



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

Every day, I have the pleasure of walking through our beautiful neighborhood with my rambunctious dog Zipper. I'm not sure if he is trying to live up to his name, but this six-year-old dog still acts like a puppy. In the winter whenever we stop to chat with neighbors, he loves to take off one of my mittens and show off for a bit. I love winter walks, but I am looking forward to spring weather just to have warmer hands! Don't let my fun-loving dog stop you from saying "hello!" It is a great chance for me to meet neighbors and catch up with old friends. My presidency which started back in January of 2020 has been almost entirely during the pandemic, and these outside chats have not only been a lovely social interaction but a way I can hear your thoughts and ideas for the VNA.

If you have ever been interested in getting involved or just curious to see what we do, now is a great time to come to a meeting! For now, we are still meeting on Zoom and will continue to do so at least through the spring. Neighbors are always welcome at our council meetings that take place on the 4th Wednesday of each month. There are regular neighborhood updates, news from our alder, and in March we are planning on hearing from our Madison Police Department. We are doing some new things too: like setting up a Vilas Facebook page to create more connection in the neighborhood and we are working with Greenbush to set up a new

Neighborhood-Zoo Liaison Committee to facilitate better communication. Our wonderful social chair, Bethany Nelson, is looking for neighbors to join her in forming a committee to help with future neighborhood events like the summer block party or VNA Book Club, or with new ideas that you may have.

As you may know, the VNA has changed our policy on dues, and they are no longer required for membership in the VNA. If you live here, you are automatically a member which means you can vote for the VNA council regardless of if you've contributed or not. However, we still rely on your financial contributions to help pay for things like this newsletter and neighborhood parties. So please don't forget to send in your donation for 2022.

While we hope to be able have more in person connections soon, let's stay connected digitally. If you haven't already, join our Vilas neighborhood listserv for neighborhood dialogue and VNA announcements, (send an email to VilasNA+subscribe@groups.io), visit our website (www.vilasneighborhood.com), or join the Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/vilasna) and share your pictures and neighborhood news! Don't hesitate to reach out to me with your questions or concerns at vnapresident@gmail.com. ♦



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Newsletter Editor

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 May 20, 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)

An MG&E Letter to the Community

From all of us at MGE, I'd like to wish you a happy new year. The past two years have been challenging but have shown that we're a resilient community when we work together. As friends, neighbors, and community members, we're working together to meet the challenges of our times and to create a better future for this place we call home.

MGE's roots in the Madison area date back more than 150 years. As a critical services provider, we carry a special responsibility to serve our customers 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I'm grateful for our crews and operations employees who continue to meet our community's everyday needs, safely and reliably. We're also working hard to serve you more sustainably and to partner with our customers to grow clean energy in our community.

As we look to the future, MGE has announced investments in solar and battery storage projects that will help us continue to provide reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy in the coming years. The following projects will help to power more than 26,000 households:

- MGE is seeking approval to own 20 megawatts (MW) of solar and 11 MW of battery storage from the 200-MW Paris Solar-Battery Park to be built in Kenosha County.
- If approved, MGE will own 25 MW of solar energy and 7.5 MW of battery storage from the 250-MW Darien Solar Energy Center in southeastern Wisconsin.
- MGE also is seeking approval to own 30 MW of solar and 16.5 MW of battery storage from the 300-MW Koshkonong Solar Energy Center to be built in Dane County.

And, MGE is purchasing a share of the 92-MW Red Barn Wind Farm to be built in Grant County. The wind farm is expected to begin serving MGE customers by the end of 2022.

These projects are another step toward carbon reductions of at least 65% by 2030 and our goal of net-zero carbon by 2050. They also will help meet future energy and capacity needs cost-effectively as we continue our ongoing transition away from coal.

By 2025, with the planned retirement of the coal-fired Columbia power plant, MGE will have eliminated approximately two-thirds of our coal-fired generation capacity. By 2030, our remaining use of coal is expected to be reduced substantially, and by 2035, MGE is expected to eliminate coal as an energy source when the Elm Road power plant will transition to natural gas as its primary fuel source. MGE is a minority owner of both of these plants.

And, MGE is advancing sustainable transportation with a new electric vehicle (EV) fast-charging hub in downtown Madison. You can learn more about these projects at www.mge2050.com.

Our energy future looks bright. Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we work together to build your community energy company for the future.

Sincerely, Jeff Keebler, MGE Chairman, President and CEO

Dane County to Hit New Green Milestone: 100% Sustainable Electricity Use in Matter of Months

By Dane County Executive Joe Parisi

We may be in the first few weeks of the New Year, but Dane County's effort to embrace clean, green renewable energy is already set to reach a significant milestone in 2022. In a matter of months, Dane County will be the first public entity of its size in the region to power its facilities with 100% renewable electricity. This means Dane County government will produce more renewable energy than the total amount of electricity it consumes for its operations.

Through a partnership with Alliant Energy and SunVest Solar, construction is slated to begin this spring on a 90-acre solar farm on county land near our renewable natural gas production facility off Highway 12. When complete, this project will generate over 17 megawatts of electricity, enough energy to power 3,100 homes per year. The renewable electricity generated from this new project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in an amount equivalent to the emissions produced by over 4,000 vehicles or the burning of 14,000 tons of coal per year.

Dane County currently receives about 45% of its electricity from renewable sources. The new installation – combined with our 9-megawatt solar project with MGE at the Dane County Regional Airport and nearly 20 other solar installations at county facilities – will push us to our goal of achieving 100% renewable electricity status. This milestone has been years in the making and will mark significant progress in our ongoing effort to combat climate change.

Simply put: if we want to move the dial on the climate crisis, this kind of work cannot wait decades or it will prove too little, too late. We all have a responsibility to act now, and that's just what Dane County government is doing. There are hundreds of solar installations on schools, local governments, businesses, and nonprofits in Dane County, and thousands of residents have opted for solar panels on their homes. A more sustainable future is within our reach, and I encourage everyone in our community to continue to take bold action. ♦



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A Message from Dane County Supervisor Chuck Erickson

PLEASE FILL OUT A SURVEY ABOUT THE HENRY VILAS ZOO AND DANE COUNTY PARKS, SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO ACCESS AND EQUITY

I'm happy to announce that the Office of the Dane County Board of Supervisors recently launched an independent evaluation of equity and access at Dane County Parks and the Henry Vilas Zoo.

The evaluation, which is being conducted by Keen Independent Research in collaboration with the County Board Office, Dane County Parks, and the Henry Vilas Zoo, is bringing in-depth qualitative and quantitative research to form a better understanding of the demographics of who is, and is not, utilizing Dane County parks and the Henry Vilas Zoo, as well as the reasons behind such behavior, particularly as they relate to equity and access.

As part of this study, Keen Independent Research is gathering input from visitors and non-visitors of Dane County Parks and Henry Vilas Zoo and seeks input and comments. Survey results will help create recommendations to guide Dane County toward improving access to its facilities, lands, properties and programs, and ultimately become a more inclusive, equitable and racially just place for all.

Please visit the study website and scroll down to access the survey in English, Spanish, and Hmong: <https://keenindependent.com/danecoparksandzooequity/>

Goals of the evaluation include:

- 1) Gaining a better understanding of the demographics of who is currently using Dane County Parks and Zoo and how they are using these places.
- 2) Gain a better understanding of who is not visiting Dane County Parks and Zoo and what the barriers are, or if there are other reasons why they are not visiting our Parks and Zoo.
- 3) Provide specific recommendations to the County Board Office that will remove identified barriers to racial and social equity and access, including access to people of all abilities, at Dane County Parks and Henry Vilas Zoo and strengthen racial and social equity and access to people of all abilities at Dane County Parks and Zoo facilities, lands, properties, and programming.

For more information about the project, please contact Lisa MacKinnon, Sustainability and Program Evaluation Coordinator, MacKinnon@countyofdane.com.

If you have questions about this survey or anything related to Dane County government please contact me at Erickson.chuck@countyofdane.com or 608-212-8753. ♦



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Monroe Street Farmers' Market

The 2022 Monroe Street Farmers' Market is every Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. from May 1 through October 30. Located in the Edgewood High School parking lot, the farmers' market has everything you need to supplement your weekly grocery shopping, including fresh apples and tomatoes, eggs, meats, cheeses, baked goods, and more! To find a list of our vendors, visit monroestreetfarmersmarket.org.

Stay in the know by following us on Facebook, Instagram @monroestreetfarmersmarket or sign up for our email newsletter at monroestreetfarmersmarket.org/newsletter-signup.

There is also an option for businesses, families and individuals to sponsor the market this year as a friend of the market. Email jpoehlman@gmail.com to find out more about sponsorships. See you at the market! ♦



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Monroe Street Library News

Monroe Street Library To Expand Service Hours Beginning Monday, March 7

Effective Monday, March 7, the Monroe Street Library (1705 Monroe St., 608 266-6390) will expand service to five days per week. Our hours will be:

- Weekdays except Thursday 10am-6pm
- Saturdays 9am-5pm
- Closed Thursday and Sunday

Due to a 2.1% reduction in the 2021 operating budget, Monroe Street hours had been reduced to three days per week as part of a series of hours reductions and shifts that took place in January 2021. Then, in October 2021, funding of 16 additional service hours was approved for the 2022 operating budget, with funds coming from the library's reserves in 2022.

"In 2020, when we adopted the 2021 operating budget, the Library Board declared our commitment to restoring funding to the Monroe Street Library as soon as possible," said Library Board President Eve Galanter. "With the strong support of our loyal library patrons and Alders Bennett, Evers and Vidaver, we've made good on this commitment and look forward to our fabulous staff providing Monroe Street Library patrons two more days of service every week. After such a challenging last year for all, it's great to have something to celebrate this year!"

The library will also begin hosting programs again in March, including:

All Ages READ and PLAY

Tuesdays, March 8 - 29, 10:30-11:15am

Join us for this special storytime - book, songs, and play for children ages 5 and under. Spending time together and reading aloud with young children promotes healthy brain development, improves language and listening skills and helps to build a lifelong love of reading. Library programs are always free. Siblings and childcare groups are welcome.

READ and PLAY will continue on Tuesdays starting April 12 with storytimes for toddlers and preschoolers at 10:30, and for babies at 11:30.

Serendipity Saturdays with the Bubbler

Saturdays, March 19 & April 23, 2-3pm

Will you make a cardboard instrument? Explore pastels or watercolors? Or build something out of wood?

That's the joy of serendipity - you never know until you get there! Drop in anytime to enjoy fun hands-on art and maker activities for kids of all ages. ♦

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Camp Randall South End Zone Project Underway

Doug Carlson, Joint West Campus

Camp Randall is typically dormant this time of year, but it is buzzing with activity during this off season. The south end zone is being completely renovated, removing about 6,000 bleacher seats adjacent to the Field House and replacing them with 2,300 premium seats and hospitality clubs. The \$78 million project is on the fast track and scheduled for completion before the first home game on September 3.

The project was initiated based on feedback from season ticket holders that wanted an upgraded but open-air experience. The club seating section will include a climate-controlled 10,000 square foot area with a cash bar and TV screens, all-inclusive food packages, dedicated restrooms, and wider cushioned seats with more leg room than the bleacher seats. Loge boxes have already sold out at the field level and other areas where they are being added. Portions of the upgraded space may also be available for special events such as weddings and parties in the future. Upgrades during the summer of 2022 will include a new playing surface and updates to the press box.

The impacts to the Vilas Neighborhood should be minor during construction, including sporadic construction noise and some construction traffic around the intersection of Regent St. and Breese Terrace. The capacity reduction of 3,700 for sold-out games may also have a very modest impact on parking and foot traffic on game days.

To learn more about the project including pictures, videos, and construction updates, please see: camprandallstadium.com.

Lake Wingra Watershed Gathering

Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association's WATER Team invites you to a family friendly event. Arrive early with a picnic lunch. Bring your family, a friend, or neighbor. Be with us for the afternoon or for portions.

Interact with homeowners from throughout the Watershed and people from 25 organizations committed to clean water needed by all life forms that share this planet. Learn more about water stewardship. Leave with new ideas as we collectively ensure healthy lakes, streams, and the lands in-between.

- Participate in fun activities involving water.
- Engage with storyteller Andi Cloud, a member Ho Chunk Nation.
- Renew a sense of connection among people, land, and water.
- Meet homeowners with rain gardens, rain barrels, or with prairies instead of lawns as ways to keep water out of their basements.
- Talk with neighbors who plant prairies and greenspaces on public property.
- Talk with urban vegetable gardeners.
- Learn how climate change impacts Madison Lakes and ways to lessen effects.
- Learn about water management including ways to address flooding.
- Experience lake monitoring and tracking harmful chloride.
- Enjoy art inspired by water research results.

Itinerary at <https://fb.me/e/2fBr0YwrY> Feel free to contact Taylor water.wingragathering@gmail.com

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A Message from Alder Tag Evers

South Madison Plan: The Common Council met on January 4th for the first meeting of 2022. We approved the South Madison Plan, the culmination of a multi-year process that had been slowed by Covid. Council voted to amend the Plan to allow for a modest increase in density in the Thorstad Concept Area. I supported this change in the belief that urban infill near a major transit route like South Park St. calls for a higher degree of density as a strategy to reduce carbon emissions. Moreover, the increase in density would allow for more home ownership opportunities for South Madison residents, a need which surfaced during resident engagement sessions held by city staff throughout the planning process.

Lake Monona Waterfront: The Mayor will soon be appointing community members to the Lake Monona Waterfront Ad-Hoc Committee to oversee a design challenge process. The goal is to recommend optimal strategies for upgrading the waterfront along Lake Monona from Law Park to the northern section of Olin Park. I've submitted four D13 residents for consideration.

Truman Olson: Negotiations with the new grocer continue and we remain on track to avoid a gap in grocery services. Arrangements have been made to keep Pick 'N Save open beyond the terms of their current lease. More details should be available soon.

Traffic Speeds: Speed management is a key component of Madison's Vision Zero project to eliminate traffic fatalities. The posted speed limit on South Park Street, for example, has been reduced to 25 mph. If you witness someone traveling at excessive speed, you may call the Speeders Hotline number: (608) 266-4624.

Lake Wingra Heritage Plan: The working group met with Larry Johns, Oneida Nation mounds expert, and with Bill Quackenbush, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Ho-Chunk Nation. It was sobering to hear the indigenous perspective, that the heritage around Lake Wingra from the tribal perspective has been largely one of destruction. The

working group continues to meet, determined to enhance and protect this precious resource.

Volunteer at MMSD: It's no secret that the ongoing pandemic has had an outsized impact on our local schools. Madison Metropolitan School District has issued an all-call to help keep our kids in school. MMSD needs classroom, clerical, supervision, custodial and food services support. For information about how to sign up, please go to: <https://www.madison.k12.wi.us/partnerships/volunteering>.

Metro Transit Network Redesign: Metro's draft network redesign plan is now available for review. Complete information is available here: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/metro/routes-schedules/bus-rapid-transit/transit-network-redesign>.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please contact me at district13@cityofmadison.com or 608.424.2580. ♦

VNA Social Scene

By Bethany Nelson, VNA Social Chair

Hello! As we move into Spring, we hope that we can find new ways to connect with our neighbors and enjoy the good weather(which will surely get here at some point...).

Social Committee

We are looking for members for a social committee to help with all the amazing events in our neighborhood. If interested, please reach out to the social chair at socialchairvilas@gmail.com

VNA Book Club

The VNA Book Club meets virtually the fourth Tuesday every other month from 8-9 pm.

Our picks for 2022 are:

- March-The Glass Hotel by Emily St John Mandel
- May-Janesville by Amy Goldstein
- July-Harlem Shuffle by Colson Whitehead
- September-Caste by Isabel Wilkerson
- November-The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towels

March's pick is a fiction book by the author who wrote Station Eleven. All are welcome, whether you love or hate the book.

Please email socialchairvilas@gmail.com if interested in joining!

Are you neighbors on the listserv? How about you?

Did you know that Vilas has a neighborhood listserv with that connects residents with one another? There is a large number of residents who have not heard of it. We encourage you to join if you haven't and to ask your neighbors if they are a part of it as well. It's surprising the amount of people who live next door but have no idea of this resource! Please email vilasna+subscribe@groups.io to join.

Facebook Page

A huge shout out to Flavia Fontana Giusti who created the Vilas Neighborhood Facebook page. This is a great place to post and is limited only to neighborhood members. Log on today!

Potential ideas for future events

We would love feedback to see if anyone is interested in the following:

- kids clothing/sports gear exchange
- book swap
- playground meetup in Vilas park
- garden club

If any of these appeal to you please reach out to the social chair email and let us know. If we have enough interest, we'll do our best to set something up!

Do you have an idea for a social event?

Please let us know as I'd love to hear your ideas and see what we can do to make it happen! Our goal is to help connect neighbors with one another.

To participate or provide feedback, please email socialchairvilas@gmail.com ♦

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The VNA sponsors an online listserv for
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<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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