



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

As I sit here on a stormy, spring day here in Vilas with thunder in the distance, I am getting ready to pull out a book to read. Reading is one of most favorite activities. It has nothing to do with my previous profession (classical musician) or my work with the VNA, but it is one of the things that makes me feel human and connected to the world. Sometimes reading is just an escape but often it helps me to see things from different perspectives or learn about countless things. I have had the great fortune and luck to have joined an existing book club back in 2001 when I was a graduate student in Seattle that I continue to be in. Now, we meet via Zoom every couple of months and I have read over 130 books with the group. Reading has become a way to connect and has formed a basis for us to remain friends over time and distance.

As much as I love to read, it is one of the first things to go when life gets busy or I when I get preoccupied with current events. Back when COVID started in 2020, I rushed to our local bookstore, Mystery to Me, and Monroe Street Library to get as many books as I could before everything shut down. But as the weeks turned to months, I found myself more and more on my phone reading the news and checking out the daily COVID numbers, even though I missed escaping into a great work of fiction. So, when our VNA Social Chair, Bethany Nelson suggested starting up a VNA Book Club, I immediately said “yes, we have to do it!”

I am so happy to be a part of another community of readers that expose me to new books and keep me motivated to read. We’ve been reading a book every other month and meeting on Zoom to discuss. At the same time, I am meeting new neighbors who live only blocks away! VNA Book Club is open to any neighbor, and I encourage anyone interested to join us! Keep your eye out for announcements on the listserv for upcoming books. The next book is Colson Whitehead’s “Harlem Shuffle”, and we will be meeting on July 28th.

There are other VNA sponsored social events coming up this summer. The popular and super fun Vilas Summer Party on June 11th and The Fourth of July Bike Parade are always highlights of the summer. This year, we hope to end the bike parade with a gathering with popsicles! Our District 13 Alliance is also planning to have the Good Neighbor Gathering on September 11th! At this event, come and meet neighbors in our district beyond just Vilas while having some fun. I hope to see you at any of these events!

Remember, the VNA is here for YOU and YOU are the Vilas Neighborhood Association! If you have ideas for our neighborhood, please don’t hesitate to reach out! I can always be reached at vnapresident@gmail.com. ♦



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Sarah Bahauddin, President
2006 Jefferson Street
sarahbahauddin@gmail.com

Rachel Bennett, Treasurer
1119 Van Buren Street
cashdollarb@gmail.com

Regan Botsford, Secretary
1919 Jefferson Street
reganbotsford@gmail.com

Ben Biltz
1520 Adams Street
bpbiltz@uwalumni.com

Doug Carlson
1018 Oakland Avenue
dcarlson5dc@aim.com

Wendy Fearnside
912 Van Buren Street
wendy.fearnside@att.net

Bonnie Gruber
1430 Drake Street
bonniegruber@mac.com

Pat Scheckel
1915 Jefferson Street
pschecke@yahoo.com

2022 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Eileen Thompson, Bear Mound Park
jcthomps@wisc.edu

Shawn Doherty & Craig Stanley
Edgewood Neighborhood Liaisons
shawnd7777@aol.com
craig@broadwing-advisors.com

Wendy Fearnside and Ben Biltz
Zoning

Doug Carlson, Joint West Campus
dcarlson5dc@aim.com

Mary Clare Murphy, Membership
maryclarem@charter.net

Bethany Nelson, Social
bethanynelsonjd@yahoo.com

Pat Scheckel
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 August 19, 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)

Summer Energy-Saving Tips from MG&E

The summer heat can lead to an excess demand on our energy supply. When we use less energy, there's less need to generate electricity. By managing our energy use, we can help control energy costs and reduce carbon emissions as we work together to achieve net-zero carbon electricity by 2050.

10 Steps to Save Energy

1. Use a qualified contractor to professionally maintain your central air at least every two years. And, be sure to clean leaves and grass clippings off your outdoor unit.
2. Run major appliances before 10 a.m. and after 9 p.m. or on weekends. This helps lower the demand for power during peak times.
3. Set your thermostat as high as is comfortable, preferably 78°F or higher when you are home and up to 85°F when you are away. If you don't already have one, consider upgrading to a smart thermostat—Wi-Fi connected thermostats can adjust temperatures automatically based on your routine, saving energy almost effortlessly!
4. Swap your lightbulbs with LEDs, which use up to 75% less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last 15 to 25 times longer.
5. Unplug your phone chargers, printers, computers and other electronic equipment when you are not using them. These devices can account for 5 to 10% of your total energy use.
6. Be sure to turn off fans when no one is in the room—fans cool people, not rooms.
7. Seal around your window air conditioner so cool air cannot escape. If you need to purchase a new unit, consider a Wi-Fi window air conditioner—you can control them remotely with smartphone apps, which allow you to adjust the temperature while you're away.
8. Keep your window coverings closed to block out direct sunlight during the day.
9. Run full loads in your washer and dryer to cut down on excess energy usage.
10. Keep your water heater temperature set at 120°F, and if you go on vacation, remember to switch it to vacation mode.

MGE is available to provide tips and answer your questions about saving energy. 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.

Turning Trash & Cow Manure into Cost Effective Renewable Fuel to Combat Climate Change

By Dane County Executive Joe Parisi

Thanks to our renewable natural gas (RNG) facility at the landfill, we're able to convert landfill biogas, which contains harmful greenhouse gases, into nearly pure methane gas. This methane gas can then be injected into the interstate transmission pipeline that runs underneath the landfill so it can be bought and used as renewable vehicle fuel. Our RNG facility is projected to displace 3,250,000 gallons of gasoline in 2022, reducing emissions equivalent to traveling 72,000,000 miles less on the road.

This technology has allowed our Highway Department to systematically replace inefficient diesel snowplows with plows that operate on RNG from the landfill. Dane County currently own 100 RNG and RNG/gas hybrid vehicles. We saved \$139,288 in 2021 by using compressed natural gas (CNG) and RNG instead of diesel in our vehicles. If diesel prices remain in the \$4.50 range, we'll save more than \$350,000 this year.

Dane County's RNG facility also has an offload station, which provides area digesters with the ability to get their gas into the RNG market. These digesters capture methane and phosphorus from manure, which reduces greenhouse gas emissions and harmful runoff to lakes and streams. The digester's biogas is then hauled to our offload station and injected into the pipeline, powering RNG vehicles locally and across the United States.

This first-in-the-nation station has allowed local digesters to continue to operate and expand, resulting in better manure management, local jobs, clean fuel production, and cleaner lakes. Total digester gas delivered is projected to displace 2,000,000 gallons of gasoline this year – enough fuel for a passenger vehicle to drive around the equator 2,500 times.

Dane County's RNG facility and offload station are turning trash and cow manure into renewable fuel, while preserving our local environment and natural resources. Our 100-vehicle RNG fleet is also saving taxpayer dollars and reducing carbon emissions during a time when gas and diesel prices have soared. By investing in clean fuel infrastructure, Dane County is leading the way on what is possible to help combat climate change and be part of the solution. ♦



NOW ENROLLING

Child-centered programs with an emphasis on social development

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For more information, please visit nmns.org

A Message from Dane County Supervisor Cecely Castillo

I'm Cecely Castillo, your Dist. 7 Dane County Supervisor. With the County's redistricting, I count myself fortunate to have the opportunity to represent the Vilas neighborhood. I joined the board in January 2021, and currently serve on the Health and Human Needs committee (vice-chair), the Lakes and Watershed Commission, the Zoo commission and the Commission on Sensitive Crimes. I am a lawyer, a local real estate agent, and the Chief of Staff for Senator Kelda Roys. I have 2 daughters that attend Thoreau Elementary, and I hope to run into you around town at the various summer festivals and activities. Our family frequents Lake Wingra, Vilas Zoo and the UW Arboretum.

I am a strong supporter of reproductive rights, and am anxiously awaiting the U.S. Supreme Court's decision. Wisconsin currently has an 1849 criminal abortion law still in our statutes that will go into effect if Roe is overturned, effectively banning all abortions in our state with no exceptions for rape, incest, or the health of the pregnant person. I recently worked with my Youth Governance Program student to draft and present a resolution before the board that just passed with a vote of 29 to 2. 2022 Res-024 affirms the board's commitment to ensure that people have access to all health care and support the protections of Roe. It's truly important for elected officials, at all levels of government, to make their position and support for people being in control of their own reproductive health known.

For the next publication, we will be in the midst of the next Dane County budget cycle, and I will plan to provide some highlights and priorities from the budget discussions. You can contact me at castillo.cecely@countyofdane.com or (608) 616-0312





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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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Summer Night

A Poem By Langston Hughes
(1901 - 1967)

The sounds
Of the Harlem night
Drop one by one into stillness.
The last player-piano is closed.
The last victrola ceases with the
"Jazz Boy Blues."
The last crying baby sleeps
And the night becomes
Still as a whispering heartbeat.
I toss
Without rest in the darkness,
Weary as the tired night,
My soul
Empty as the silence,
Empty with a vague,
Aching emptiness,
Desiring,
Needing someone,
Something.

I toss without rest
In the darkness
Until the new dawn,
Wan and pale,
Descends like a white mist
Into the court-yard. ♦

Pilates on Harrison

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Trees

A Poem by Joyce Kilmer (1886 - 1918)

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the sweet earth's flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

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Keeping Our Trees and Shrubs Healthy and Vigorous

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

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. ♦

A Message from Alder Tag Evers

With the nice weather upon us, here are some updates to keep in mind.

Bikeways and South Shore Drive Improvements

A virtual Public Information Meeting on proposed bikeways and traffic safety improvements to South Shore Drive will be held on Tuesday, June 28, at 6pm. The Zoom link will be posted on my blog as we get closer to the date.

Metro Transit Network Redesign

The work of Metro Transit staff over the past year has been geared to improving Metro's service by making it more equitable, more efficient, and more effective at getting people where they want to go. The redesign addressed complaints that Metro's current service includes travel times and time spent waiting for a bus that are too long. Moreover, equity concerns were raised repeatedly over the years related to the fact people of color in Madison transfer 2.5 times more than others, with trips twice as likely to take more than 45 minutes.

Amendments to the Draft Plan are scheduled to be voted on by Common Council on June 7. It appears likely that service on Olin Avenue will be retained and that access to Vilas Park and the Henry Vilas Zoo will be added. (Adding transit service to the Zoo was recommended in the recent Vilas Park Master Plan.)

The network redesign is scheduled to go in effect in June 2023.

Food Scraps Recycling

Food scraps recycling for 2022 returns this summer in a site close to Bay Creek residents. Keep your food scraps out of the garbage and instead take them to the South Madison Farmer's Market at 1602 S. Park Street during the hours of 2:00pm to 6:00pm, Tuesdays only, from June 14 to September 27.

You may also consider composting at home in your own backyard. It's simple and easy to do. Trust me, I've been doing it for years. To learn more, go to: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/streets/compost/>

Vilas Park Drive

The Vilas Park Master Plan, completed and approved last year, calls for Vilas Park Drive to be closed to through traffic. While the complete reconstruction of Vilas Park Drive will not take place for a few years, an interim step for closing off the Drive has been approved and will be implemented in mid-June. Access to the park shelter will still be permitted, with two-way traffic extended from the east end only. In other words, you will no longer be able to enter Vilas Park Drive by crossing over the historic bridge.

Glen Golf Park

The Glenway Golf Course reconstruction made possible by the generous gift of Michael and Jocelyn Keiser includes a complete re-branding as the Glen Golf Park. A tentative date of July 1st has been set for the grand reopening. Leagues are not expected to return until 2023. Please refrain from walking in the Golf Park until it is reopened as work continues. (Please also be reminded that this is not a dog park; walking there with your unleashed dog may result in a fine.)

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

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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Suggested membership
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\$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.
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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