

VILASink

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)

President's Message *by Doug Carlson, VNA President*

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

Before putting pen any further to paper to write my first column as VNA President, I must start by expressing our collective gratitude to Sarah Bahaiddin for her three years of service on the VNA Council and as President. She guided the Council through the pandemic and into the Zoom world while improving our connections within the neighborhood and to the surrounding community. She did so with thoughtful leadership, patience, and a can-do attitude. Sarah's efforts have been greatly appreciated!

For those of you who don't know me: My wife and I have lived on Oakland Ave. since 2000 and have a daughter in college and a son at West High School. I am in my sixth year on the VNA Council and have served as the VNA representative on the City's Joint Campus Area Committee since 2012. I've also coordinated communications between the University and neighborhood regarding Camp Randall and Field House activities. You'll occasionally find me digging in the neighborhood rain garden at the corner of Adams, Mound, and Campbell along with other neighbors.

As I step into Sarah's big shoes, I find that the ground underneath seems to be shaking but the skies above seem to be brightening at the same time. There is positive news about new businesses filling empty store fronts on Monroe and Regent streets. While we miss Brasserie V, Berke & Benham's, and Crescendo, we are thrilled that they will be replaced by

One & Only, Gallo Taco, and Lallande in the coming months. The former Trend & ReThreads location, where my daughter once found \$300 cash in a jacket pocket (yes, she returned it and yes, she got a cut!) is now the home of Torn Edge Arts. A long-vacant building at 1403 Regent Street is now Koi Night restaurant. We encourage you to welcome our new businesses with your smiles, your feet, and your cash ;)

Recent changes in the City's zoning code have been understandably unnerving for many. New accessory dwelling units, transit-oriented development (TOD) to "up-zone" many homes and increase density on transit corridors, and the increase in allowed occupancy will undoubtedly change our neighborhood in the coming years and decades. There will be both positive and negative aspects of these changes, and they won't be the same for every resident. The VNA Council and I will continue our efforts to communicate the changes with the neighborhood, follow a diligent process of debate and discussion, and where merited, take actions unilaterally or in coordination with surrounding neighborhoods and our elected representatives.

In perspective, this neighborhood is ever evolving. In the two decades that I've lived here, I've watched more businesses come than go on Monroe & Regent Streets, seen Crazylegs Lane become a park, and observed the addition of more than 100 apartment units on the Vilas side of
(Continued on page 3)



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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 May 19, 2023. Please contact Bonnie Gruber for advertising availability. E-mail: bonniegruber@mac.com. Standard ad cost for 2023 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)

Save Energy With Lighting Tips

From Madison Gas and Electric Company (MGE)

The light bulb has come a long way since incandescent bulbs started lighting homes more than 100 years ago.

In the 1990s, compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs came on the scene, offering consumers a longer-lasting bulb that used less energy than older bulbs. In recent years, light-emitting diode (LED), bulbs have become more affordable and more popular in households.

LED bulbs are very efficient—using about 75% less energy than standard incandescent bulbs—and they last longer than other bulbs. As an added bonus, because they use most of their energy to produce light instead of heat, they are cool to the touch. The cost to operate an LED bulb annually ranges from about \$1 to \$1.50 for an entire year versus \$2 to \$3 for a CFL and \$10 to \$11 for an incandescent bulb.

Get Free Energy-Saving Packs From FOCUS ON ENERGY

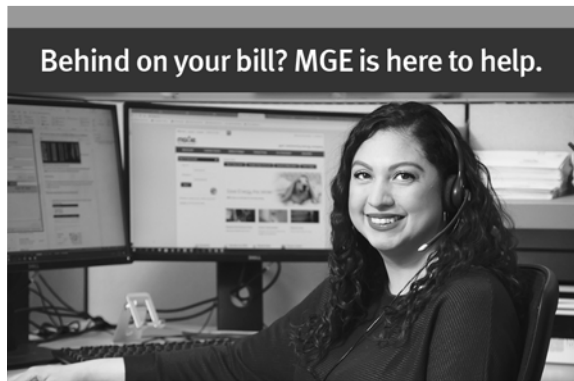
Our statewide energy efficiency partner, Focus on Energy, offers a variety of different energy-saving packs that include LED light bulbs—all sent to eligible MGE customers for free.

Each pack contains a variety of products including LED bulbs, pipe insulation, faucet aerators and more. Please note there is a limit of one pack per eligible household every year.

Visit www.focusonenergy.com/residential to learn more and to order your pack. And be sure to visit www.mge.com regularly for other energy-saving tips. ♦



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Local Food Pantries Play a Vital Role in Community

By Dane County Executive Joe Parisi

Dane County, Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin, and our network of local food pantries and meal sites have provided well over 12 million pounds of freshly grown and locally-sourced food to thousands of families in Dane County through an innovative partnership born out of the COVID-19 pandemic.



In 2022 alone, our “Farm to Foodbank” initiative supported 3.8 million meals through 128 food pantries and meal sites in Dane County. Moreover, 53 Dane County food producers received a fair price for their food, which helped create a positive local economic impact of over \$12 million. Our partnership exemplifies the good that can result when people come together to look for ways to address challenging circumstances.

My budget includes \$6 million to sustain this work in 2023. The funding comes at a critical time, given temporary increases to the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as FoodShare in Wisconsin, sunset at the end of February. These benefits were designed to help families cope with the financial impacts of the pandemic. An estimated 20,000 Dane County residents are being impacted by this cut in extra support, and food pantries are expecting a surge in the number of people seeking assistance.

This change comes as almost 40,000 Dane County residents faced food insecurity last year. Our local food pantries are working around the clock to provide affordable and nutritious food, but the need is great. For instance, Badger Prairie Needs Network now serves twice the number of families it served a year ago.

I created a \$2 million emergency grant program to increase food supplies for local pantries last year, and those funds are now being distributed to 18 food pantries throughout the Dane County area. I encourage you to find your local food pantry and donate your time or extra food to further support these vital organizations.

Every Dane County resident deserves access to healthy, nutritious food—no matter their economic circumstances. And, every donation takes our food pantries one step closer to achieving this mission countywide. ♦

Stay Informed with Madison's New Vision Zero Quarterly Newsletter

By Reuben Sanon, Madison Deputy Mayor

Did you get to see Madison's newly launched Vision Zero Quarterly newsletter PDF? This first issue discusses the work of Madison's Vision Zero initiative and the programs developed under its umbrella to increase safety for all roadway users, with additional background on current Federal Grant applications, and how that money will be used.

Get an inside look at Madison's Transportation Demand Management policy, the Atwood Avenue reconstruction project, the City of Madison fleet department's Defensive Driver course for City employees and more! And as always the Vision Zero website is your best place to see the data, reasoning and results of our Vision Zero project.

I am committed to making changes to our streets to ensure safe travel for everyone whether they are walking, biking, taking a bus or driving. City staff are working every day across our city; using education, enforcement and engineering to reduce serious injury and fatality crashes. We need your help too - everyone can be part of creating a culture of safety. Slow down, look out for others, and help us realize our vision of zero traffic fatalities.



The little green man had good advice for motorists on Drake Street after a wet snowfall.

VNA President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

Monroe Street plus more across the street. Some changes are positive, some negative, and some benign. Your perspective may differ from your neighbor's. While we absorb and adapt to these changes, I encourage your involvement in neighborhood activities including our social events, VNA Council meetings and committees, or simply monitoring and participating in discussions at the city and neighborhood levels and, of course, VOTE.

As spring approaches, I encourage you to not just look down at the snirt below our feet but also at the brightening skies above. Think Spring!! ♦

Spring Things in Vilas Neighborhood



Snowdrops bloom in March

March: Women's History Month

March 6-7: Purim (Jewish)

March 8: Holi (Hindu festival of colors)

March 11-19 Spring break (University of Wisconsin, Edgewood College)

Sunday, March 12: Daylight Saving Time begins (spring forward)

Wednesday, March 15: Deadline for advance orders for the Friends of the UW Arboretum Native Plant Sale. <https://foamadison.org/shop/>

Friday, March 17: St. Patrick's Day

Tuesday, March 21: Spring begins, Naw Ruz (Persian and Baha'i New Year)

Saturday, March 25, through Sunday, April 2: Public schools (MMSD) spring break

March 23 to April 21: Ramadan (Muslim)

Tuesday, April 4: Spring Election for Supreme Court, Mayor, Alders, School Board, and Judges

Wednesday, April 5, to April 13: Passover (Jewish)

Friday, April 7: Good Friday (Christian)

Sunday, April 9: Easter (Christian)

Sunday, April 16: Easter (Orthodox Christian)

Friday, April 21, 6:30-9:30 p.m.: Arty Party, Monroe Street Arts Center <https://www.monroestreetarts.org/arty-party-2023>

Saturday, April 22: Earth Day

Thursday, April 27, 8 p.m.: VNA Book Club on Zoom

Friday, May 5: Cinco de Mayo, Buddha's birthday, last day of classes (university, Edgewood College)

May 7-12: Exams (university)

Sunday, May 7, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.: Monroe Street Farmers Market (weekly through October 29)

Thursday, May 11, Commencement, Edgewood



Wild strawberries bloom in May

College

Friday, May 12, 5:30 p.m.: Commencement (university doctoral and medical professional), Kohl Center

Saturday, May 13, noon, Commencement (university bachelor's, master's, and law), Camp Randall; Summer session begins, Edgewood College

Friday, May 19: Summer *Vilas Ink* deadline

Saturday, May 20: Friends of the UW Arboretum Native Plant Sale

Sunday, May 28: Pentecost (Christian)

Monday, May 29: Memorial Day

Thursday, June 8: Last day of school (MMSD)

Wednesday, June 14: Flag Day

Sunday, June 18: Father's Day

Wednesday, June 21: Summer begins, Make Music Madison

Also see Arboretum events, <https://arboretum.wisc.edu/visit/events/> ♦



Bloodroot blooms in April



Wild columbine blooms in June

Thanks, Block Captains!

This newsletter and various other messages are distributed to homes throughout the neighborhood by Vilas Neighborhood Association block captains. We appreciate their volunteer service.

A few blocks still need block captains. If you'd like to volunteer or learn more about the block captains, contact Rosalind Woodward, woodwardrosalind@gmail.com. ♦

What's happening at your neighborhood library?

Tuesday Morning Storytimes

Through April 18, 10:30-11:15 a.m.:

Join the storytime fun! Read and play with other kids, then take home a new batch of library books.

Saturday Art Activities

Drop-in activities two Saturdays each month through May 6 for kids of all ages. Kids age 7 and under, please bring an adult. No need to register in advance. NOTE different starting times.

March 4, 1 – 3 p.m. Create zines and mini books

March 18 1- a.m. – noon. Make pony bead keychains

April 15, 10 a.m. – noon. Build foam robots

April 22, 10 a.m. – noon. Make tile art

May 6, 1 – 3 p.m. Make paper puppets

Spring Break Crafternoons

Week of March 27 EXCEPT Thursday, 1 – 3 p.m.

Stop by the library and make crafts during spring break week. We'll have a different project each day. Make a craft, then pick up some books and movies and maybe a puzzle to take home.

Attention Jigsaw Puzzlers!

We almost always have a jigsaw puzzle in the works. Come by and put a few pieces in place. Also, swap out one of your puzzles at home for one in our ongoing puzzle swap! When you finish that one, bring it back and swap it for another. We have an amazing variety of puzzles.

I Can Do That With My Library Card?!

Study pretty much anything for free with The Great Courses via Kanopy and your library card. A few course examples: The Golden Age of the Science Fiction Novel, Outdoor Meal Planning and Cooking, Optimizing Brain Fitness, the Magical Mystery of the Beatles. Great Courses is a collection of video lectures featuring professors and experts from notable institutions and universities. Go to madpl.org/databases. Type Kanopy in the search bar. Follow prompts to create an account with your library card, or sign in.

Book Discussion Kits

Check out a kit for your next book group. They contain at least eight copies of a book plus discussion questions. We have more than 400 kits. New titles *Blue Lake* by Jeffrey D. Boldt, *Painting Beyond Walls*

by David Rhodes, and *Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr. You can check kits out for up to three months. Let us know what kit you want and we'll order them for you to pick them at Monroe Street.

Some New Too Good To Miss Titles:

The Appeal by Janice Hallett, *Still True* by Maggie Ginsberg, *Getting Lost* by Annie Ernaux, *The Love Prescription: Seven Days to More Intimacy, Connection, and Joy* by John Gottman.

Monroe Street Library, 1705 Monroe St., is open weekdays except Thursdays 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Saturdays 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Call us at (608) 266-6390. ♦

Neighborhood Book Club Schedules Discussions

By Sarah Bahauddin, 2006 Jefferson St.

The VNA Book Club will be reading the following books in 2023. All neighbors are welcome to join at any time! For now we will meet on Zoom and will plan some meetings outdoors when the weather warms up.

Mark your calendars! 8pm on Zoom. Dates/times may change:

April 27: *How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America* by Clint Smith

June 22: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

August 24: *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

October 26: *The Common Good* By Robert Reich

November 30: *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver

♦



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WELCOME TO MONROE

Fairchild Chefs Honored

Itaru Nagano and Andrew Kroeger, the chef/owners of Fairchild, 2611 Monroe St., have been named semi-finalists for a 2023 James Beard Award for "Best Chef: Midwest." ♦

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Farmers Market Returns

The Monroe Street Farmers' Market on the Edgewood campus is within easy walking and biking distance of the Vilas neighborhood.

MSFM strives to provide a diverse offering of local and fresh produce (eggs, meat, pickles, fruit, vegetables, bakery), coffee, handmade crafts, breakfast and lunch items, live music, and free family-friendly activities from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Sunday from the first weekend in May through the last weekend in October. Remember to leave your furry friends at home and come out to support local farmers and food producers! ♦



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What We Can Do for Trees

By Tom Anderson-Brown

Our neighborhood is a wonderful place to live, in no small part because of the mature trees that are all around us. They provide shade, food, and habitat for animals. They reduce heating and cooling costs, prevent erosion, assist in storm runoff mitigation, store carbon, and provide beauty and character in our urban landscape.

Our urban forest does a lot for us. What can we do for our trees?

Wisconsin has been experiencing a severe drought, and our trees need water to remain healthy. A mature tree needs on average one inch of rain each week to be healthy and to fight off attacks from insects, injuries, and pathogens.

If conditions remain dry, consider watering your trees each week, especially newly planted trees. A 2-inch diameter tree needs 15 gallons of water each week (about 30 minutes with a soaker hose or a low sprinkler). Water the tree's root area and avoid watering the leafy crown as this can lead to fungal issues.

Replacing the turfgrass beneath your tree with mulch (don't cover the trunk) and avoiding soil compaction beneath your tree are two other great ways to make your trees more resilient.

Another thing to look for in your trees is co-dominant unions and V-shaped branch unions (see image). Urban trees commonly exhibit this weak structure for many reasons, but mostly because they evolved to grow in shady forests and shoot straight up toward the sun. Summer storms with high winds can put incredible stress on leafed-out summer trees with weak branch unions, leading to limb failures that put the tree, people, and structures at risk. Contact a professional Arborist for an evaluation to see if structural pruning or a cabling support system can help keep your trees healthy and thriving. Managing your tree's structure with pruning throughout its life is critical to its ability to withstand wind and gravity.

Take time to consider what your trees need. With help, every urban tree can thrive for generations. ♦

Tom Anderson-Brown lives on Monroe Street and is an Arborist with Tree House Arbor Science (<https://tree-housearborscience.com/>)

New Police Liaison

The new police liaison to the VNA will be Officer Jeffrey Hayes, jhayes@cityofmadison.com. He will be taking over from Officer Hunter Lisko.




Bird and Nature Adventures

Discover nature by foot, paddle or pedal or pontoon in a Madison Parks Bird & Nature Adventure! Bird & Nature Adventures are 90-minute, easy-paced, walking tours and plus some periodically offered as a paddle or biking adventure. Most meeting locations and times are the same each month, but can occasionally change, as does the topics each month. For details, see <https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/events/bird-nature.cfm> ♦

Job opening: Plant Sale Coordinator

Friends of the Arboretum is looking for a Native Plant Sale Coordinator to replace the coordinator leaving after this year's sale. The opening is posted at <https://foamadison.org/job-opening-native-plant-sale-coordinator/> ♦



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City Council Considers Housing Issues

By Ald. Tag Evers, 13th District

At our January 17 meeting, Common Council approved the new Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Overlay District. The overlay makes sense as we seek to manage our city's rapid growth. The goal is to increase density along our high-frequency transit routes, which include Monroe Street. Nonetheless, the change was controversial as some residents expressed fears about what this policy change would bring to their neighborhoods.

It's understandable that perceived threats to our single-family neighborhoods would cause alarm. However, change is inevitable in our growing city. Over time, we should expect increases in density, including a diversity of housing forms like duplexes, triplexes, row houses, and town houses – all in keeping with what is called the “missing middle.” This change will be gradual and not a detriment to neighborhoods like Vilas.

Part of the difficulty is in recognizing that the origins of single-family neighborhoods, both here and throughout the nation, are inherently problematic. Covenants and deed restrictions kept certain people out. Banks redlined certain neighborhoods, denying mortgages based on race and ethnicity. When the courts ruled such practices unconstitutional, zoning ordinances maintained this divide by proxy. Consequently, Madison is extremely segregated by race and home ownership among Black residents is 15% -- compared to over 52% for white residents.

This exclusion is reinforced by a shortage of housing, which drives up housing values, placing ownership further out of reach for Black households in Madison. When we tell ourselves we support racial equity, we must be ready to consider practical steps to increase housing choice for all Madisonians.

Council will vote on the issue of eliminating the occupancy restriction based on family definition on February 28. On its face, there are many positives to this change. However, I am concerned about the impact this would have in neighborhoods adjacent to UW and Edgewood, areas with greater speculative pressure from real estate investors taking advantage of the shortage of student housing. District 5 Alder Regina Vidaver and I have put forth an amendment to create an overlay that would sunset in three years, allowing time for more housing units currently in the pipeline to be completed.

I am also concerned how rescinding the current policy may cause rents to rise for low-income households. In the event this passes, Alder Vidaver and I have asked staff to track impacts in four areas:

1. Rate of conversion of single family homes to rental

properties, and vice-versa;

2. Rate of change of average rental price and rental affordability;
3. Rate of change of eviction rate within City limits; and
4. Rate of sales of single-family homes to LLCs

Looking forward to our March 7 meeting, Council will be voting on whether to adopt the proposed Building Energy Savings Program, an ordinance change I've been working on for the better part of two years. The program is critically important as we take the very necessary steps to reach our climate goals.

Winter is almost done. Spring will soon be here. Take care and stay safe!

Sign up for my blog posts at <https://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district13>

Solar Energy Class Offered

RENEW Wisconsin, through the City of Madison's MadiSUN program, is offering a free course to introduce prospective students to careers in solar energy.

Intro to Solar Energy Work (PV 100), an 8-hour course that introduces working in the solar industry, will be March 2 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Madison College's Commercial Avenue Campus, 2125 Commercial Ave, in Room 242.

For more information, email info@renewwisconsin.org.

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What Should Become of the Fountain in Vilas Park?



The fountain's statue and base have deteriorated with time and weather

The City of Madison (Madison Arts Commission), the Annie Stewart Working Group, and the consultants from the Conservation of Sculpture and Objects Studio (CSOS), would like your input on the future of the Annie Stewart Memorial Fountain in Vilas Park.

Please complete the short five-question survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DJP9KM8> to provide feedback on proposed conservation options for the fountain.

The survey closes Monday, March 20, at 11:59 p.m. ♦

Make Music Madison Coming

Make Music Madison (MMM) will return Wednesday, June 21, 2023. Coffee shops, restaurants, front porches, and parks across Madison, including Vilas neighborhood, will fill with music for anyone to enjoy.

MMM is a free, citywide, outdoor day of music held annually on the summer solstice. Initiated in Madison in 2013, our festival is part of the larger Make Music Day, an international summer solstice music celebration occurring in 1,000+ cities across the globe.

MMM is:

- Performed by anyone, enjoyed by everyone.
- A way to celebrate the summer solstice, enjoy the longest day of the year, and sample a buffet of musical merriment.
- A DIY city-wide celebration when almost any way to make music can and will happen.
- Open to music makers of all ages, skill levels, and musical persuasions.

Venue registration opens March 25 and musician registration begins April 1. The MMM website, <https://www.makemusicmadison.org>, helps match musicians and venues. ♦

Summer Arts Camps

If you are looking for art & music opportunities for students this summer, the Monroe Street Arts Center's summer camp schedule for 2023 is available to view and registration is open now. For details on times, dates, and camp themes see www.monroestreetarts.org/summer-2023 ♦



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A New Session Begins!

By State Representative Francesca Hong

The start of the legislative session is always bustling with new energy, new initiative, and new promise for the year ahead. Wisconsin today is in the strongest fiscal position it has ever been in, and because of it, we have a special opportunity to craft and invest in a care economy that will better the 76th district and the entire state.

What's a care economy? A care economy is simply a robust economic environment where every individual and working family has the opportunity to access the tools they need to live, thrive, and be successful. A care economy focuses on building care infrastructure, from paid family and medical leave to accessible and affordable childcare, so that no one has to sacrifice being with family in order to support family.

Wisconsin's budget surplus is projected to hit over \$7 billion for 2022-23. With the additional \$1.734 billion currently in our state's rainy day fund, we are in a very strong position to create a care economy and to make much needed investments in critical areas like K-12 education, mental health care, transportation, PFAS mitigation, and much more. Luckily, Governor Evers has included these important investments in his 2023-25 Biennial Budget proposal that will come before the legislature's powerful Joint Finance Committee (JFC) in the upcoming months.



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It is important to note that the JFC is controlled by Republicans and they have already signaled their intention to gut the Governor's budget and start from the beginning – certainly abandoning the funding initiatives our communities have called for for years. And with initiatives like protecting our democracy and ensuring reproductive health care, we cannot afford to waste any more time playing politics.


However, there is still a lot of work to be done and many voices our legislature is yet to hear. I hope you will join the conversation and participate in the budget deliberation process by reaching out to JFC legislators in support of the funding initiatives you would like to see. There will also be listening sessions, public hearings, and many advocacy opportunities in the coming weeks and my office will keep you posted on them through social media and by legislative email. Send a note to rep.hong@legis.wisconsin.gov to keep up to date! ♦

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wardenandsons@gmail.com

VNA Transportation Group Seeks Members

Mike Rewey, chair of the Vilas Neighborhood Association Transportation Committee, was looking for one or two more committee members as of Monday, February 27.

"The focus is on Pedestrian, Bicycle and Motor Vehicle Transportation in and next to our neighborhood," he said. "To a lesser extent street trees (canopy) will also be a subject for consideration-they are part of the Streets Department.

If you're interested, email him at hiwayman@cho-rus.net. ♦



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Suggested membership
donation is:

\$20/household or
\$10/individuals

[https://www.paypal.me/
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JOIN THE DISCUSSION

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](mailto:VilasNA+subscribe@groups.io).

Please identify yourself by
name and address to facili-
tate this process, since this
listserv is primarily for those
who live within the VNA
boundaries.



-----**Renew & Join for 2023!** Annual Membership runs from January 1 - December 31-----

VNA Membership Form

Suggested membership donation is \$20/household or
\$10/individual.

- ☐ 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 _____

Make check out to Vilas Neighborhood Association and mail it to Rachel Bennett,
1119 Van Buren Street, Madison, WI 53711. Or use PayPal: <https://www.paypal.me/VilasNA>



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together



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