew my VNA membership (It is not necessary to fill out the form unless there are changes)
- I / we would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the VNA
- Add my name as a new VNA member (Please fill out the following)

**Names** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Children's name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home email address(es)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Year moved into VNA area** \_\_\_\_\_

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