

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.



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

President's Message by Doug Carlson, VNA President

Welcome summer! It's great to walk around the neighborhood with leaves on the trees, flowers in bloom, more activity on the sidewalks, and a relaxed vibe with UW students on break and K-12s finishing up their year. Please take some time to appreciate the beauty and walkability of our neighborhood, visit the local shops and restaurants, get some fresh produce at the farmers markets, and connect with neighbors.

Summer brings several neighborhood activities and we encourage you to participate, or even more, volunteer to help make these happen. The neighborhood block party will be on June 10th in the 1900 block of Jefferson, the July 4 parade is around the corner, and the Vilas Halloween party will soon be on the hori-



The last July 4 neighborhood parade was a colorful event.

zon (I intentionally omit winter events at this point...). These activities help make our neighborhood welcoming and vibrant but wouldn't happen without volunteers and leadership.

Beyond these parties, there are one-time events to help organize, ongoing maintenance of the neighborhood rain garden, or serving on a Vilas committee (see the <u>list on Page 2</u>). New volunteers are always needed and we encourage you to step up! Please contact me or our Social Chair to get connected or to help organize a new activity (vnapresident@gmail.com or socialchairvilas@gmail.com).

As I noted in my last column, the Vilas neighborhood is ever evolving. Please be on the lookout for several new and expanded stores and restaurants on

> Monroe Street, and please welcome them with your smiles and your patronage. Be aware of the new bus routes beginning on June 11 including the D, E, and O routes running along the Vilas boundaries (the D2 route will connect Monroe Street to the airport without transfer!). Keep in touch by joining the neighborhood listsery and attending VNA meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

> Enjoy the beauty of summer, take advantage of our neighborhood and local events, and appreciate the amenities of our neighborhood and city! ◆



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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 August 18. 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 This Summer

From Madison Gas and Electric Company (MGE)

Regardless of the season, safe and reliable electricity is an essential part of our daily lives. Utilities like MGE work to provide power to all customers 24-7, including when demand for power is at its highest—for example, on the hottest day of the year when everyone is cooling their households and businesses. Learn more about how you can reduce your energy use and stay comfortable at home this summer.

Top Tips to Save Energy This Summer

- Set your thermostat at 78°F or higher, if health permits, and turn off or set your air conditioner to 85°F when no one is home.
- Use shades and drapes to block out direct sunlight during the day.
- Cook outside or with a microwave oven instead of a stove.
- Use a whole house fan, room fans or ceiling fans instead of air-conditioning.
- Turn off appliances including computers and televisions when not in use.
- Reduce humidity by reducing sources of moisture, such as running exhaust fans after showering and cooking and using an <u>ENERGY STAR*</u>rated dehumidifier.

Your Energy is Coming From an Increasingly Greener Grid

Practicing energy efficiency every day is something we all can do to help manage the grid and to reduce emissions. Another way MGE is working to reduce emissions is by adding more clean energy to serve all our customers.

Working with our customers to continue to decarbonize our energy supply and to help manage our collective energy use will help MGE achieve carbon reductions of at least 80% by 2030 and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. We have said since introducing our carbon reduction goals, if we can go further faster by working with our customers, we will.

Visit mge2050.com to learn more about our carbon reduction goals and to get more energy-saving tips. ◆



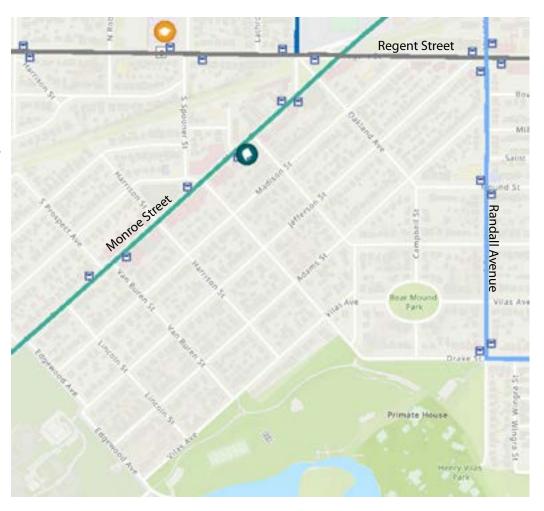


New Bus Routes June 11

Madison Metro's new bus routes and schedules will go into effect June 11, The changes will simplify the system and provide a new route to Vilas Park.

Routes serving our neighborhood will be:

- D, along Monroe Street between the airport anddowntown Madison and the outskirts of Verona.
- E, along Regent Street between the Capitol Square and West Towne
- O, along Randall Avenue between the UW campus and the Alliant Energy Center. This route will use Mills Street until the Vilas/Randall traffic circle is revised to make room for buses. ◆



County Hits Green Energy Milestone: 100% Sustainable Electricity Use

By Dane County Executive Joe Parisi

This Earth Month, I joined Alliant Energy and SunVest Solar representatives in Cottage Grove to cut the ribbon on our newly constructed Yahara Solar Project. Why is this site significant? When combined with the energy produced at our nearly 20 other solar installations, it allows Dane County to use 100% renewable electricity at all county government facili-



ties. We're the first county in Wisconsin and only the fourth county in the nation to achieve this milestone.

Our 17-megawatt Yahara Solar Project will produce more than 36 million kilowatt-hours of renewable electricity per year—enough to power more than 3,000 Dane County homes. This 33,000 solar panel arrays use the latest bifacial panel technology that produces energy from both sides of the panels, which increases energy production as sunlight reflects off the ground, especially when snow-covered, and as they track the sun throughout the day.

Our 100% renewable milestone has been years in the making and marks significant progress in Dane County's ongoing effort to combat climate change. 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.

Thanks to President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, there are an estimated \$369 billion in tax credits and financing for clean energy strategies. This is the single largest U.S. investment in climate action and makes pursuing clean energy solutions more affordable than ever. Individuals, businesses, non-profits, local governments, faith-based organizations, and schools can all benefit, and I encourage you to visit

daneclimateaction.org/what-you-can-do/federal-funding to learn more.

A cleaner, greener tomorrow is knocking on our door. It's on all of us to welcome it with open arms. ◆

Summer Stuff in Vilas Neighborhoood

Saturday, June 3, 9-11:30 a.m.: Take Kids Fishing, Vilas Park

Saturday, June 3, 3-4 p.m., or Monday, June 5, 10-11 a.m.: "Tell Us! Community Conversation", Monroe Street Library.

Saturday-Saturday, June 3-10: Madison Bike Week Thursday, June 8: Last day of school (MMSD)

Summer Party is June 10

The annual Vilas Summer Party is Saturday, June 10, from 4 to 9:30 p.m.on the 1900 Block of Jefferson Street. This event is a neighborhood favorite, with attendance typically exceeding 100 people. There will be food and drink, music, games and good times with Vilas neighbors and friends!

Both adult and kid beverages will be provided, although feel free to bring whatever you need to enjoy the party. It's a potluck - please bring a side, salad or dessert to share! Grills will be available; please bring your own meat to grill.

Questions? Contact Pat Scheckel at pschecke@ yahoo.com

Sunday, June 11: "New Bus Routes" begin.

Wednesday, June 14: Flag Day

Sunday, June 18: Father's Day

Monday, June 19: Juneteenth Day

Wednesday, June 21: Summer begins, "Make Music Madison"

Tuesday, June 27: Meeting about the future of the Annie Stewart Fountain, time and place to be announced.

Wednesday, June 28, 6:30 p.m.: VNA Council meeting

Wednesday, July 12, 6-8 p.m.: Learn to Fish with the <u>DNR</u>, Vilas Park beach (advance registration required)

Sunday, July 23: Parents' Day

Wednesday, July 26, 6:30 p.m.: VNA Council meeting

Friday, August 18: Deadline for fall Vilas Ink newslet-

Monday, August 21: Classes begin, Edgewood College graduate students.

Wedesday, August 23: Classes begin, Edgewood College undergraduates: 6:30 p.m.: VNA Council meeting Friday, August 25: First day of school, Edgewood 4 Campus School

Neighborhood 4th of July Bike **Parade and Popsicles!**

Kids of all ages (and adults) will line up by 10:25 a.m. at Harrison and Adams streets.

Decorate your bike to stand out or come a bit early to use our streamers to add some flair!

A fire truck (subject to Madison Fire Department's availability) will lead us with a fire truck for two laps around Adams, Harrison, Lincoln, and Iefferson streets.

After four laps, VNA will provide popsicles at Vilas Park near the playground at the Van Buren Street. entrance.

We are looking for adults to volunteer to help direct the bike traffic and keep everyone safe. If interested, please e-mail sarahbahauddin@gmail.com with the subject "bike parade volunteer."

Friday, September 1: First day of school for grades 4K, K, 6, 9 and Early Childhood(MMSD)

Saturday, September 2: Football game, Badgers vs. Buffalo, Camp Randall Stadium

Monday, September 4: Labor Day (no school)

Tuesday, September 5: School for all grades (MMSD)

Sunday, September 10: Grandparents' Day

Monday, September 11: Patriot Day

Friday-Sunday, September 15-17: Rosh Hashanah (Jewish holiday)

Saturday, September 16: Football, Badgers vs, Georgia

Southern, Camp Randall Stadium. Stepfamily Day.

Sunday, September 17: Citizenship Day

Saturday, September 23, 1:49 a.m.: Autumn equi-

Lakeview nox (fall begins)



Also see Arboretum events, https:// arboretum.wisc. edu/visit/events/ ◆

What's happening at your neighborhood library?

From Jill Maidenberg, Assistant Librarian

Tell Us! Community Conversation is a chance for Madison residents to share ideas about how to improve Madison's libraries, specifically service to Madison's south and west side neighborhoods. You are invited to the Monroe Street Library to share your thoughts with Library Planner Rynn K.

Rynn asks for people to sign up for one of these sessions:

- Saturday, June 3, 3 4 p.m.
- Monday, June 5, 10 11 a.m.

Sign up by searching Madison Public Library Tell Us!. Scroll down to the registration links. Or call us during open hours (see below) and we'll sign you up. While Rynn really hopes people will register, she says it's okay to drop in and add your two cents.

A Very Big Book sale Saturday, June 3, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Library Service and Support Center 1301 W. Badger Road

Several library friends' groups including Monroe Street's are pooling inventory for a large book sale. All proceeds benefit Madison Public Libraries. Most items are \$1 or \$2, with a bag sale from 1-3 p.m. (\$5 per bag). Pay with cash, check or credit card.

Marimar food cart on site from 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Storytimes

Tuesdays, June 6 - Aug. 22, 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

Read and play together with children ages 5 and under. Engaging with books, songs and playful experiences all help children develop communication skills, patience, empathy, and pre-reading skills. It also helps to build a lifelong love of reading. Siblings and childcare groups are welcome.

WE READ Summer Kick Off Saturday, June 17, 10 a.m. - noon

A city wide "Our Town Everywhere" is a portrait-making project. Popping up in libraries, parks, shelters, and other community spaces (who knows where!) folks of all ages are invited to create and contribute their own stamped self portrait in exchange for another community members' portrait. All ages are welcome.

Bubbler in the Neighborhood

Saturdays, June 24, July 15 and 22, and August 12 and 19, 10 a.m. - noon

Drop in at the Monroe Street Library for different art

activities and workshops led by artist Lelia Byron!

Script collection

Monroe Street Library houses a script collection of plays including those presented by American Players Theater and Forward Theater Co., plus current and past award winners.

All library programs are free of charge. No need to register.

Monroe Street Library, 1705 Monroe Street

Open 10 a.m. - 6 pm. weekdays (except closed Thursdays) and 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturdays (608) 266-6390

Closed Juneteenth, June 19.◆

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!

Mark your calendars! 8 p.m., usually on Zoom. Dates/times may change:

June 22: Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus. This meeting will take place IN-PERSON on my screen porch (2006 Jefferson St.)

I am going to be able to get five copies with the Madison Public Library book club kit. Please let me know if you'd like a copy. First come, first served! Copies will be available soon.

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

October 26: *The Common Good* By
Robert Reich

November 30: Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver ◆



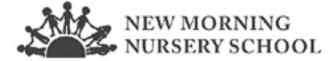


Eating seasonably in your own neighborhood

We are so lucky to live in a place with abundant fresh produce nearly year-round. While walking through the Monroe Street Farmers' Market during the Summer, you will easily appreciate the extent of Wisconsin's bounty. At the height of the season, you can get almost all of your grocery shopping done at one market: local meat, eggs, vegetables, fruit, bread, and more. Even in the early spring, you can find great options like asparagus, mushrooms, and greens; and late into the fall, you will find squash, kale, and beets.

Learning what's in season is key to getting the most out of your farmers' market experience. Several tools tell you what to expect throughout the year, like this Seasonal Availability chart from Wisconsin Buy Local: http:// www.wibuylocal.org/chefs/seasonal assets/wi availab. pdf

FairShare CSA, a Madison-based organization, has amazing cookbooks that explain what to do with all of the items you can find at the market, particularly the lesserknown vegetables like kohlrabi, rutabaga, okra, and tomatillos.





The farmers at the market booths can also be a great resource! If you are unsure what to do with a particular item or want advice on the best way to prepare it, just ask! That is the beauty of the Monroe Street Farmers' Market, we are a bit more laid back here which gives you more time to get to know the vendors.

The Monroe Street Farmers' Market was started in 2015 as a vibrant weekly gathering within walking and



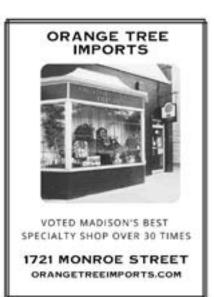
biking distance of Madison's near westside neighborhoods where community members would have access to a variety of local produce, handmade products, and items unique to southern Wisconsin. Located in Edgewood High School's parking lot, the market is run by a group of passionate farmers and neighbors. Between 30 and 40 farmers, producers, and artisans sell at the market each week.

The market strives to be a welcoming space for community engagement, interaction, and entertainment for all visitors. Not only can you get your grocery shopping done in the pleasure of your neighborhood, you can also visit with neighbors, enjoy the music, meet your farmer, and help strengthen our community.

Learn more about the Monroe Street Farmers Market at www.monroestreetfarmersmarket.org.



Wednesday-Saturday 5pm-9pm



Vilas Zoo Welcomes Three Lemur Babies

From Kristin Moala, Marketing and Outreach Coordinator, Henry Vilas Zoo

Henry Vilas Zoo recently announced the birth of three critically endangered black-and-white ruffed lemurs. Mom Morombe gave birth on April 25 just three days after her 13th birthday. All three infants, one male and two females, weighed less than 100 grams, about the weight of a medium-sized tomato, when they were born.

"We are excited to welcome these three baby lemurs to the Henry Vilas Zoo family," said Dane County Executive Joe Parisi. "Many thanks to our staff for keeping these infant primates healthy. We take pride in our education and conservation efforts at the zoo to save endangered species and look forward to watching our three newest residents grow up."

Before giving birth, females will build a nest high up in the trees. The exhibit has several nest boxes for the lemurs to use, and Morombe builds nests every year even when she is not pregnant. One of the zoo's newer limited-term keepers, Tim Pavel, was cleaning the lemur habitat when he heard a noise from one of the nests and found the babies. They were immediately checked over by veterinary staff and reunited with Morombe.

"These little ones are a welcome addition to our family of lemurs," said Henry Vilas Zoo Executive Director Ronda Schwetz. "We are so fortunate to have keepers like Tim who go above and beyond every day to make sure our animals are well taken care of."

Black-and-white ruffed lemurs are pregnant for three months. They are one of the few primate species that commonly have multiple offspring. Lemurs can have up to six babies in a litter, but more commonly have triplets. Moms carry young around in their mouth rather than on their back like many other primates. Young stay in their nest for about three weeks and they are as mobile as their parents at roughly 7 weeks. The babies made their public debut on May 12 and are now visible in the Primate House.

Dad Tanjaka will help protect the nest with Morombe until the babies are weaned, at around 7 months.

"We baby-proofed their spaces to make sure they will be safe," said Lead Lemur Keeper Sierra Semel. "We have extra hammocks and climbing nets to help the babies navigate around their habitat and we are putting wood wool, which is similar to straw, on the ground in case they fall, which is one of the biggest dangers for young lemurs in the wild."

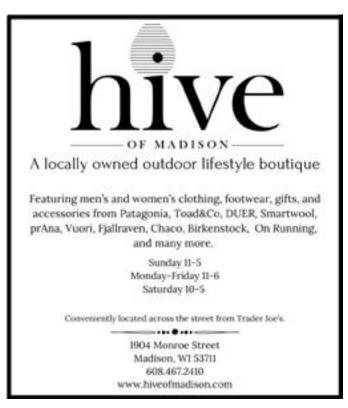
The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) has established Species Survival Plans for many threatened



Young ruffed lemurs quickly learn the ropes. Henry Vilas Zoo photo.

and endangered species. Each plan manages a specific animal population to help create genetic diversity and the long-term future for the species. Henry Vilas Zoo currently participates in 38 different species survival plans.

For more, see http://www.henryvilaszoo.gov. ◆



Evers Focuses on Housing

By Ald. Tag Evers, 13th District

On Tuesday, April 18, I was sworn in for a third term on the Madison Common Council. It's been an honor and a pleasure to serve you and I look forward to this next term. We've made progress these past four years, but there is a lot more work ahead of us.

I remain focused on our challenges around housing. The development projects on the Triangle–Bayview and the city's Community Development Authority public housing properties—as well as the new grocery store on S. Park will continue to have my utmost attention. Also, I'll be working with city staff on various projects to bring more affordable housing to District 13.

Wisconsin Housing Preservation Corp. is proposing mixed-use workforce housing at the Jensen Auto site on Regent Street. Though the neighborhood plan calls for four stories, the WHPC is seeking an additional story to offer greater affordability. This makes good sense to me; we need density and affordability in tandem. Regent Street is now within the new Tax Incremental District (TID) 48. I hope that the increased development along Regent St will spread to Monroe St as well. With more housing comes more retail options, more restaurants, and more amenities in general, qualities that make neighborhoods more walkable and therefore more desirable.

Please read the recent article in the Cap Times by Allison Garfield on "Why Madison Rents are Rising So Fast and Won't Slow Down."

I understand the concerns that rapid growth could be accompanied by gentrification and displacement of low-income residents. The Common Council recently approved the <u>formation of TID 51</u> to bring \$115 million to Madison's southside, an investment that will help guide growth with a view towards mitigating its negative impacts.

While I support more development to address Madison's housing crisis, I don't believe it should come at any cost. For the last several months, I've been serving on the Farmland Preservation Task Force. This task force was set up to recommend ways to balance the needs for housing and arable land for urban agriculture. We found during the pandemic that locally produced food is critically important. Moreover, the ecological value of these parcels in terms of stormwater management, carbon capture, and pollination should not be ignored.

The task force's final report is being referred to committees for review, after which Common Council will vote on whether to adopt the report. I'm confident we will do so as it's a very solid report that will provide policy makers with sound guidance as our city continues to grow.

Take care, stay safe, and enjoy the sunshine! ◆

Jail Consolidation Project: background and update

By Cecely Castillo, Dist. 7 Supervisor

I've been on the County Board since 2020, and the Dane County jail consolidation project has been a topic on which I hear from constituents regularly.

This issue predates my tenure, as the County Board has been working on this for decades. In 2018 it appeared the jail project was moving forward, but came to a screeching halt when the architectural and engineering firms discovered the current building would not support the planned additional floor. Then came the pandemic, which brought immediate health and safety concerns for people in custody. The Sheriff's office acted swiftly and efficiently to reduce the jail population.

Seeing the reduced population led many to consider what the numbers could look like with adequate community investments in diversion programs to keep people out of the system. The pandemic also led to rapidly escalating costs and the price tag for the jail consolidation plan increased dramatically.

In 2021 the Dane County district maps changed post census, through a successful nonpartisan process, and brought a lot of new faces and increased diversity to the county board. There was interest amongst members, myself included, to look at how the jail project could fit into the bigger criminal justice reform picture for our community. And personally, my prior career as a prosecutor in Chicago has led me to prioritize investing in programs to keep people from being funneled into the criminal justice system wherever we can safely and effectively do so.

During last fall's budget process the Dane County Board's Black Caucus led a compromise for a smaller jail paired with smart investments in diversion and other programs, which I supported. This passed the county board, but was vetoed by County Executive Parisi.

While the veto was surprising, the Black Caucus regrouped and reopened conversations with Dane County Sheriff Barrett. In April a compromise took shape for the board to support an additional \$13.5 million to fund the 6-story jail project. In exchange, Sheriff Barrett agreed to remove federal in-transit inmates from the Dane County jail, advocate for moving oversight of the Huber program to Dane County Department of Human Services, reduce the use of solitary confinement, support expanding the CARES program and support establishing a mental health court.

On April 20, the Dane County board voted 32 to 5 in favor of providing the additional \$13.5 million in funding to complete the jail project, with construction slated to begin this fall. ◆

Music in the Neighborhood on June 21

There'll be free outdoor music in at least three Vilas Neighborhood locations and two others just across Monroe Street on Wednesday, June 21, as part of Make Music Madison:

- Beth Israel Center, 1406 Mound St. afternoon, Americana/Bluegrass, Folk, Singer/ Songwriter
- Bonnie's Driveway, 1430 Drake St., morning to early evening, Renaissance, Baroque. Classical, Scandinavian, Americana/Bluegrass, Folk, Blues, Country, Jazz
- Vilas Park Shelter, 1602 Vilas Park Dr., afternoon and evening, Blues, Country, Jazz, Latin, Standards
- Monroe Commons, 1800 Monroe St.. afternoon and evening, Standards, Rock, Folk. Pop, Classical, A Cappella, Barbershop
- Hive of Madison, 1904 Monroe St., late morning to late afternoon, Americana/ Bluegrass, Singer/Songewriter, Indie-Folk, Indie-Rock, Rock, Pop

For a map and more information about the events, see https://www.makemusicmadison. org/listings/.

MMM is 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 in 1,000+ cities across the globe. ◆



The Starr Grass Band performed in Bonnie's Driveway at last year's Make Music Madison.





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from Woodrow Hall Editions of Woodrow Street

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Over 80 works of fiction and essays published, I am the author of six poetry and nonfiction books.

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- Historic Architecture Walking Tours run May 27-Sept. 23, Thursdays and Saturdaysreservations required
- Tour of West Rail Corridor on Sept. 17
- · Support historic preservation in Madison — become a member of the Madison Trust!



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Donate to VNA via PayPal!

Suggested membership donation is: \$20/household or \$10/individuals https://www.paypal.me/ **VilasNA**

JOIN THE DISCUSSION

The VNA sponsors an online listsery for our members:

https://groups.io/g/VilasNA

You can ask to join the e-mail list by sending an e-mail to:

VilasNA+subscribe@ groups.io.

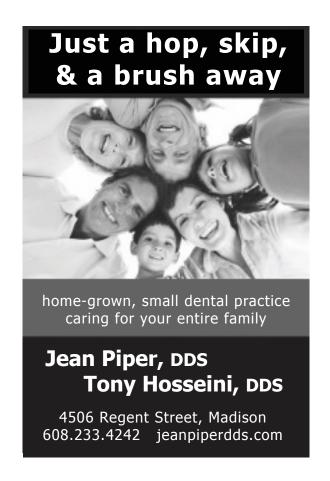
Please identify yourself by name and address to facilitate this process, since this listsery is primarily for those who live within the VNA boundaries.

	January I - December 3I
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	VNA Membership Form Suggested m \$10/individual.	embership donation is \$20/household or			
-					
	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)				
Na	Names				
Ad	Address	Telephone			
Children's name(s) Home e-mail address(es)					
					Ye

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





Vilas Neighborhood Association Bonnie Gruber, Editor 1430 Drake Street Madison, WI 53711