



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 Bahauddin, VNA President

Fall is upon us once again and another election cycle is right around the corner. It will be an interesting year on the national and state levels but don't forget about our very own Vilas Neighborhood! The Vilas Neighborhood Association Council is made up of eight elected members who hold these positions for two years. Elections are held every year for four of the members. This year, the election will be held in November. With that in mind, it is time to start thinking candidates for the 2023-2025 council. All neighbors should consider running for a spot on the council. This could be your chance to make a difference on a real local level.

Like me when I first moved here, you may be wondering: "what does the VNA Council even do?" My answer now that I have been on the council almost four years is: "a lot!" On the fun side, the council along with our social chair and neighbors plan social events to bring neighbors together and build community. On the serious side, the council takes on issues that arise from the city like zoning, alcohol licenses for neighboring businesses, and park planning. The city often takes in neighborhood association input during planning processes and for their final decisions. But that's not all! We also help facilitate communication with our neighbors like UW, Camp Randall, Edgewood, Vilas Zoo, other neighborhood

associations, businesses, and the Madison Police Department. I'd love to see representation from all corners of our neighborhood, all ages represented, renters, and homeowners all taking part in our council.

Being on the council means working with a great group of neighbors who all care about our neighborhood and the people in it. I've met lots of nice folks and I have learned a lot about how the city works. I encourage any neighbor living in Vilas to consider running for a position on the council and make a difference in our special place! Look for announcements about the upcoming election and how to declare your candidacy in the coming months. Feel free to contact me at vnapresident@gmail.com with any questions and come to a future VNA council meeting to learn more about what we do! ♦



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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 November 18, 2022. 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)

Tips to save Energy from MG&E

Heating and cooling are the largest energy users in our homes. By making smart choices and practicing simple tips, you can manage your energy use and costs.

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Easy Ways to Save Energy

- Set your thermostat for one temperature when you're home and another when you're away to maximize energy savings. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the less energy you'll use.
- If you haven't already, consider installing a programmable or smart thermostat. Smart thermostats can be controlled remotely, learn your preferred settings and automatically schedule temperature changes. Eligible MGE customers can take advantage of a \$50 cash-back incentive from FOCUS ON ENERGY® for purchasing a qualified ENERGY STAR® smart thermostat. Get more details at focusonenergy.com/smart.
- Lock up. Don't just shut your windows, lock them as well. This step can be overlooked but is important. The locking mechanism activates a seal that helps to keep the air you cooled inside your home.
- Keep your water heater temperature set at 120 degrees Fahrenheit and use cold water to wash clothes. Also, remember to run your washer on full loads! If you go on vacation, switch your water heater to vacation mode.

There's a lot to understand about controlling heating and cooling in your home. MGE is available to provide tips and answer your questions about saving energy and money. Contact MGE's energy experts by email at AskExperts@mge.com or by calling (608) 252-7117 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Dane County Government Stands Ready for Tough Economic Times

By Dane County Executive Joe Parisi

County government is heavily reliant on revenues directly related to the health of the economy. When the economy is doing well, we are better able to enhance services, create new programs, provide wage increases, and support non-profits. As we begin work on the 2023 Dane County budget, families across the country are paying record high prices for fuel and groceries, some local employers have announced layoffs, and economists are projecting a possible recession.

When I was first elected County Executive in 2011, the nation was in the midst of the Great Recession. County government had fully depleted its reserves or “rainy day” fund. Departments brought forward scenarios to reduce spending. We faced many difficult choices on the best means of maintaining county services while minimizing the impacts of reductions.

Today, we have greater means to insulate against a downturn due to deliberate budget decisions on right-sizing expenditure and revenue lines. We forged partnerships, built revenue generating enterprise, and bolstered public services in a way that has allowed our “rainy day” fund to re-grow. It sits at its highest level ever—around \$60 million. While that’s leaps and bounds better than a decade ago, a substantial economic emergency would place the county back on the precipice of severe financial difficulty.

It’s important that investments made during good economic times can be sustained through the rockier budget waters ahead. Cuts similar to what we made in the midst of the recession a decade ago would no doubt stunt important gains we’ve made in treating mental health, caring for our most vulnerable, addressing climate change, enhancing conservation, and cleaning our lakes.

Our goals for this budget are clear. Protect the comprehensive system of service delivery we’ve built. Sustain core public services. Prevent layoffs. And make sure our “rainy day” fund is ready for the “rain” economists say is nearing. I’m confident we will craft a 2023 budget that protects the vital work and services county government provides our community, while ensuring the safety net we’ve worked so hard over the years to rebuild can weather whatever the looming economic downturn may bring. ♦



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Autumn

A Poem by James Whitcomb Riley (1849-1916)

As a harvester, at dusk,
Faring down some woody trail
Leading homeward through the musk
Of may-apple and pawpaw,
Hazel-bush, and spice and haw,--
So comes Autumn, swart and hale,
Drooped of frame and slow of stride.
But withal an air of pride
Looming up in stature far
Higher than his shoulders are;
Weary both in arm and limb,
Yet the wholesome heart of him
Sheer at rest and satisfied.

Greet him as with glee of drums
And glad cymbals, as he comes!
Robe him fair, O Rain and Shine.
He the Emperor--the King--
Royal lord of everything
Sagging Plenty's granary floors
And out-bulging all her doors;
He the god of corn and wine,
Honey, milk, and fruit and oil--
Lord of feast, as lord of toil--
Jocund host of yours and mine!

Ho! the revel of his laugh!--
Half is sound of winds, and half
Roar of ruddy blazes drawn
Up the throats of chimneys wide,
Circling which, from side to side,
Faces--lit as by the Dawn,
With her highest tintings on
Tip of nose, and cheek, and chin--
Smile at some old fairy-tale
Of enchanted lovers, in
Silken gown and coat of mail,
With a retinue of elves
Merry as their very selves,
Trooping ever, hand in hand,
Down the dales of Wonderland.

Then the glory of his song!--
Lifting up his dreamy eyes--
Singing haze across the skies;
Singing clouds that trail along
Towering tops of trees that seize

Tufts of them to stanch the breeze;
Singing slanted strands of rain
In between the sky and earth,
For the lyre to mate the mirth
And the might of his refrain:
Singing southward-flying birds
Down to us, and afterwards
Singing them to flight again;
Singing blushes to the cheeks
Of the leaves upon the trees--
Singing on and changing these
Into pallor, slowly wrought,
Till the little, moaning creeks
Bear them to their last farewell,
As Elaine, the lovable,
Was borne down to Lancelot.--
Singing drip of tears, and then
Drying them with smiles again.

Singing apple, peach and grape,
Into roundest, plumpest shape,
Rosy ripeness to the face
Of the pippin; and the grace
Of the dainty stamin-tip
To the huge bulk of the pear,
Pendant in the green caress
Of the leaves, and glowing through
With the tawny laziness
Of the gold that Ophir knew,--
Haply, too, within its rind
Such a cleft as bees may find,
Bungling on it half aware.
And wherein to see them sip
Fancy lifts an oozy lip,
And the singer's falter there.

Sweet as swallows swimming through
Eddyings of dusk and dew,
Singing happy scenes of home
Back to sight of eager eyes
That have longed for them to come,
Till their coming is surprise
Uttered only by the rush
Of quick tears and prayerful hush;
Singing on, in clearer key,
Hearty palms of you and me
Into grasps that tingle still

Rapturous, and ever will!
Singing twank and twang of strings--
Trill of flute and clarinet
In a melody that rings
Like the tunes we used to play,
And our dreams are playing yet!
Singing lovers, long astray,
Each to each, and, sweeter things--
Singing in their marriage-day,
And a banquet holding all
These delights for festival. ◆



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Monroe Street Festival!

Monroe Street Festival is Saturday, September 24th!

The Monroe Street Festival is a cherished annual tradition celebrating our many locally owned businesses and our surrounding residential neighborhoods. The purpose of the Festival is to promote and sustain new and existing businesses, enhance the positive and vibrant image of Monroe Street, and attract visitors from all over to our lively sliver of the city. The celebration features a range of activities to bring the community together including sidewalk sales, grab and go food specials, outdoor entertainment, children's activities, and so much more. ♦



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Monroe Street Library News

What's happening at your neighborhood library?

Book sale Sat., Sept. 24, 9:30 - 4. In conjunction with the Monroe Street Festival, the Monroe Street Library League will host a book sale with great bargains on gently used books, CDs and DVDs. We are grateful to accept your donations all year long! (We cannot accept magazines, encyclopedias or textbooks.)

Once-a-month **Saturday Art**

Workshops for kids, led by artist/educator Madison Weist, continue this fall. Madison will provide ideas and supplies for a different project each session. Join us Sept. 10, Oct. 15, Nov. 12, and Dec. 10 from 3-4:30. All ages are welcome. Kids under age 7, please bring an adult.

Storytimes for kids ages 5 and under take place Tuesday mornings at 10:30. Books, songs and play help kids to develop communication skills, patience, empathy, and pre-reading skills. Sibs and childcare groups are welcome. No need to register for library programs. All are drop-in, and free of charge.

Did you know we have a script collection? APT and Forward current and past productions, Pulitzers, and Tony winners.

Thank you, Monroe Street Library League, for our new board book display/book nook.

Don't miss! — our Bestsellers shelves, Too Good to Miss collections, puzzle table, and Word of the Week. Ask us how to find the excellent resources available to you with your library card such as Transparent Languages, Consumer Reports, and Kanopy.

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• open 10-6 Mon. Tues., Wed., Fri., 9-5
Sat. CLOSED
Thursday and Sunday. ♦



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Late Summer After a Panic Attack

A Poem by Ada Limón

I can't undress from the pressure of leaves,
the lobed edges leaning toward the window
like an unwanted male gaze on the backside,
(they wish to bless and bless and hush).
What if I want to be deviled instead? Bow
down to the madness that makes me. Drone
of the neighbor's mowing, a red mailbox flag
erected, a dog bark from three houses over,
and this is what a day is. Beetle on the wainscoting,
dead branch breaking, but not breaking, stones
from the sea next to stones from the river,
unanswered messages like ghosts in the throat,
a siren whining high toward town repeating
that the emergency is not here, repeating
that this loud silence is only where you live.

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Public Safety - Mayor Rhodes-Conway

Everyone deserves to feel safe in their home, their neighborhood and their community. If we're going to get serious about tackling violence, we need to be tough in responding to crime after it happens AND, at the same time, be tough on the root causes of crime.

Madison is one of the safest cities in the nation, and shots fired incidents are down this year compared to last year, but any level of gun violence in our community is unacceptable.

Chief Barnes has taken his department through a strategic planning process that resulted in three top priorities, shots fired calls, stolen auto incidents and hazardous driving. I fully support this work. I am particularly happy that he is investing in a data-informed analysis, and I was pleased to fund a new position to help us insure that officers are deployed where they are needed most to reduce over-policing and racial disparities.

We need the help of our partners in the state and federal government to keep guns out the hands of people who commit crimes and we can't do it alone. We need common sense gun safety laws, including stronger background checks, red flag laws, cracking down on illegal guns, and banning assault weapons from our streets.

In September last year, the City fielded a new 911 emergency response team called [Madison CARES](#), that pairs a crisis worker and a paramedic to respond to nonviolent calls for behavioral health emergencies instead of the police. The City has also continued to support summer youth employment programs and Public Health is working with a Violence Prevention Team to prevent violence.

All of us at the City are working hard to stop the violence, hold people accountable for their actions, and invest in positive solutions. Our approach is working, but we must continue our efforts, and we need our entire community to join us in creating a culture of safety and keeping Madison a place where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. ♦

A Message from Alder Tag Evers

Summer has ended and we now face a busy fall season with school and other activities. I now sit on the Finance Committee, so it will be a particularly busy time for me as we get into the thick of budget season.

Good Neighbor Gathering – September 11 at Brittingham Park

The Good Neighbor Gathering (GNG) had its inaugural celebration in 2019, the first year I held office as District 13 Alder. When I was first elected, I realized the various neighborhoods in our district were not in regular contact with each other. Communication was minimal. Upon getting elected, I helped form the District 13 Neighborhood Alliance. The first GNG was planned by the Alliance later that September in keeping with National Good Neighbor Day.

We had to skip the event in 2020 due to the pandemic, but we reconvened last year and are holding the event again this year. I encourage you to mark your calendar and head over to Brittingham Park on September 11 from 12 Noon to 5pm for a day of fun family activities and community building.

Transit Oriented Development and Housing

There have been lots of activity on the Vilas listserv regarding various ideas related to Transit Oriented Development (TOD). In particular, the notion of an Overlay that would look to manage our City's growth by increasing density in neighborhoods along high-frequency transit routes.

Concerns have also been raised in the Bay Creek neighborhood as the proposed overlay would impact residents who live near South Park.

In my view, TOD is a common-sense policy approach adopted by cities across the country and has been a policy goal in Madison since the 2008 Comprehensive Plan. Council colleagues Alders Foster (D15) and Heck (D2) have been working with staff to articulate a clearer vision for TOD, the purpose being to incentivize the development of housing along the city's high-frequency corridors. If it's true we need more housing, and I believe that's an undeniable fact, it makes all kinds of sense to locate that

housing along our primary transit routes.

Given the interest, I have invited staff to hold a District 13 Information Meeting on the topic of housing and the specific proposals around TOD. The tentative date for this is September 14.

Progress on Mitigating Light Pollution

On July 12, Common Council voted in support of a resolution Alder Foster and I drafted committing the City to Five Principles of Responsible Outdoor Lighting set forth by the International Dark-Sky Association and the Illuminating Engineering Society. In addition, the resolution states that the City of Madison will apply for designation as an International Dark Sky Community through the International Dark-Sky Association. Separately, Council voted overwhelmingly to amend the City's lighting ordinance to address glare and spillover from one property to another.

Take care, stay safe, and see you on September 11 for the Good Neighbor Gathering at Brittingham Park! ♦

Madison Good Neighbor Gathering

- District 13 Alliance

September 11, 2022 - 12 noon to 5 pm

The Madison Good Neighbor Gathering (“GNG”), held every September in Brittingham Park to honor national Good Neighbor Day, is the ONLY Madison area festival that puts children and families first. The GNG is sponsored by seven neighborhood associations on Madison’s near westside and everyone is INVITED!

Held during the afternoon, the GNG is the only alcohol-free festival that features food, arts, crafts, and entertainment specifically for children and their families. From bounce slides, bubbles, balloons, and bike parades, to environmental education, craft vendors, food carts, art activities, music, dance, and more, children of all ages will enjoy this special day where they can be themselves, free to run and play, connect with friends and make new ones, and learn more about their community. The festival also features educational tabling from environmental groups, local healthcare and public health organizations, area non-profits and schools, voting rights groups, and many youth-oriented organizations. Thanks to the lead sponsorship of the Dudgeon Monroe Neighborhood Association (DMNA), individual donations, area businesses, a raffle and a silent auction, this year the GNG will be contributing 20% of all proceeds to District 13 neighborhoods with fewer resources (Bayview, Triangle, Baycreek).

The Madison Good Neighbor Gathering, held on Sunday, September 11, from noon to 5 pm this year, is needed now more than ever, as we all work to create a stronger, safer, healthier, and more loving community. Contact district13cares@gmail.com for more information and/or to get involved. ♦

MadiSUN

MadiSUN is the City of Madison program that makes going solar easy. Since 2016, the MadiSUN Group Buy Program has helped homeowners across the area install solar-electric systems on their rooftops. 225 households have gone solar thanks to the program’s simplicity, reduced price, financing options, and customer service.

MadiSUN also offers solar incentives for businesses, nonprofits, and affordable housing providers. Check out madisunsolar.com to learn more about how to go solar! You can find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

-The MadiSUN Team ♦

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The VNA sponsors an online listserv for
our members:

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

You can ask to join the email
list by sending an email to:
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 2022! Annual Membership runs from January 1 - December 31

VNA Membership Form Suggested membership donation is \$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 _____

Checks should be made out to Vilas Neighborhood Association and mailed to Rachel Bennett, 1119 Van Buren Street, Madison, WI 53711. Or use PayPal: <https://www.paypal.me/VilasNA>

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