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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 we quickly approach another calendar year, I have the pleasure of looking back at all the work that the VNA accomplished this 2021. I am so grateful to all our neighbors who serve our neighborhood by being on the council; as chairs and committee members; and as volunteers. All of these folks make our neighborhood a real community that looks out for each other, looks at issues that affect the neighborhood, and has fun together.

In 2021 we spent time continuing work on the Vilas Park Master Plan. Taking the lead for our neighborhood, were Ann Rivlin and Wendy Fearnside who worked tirelessly to gather input from all of us and come up ideas and solutions for the Parks Department. Our Zoning Committee headed by Ben Biltz and Wendy took on several issues that came up throughout the year, including proposed changes to Lucky's 1313, the sale of HotelRed, as well as several changes to businesses on Monroe St. They researched and taught us about city wide zoning changes and transportation issues. With the immense help of Doug Carlson, another neighborhood survey went out which many of you filled out. The results which can be found on the website, are very informative to members of the council. Over the course of several months, the VNA council updated our Bylaws, making dues voluntary for

membership and making absentee part of the voting process whether we are in a pandemic or not as well as making it a bit easier to read.

2021 also brought back social events that were cancelled due to Covid and brought on new events to bring us together. I am so grateful to the neighbors and families that brought back the Summer Block and Halloween Parties. Our Holiday party is going to look a bit different this year since the closing of HotelRed but I am looking forward to having it at Garth's on Dec. 12th. Our Social Chair Bethany Nelson has brought us new ways to get together by starting a VNA Book Club, a Back to School Treat Table, and a Holiday Lights walk and starting some charitable giving opportunities like sponsoring a Halloween Party for DAIS and holiday giving with Heritage Senior Living. Sally Lehner worked to get a grant for VNA to work with Dane Art Mural Arts to paint a mural on a storm drain at Vilas Park. It was a wonderful and educational event for the children in our neighborhood.

I know there is no way I can list everyone who has contributed to or volunteered for our neighborhood association, but speaking on behalf of the VNA, we are thankful for each and every one of you. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish in 2022. Please join us at future meetings and events!



#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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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 Feb 25, 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)

#### A message from Mayor Rhodes-Conway

The Madison Common Council recently approved the 2022 Capital and Operating Budgets after three evenings of deliberations. The Council adopted a \$354,244,062 Capital Budget and a \$360,321,028 Operating Budget.

This was another difficult budget season given revenue losses caused by COVID-19 and a structural budget deficit due to severe limitations on our ability to raise revenue imposed by the State Legislature. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to the Biden administration and Congress for passing the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). With the support of ARPA funding, we were able to adopt a fiscally responsible balanced budget that meets the needs of our community and keeps tax increases low.

Some highlights include:

- Funding to staff an ambulance at Fire Station 14 and expanding eligibility for the ambulance hardship waiver program
- Supporting the construction of affordable housing, including for youth aging out of foster care, and programs that support tenants, increase homeownership and help keep current homeowners in their homes.
- Expansion of violence prevention services within the public health department, with new funding to focus on gun violence.
- New investments in our young people with support for youth programming and jobs.
- Continued support for Bus Rapid Transit which will deliver a faster, more efficient mass transit system that will serve as a backbone of our economy and help reduce our climate footprint.
- Increased efforts to safely and humanely provide solutions to support people experiencing homelessness.
- Continued support for the Madison Community Alternative Response Emergency Services (CARES) program, an alternative response system for mental health 911 calls.
- Equitable service delivery for the new residents from the Town of Madison who will be joining our City in 2022.
- Full funding for the Civilian Oversight Board and Office of the Independent Police Monitor which will soon begin its work focusing on continuous improvement in policing policies and procedures.
- Funding 3 community connector positions in the department of civil rights to provide bilingual, bicultural support for residents who speak Spanish, Hmong, and Mandarin.

We accomplished all this while holding the property tax increase to the lowest level in many years. The 15-year average levy increase for City government has been 4.1 percent. This year, it will be 1.2 percent, the lowest in twenty years.

#### Gear Up for Dane County's Ever-Growing Network of Bike Trails

By Dane County Executive Joe Parisi

The COVID-19 pandemic has strained the Dane County community, negatively impacting many struggling with mental illness. Our commitment to addressing mental and behavioral health challenges has existed for years, and with the help of our latest efforts, will remain a top priority in 2022 and beyond.

My 2022 budget allocates \$10 million for site acquisition, planning, and development of the Crisis Triage Center (CTC). This one-stop facility will help keep individuals out of the criminal justice system and directly link them with services customized to address their needs. Individuals will be able to get help from the CTC by a referral, be brought in by law enforcement, or walk in themselves.

Last November, Dane County opened the Behavioral Health Resource Center (BHRC), a facility that connects people with resources to address barriers in mental health care and those seeking treatment for substance abuse. Given increasing workloads, I'm adding \$440,000 in the 2022 budget for more staff at the BHRC, bringing our annual commitment for the BHRC to over \$1.2 million.

Our school-based mental health teams are currently in 10 school districts, providing critical behavioral health resources in support of over-worked school counselors and mental health professionals. Dane County invests over \$1 million annually in this effort. Next year, I'm allocating another \$500,000 for additional mental health professionals in schools to help educators and students navigate the unknowns of COVID-19.

My 2022 budget ups funding for mental health resource programs for seniors, which I first created in 2020. These senior mental health caseworkers work closely with managers to assist older adults with severe or long-term behavioral health issues. I'm also allocating \$100,000 to explore the feasibility of pursing a Youth Crisis Stabilization Center. Such a facility would stabilize situations for young people who need access to clinical mental health services in a residential setting.

When it comes to addressing mental health, Dane County is committed to serving our community and leading progressively. Whether it be through new or ongoing initiatives, we remain dedicated to coordinating care and improving outcomes for Dane County residents of all ages. •





### A Message from Dane County Supervsior Chuck Erickson

The County Board has been working on three major issues the past few months including the ongoing jail project, re-districting and the 2022 Dane County budget.

The Jail Consolidation Project' continues to evolve and be discussed. The current plans for a new seven story building behind the Public Safety Building were paused by the County Executive last summer and The JFA Institute, an external criminal justice research group, has been working with the County since then to consider other options for the project.

The original cost of the project was \$148 million but since the Covid pandemic and inflation, that increased by \$22 million.

One option from a JFA report, keep the project cost at \$138 million, includes removing two floors on the new building, not remodeling the Public Safety Building and removing the infirmary from the new building.

There is more urgency for a final decision since the bonding for financing will expire if a plan is not finalized. While this project would be the most expensive in County history, two major issues must be addressed: problems with the maximum security floors of the jail in the City County Building, and solitary confinement. The older design of these floors, which are six and seven, result in safety issues for both inmates and County staff. Solitary confinement is used for inmates with mental health issues and crises, since the Sheriff has no other option, which only makes their conditions worse.

Another major issue has been the regular, every 10 year redistricting process. Due to the delays with the Federal government's census data collection process, the time frame for the redistricting process has been severely compressed.

In 2016, Dane County decided to try a new approach for redistricting and create an independent, non-partisan commission, which included no elected officials, that would create new districts. With this new process, citizens decided where the new districts would be located. The process did not use incumbent supervisors as a consideration. Two current incumbents ended up within the boundaries of four new districts while there were many concerns about new districts not matching municipalities or neighborhoods. While these are valid concerns I felt that we should accept the decisions of the commission so that the process would be truly non-partisan, transparent and objective.

Finally, the other major issue was working on the 2022 budget. The County Board just passed the 2022 budget which included the operating budget of \$660,557,196.00 and a capital budget of \$94,175,900. The budget includes a levy increase of 4.4% which increases taxes on the average Dane County home by \$67.87.

The County Executive signed the budget with only one modification which dealt with a committee to review County job classifications.

There were amendments related to criminal justice including \$200,000 to expand gun violence prevention, \$67,617 to establish a pretrial services office and eliminating Huber fees and reducing revenue by \$134,000.

Additionally, there were capital and operating amendments to support the most vulnerable in our community with direct assistance including \$1 million in additional funds for a tiny house project, \$3,250,000 to convert a hotel into affordable housing for people experiencing homelessness and an additional \$15,000 for Afghan refugees.

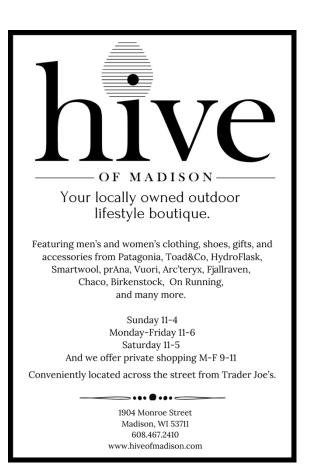
Finally, budget amendments related to the environment and sustainability included \$500,000 for a conservation easement at Voit farm, \$10,000 for trees in underserved areas, and what I worked on the most, \$300,000 in capital funding to address stormwater runoff in Monona Bay.

If you have questions about any of these issues or anything related to Dane County government please contact me at <a href="mailto:Erickson.chuck@countyofdane.com">Erickson.chuck@countyofdane.com</a> or 608-212-8753.

•







#### WELCOME TO



#### **Monroe Street Merchants**

Small Business Saturday is November 27th!

#### **HOLIDAY GLOW ON MONROE!**

Come celebrate the official launch of the season with Holiday Glow on Monroe on Friday, December 3 starting at 4:00. Carolers from the Madison Savoyards will sing the songs of the season along the street, Chad Bartell will play holiday favorites on the solo steelpan drum, and Santa will make his debut. There will be a book sale at the Monroe Street Library, and many of the participating businesses with offer refreshments or other special activities. Be sure to check out all the specials: <a href="http://www.monroestreetmadison.com/holiday-glow-on-monroe">http://www.monroestreetmadison.com/holiday-glow-on-monroe</a>

Do you follow Monroe Street Madison on Facebook and Instagram? Please tag us (@ monroestreetmadison) in your Monroe Street adventures and use #monroestreetmadison. Check out our website for more information about events, businesses, and more:

www.monroestreetmadison.com. •



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## A Message from Rep. Francesa Hong

As session wraps up this year, the state of Wisconsin politics has become even more volatile & undemocratic. Republicans recently introduced legislative maps that are even more gerrymandered than our present ones. They continue to be intent on choosing their constituents instead of the other way around. Luckily, on Nov 18th, Governor Tony Evers vetoed those maps and set the standard for fair redistricting and for what the people of Wisconsin deserve.

But what have undemocratic maps cost us in the interim?

Because of the state's gerrymander, Republicans hold a legislative majority that does not reflect the political makeup of Wisconsin. Time and time again this session, the bills office has introduced have stalled without being referred to committee or a public hearing. Abortion rights, healthy school meals for all, rigorous climate change mitigation, collective bargaining for Wisconsin teachers, and much more have been subject to partisan political football as Speaker Robin Vos and his caucus obstruct and ignore our needs.

The way forward is very clear: to meet the demands of the 76th district and of Wisconsin, the courts must decide that democracy shall prevail and rule GOP gerrymandering unconstitutional.

With fair maps, not only will the people of Wisconsin choose their representatives, they will undoubtedly and finally have a government that works for them.

As we round out year two of the Covid 19 pandemic, we understand as a community now more than ever where our economic, political, and social safety nets have failed us. We must rebuild those nets to be stronger and to take into account the diverse needs of our diverse communities. We must reject illogical austerity and reimagine what government service means.

The possibility of what our state can be is endless, but first we must clear the hurdle of partisan redistricting. It's time for fair maps in Wisconsin. ◆



#### Ice Dams Can Be Costly

From Madison Gas and Electric Company (MGE)

A few inches of snow, freezing temperatures and warm air leaking into your attic are a perfect combination for ice dams. What's an ice dam, and why should you be concerned if you have icicles hanging from your gutters?

Ice dams form when heat in the attic melts the snow on the roof and water runs down to the overhang and then refreezes. The ice starts to build up, holding water which can then flow back up the roof under the shingles. This often results in serious water damage to the ceiling and walls inside the home. Often, the damage can't be seen until it's too late, and repairs can be expensive.

Warm air leaking into your cold attic through attic bypasses (the small holes and paths by which heated air flows into the attic) is usually the culprit. Some sources include electrical boxes, exhaust fans, lighting fixtures including recessed lights and wiring penetrations and attic hatches/entrances. These warm air bypasses have to be fixed first to eliminate the problem. A lack of ventilation and/or not enough insulation can add to the trouble.

If you think you have a problem, your best bet is to have a home energy audit performed. An energy professional can do a blower door test to find the leaks and seal them. He also can tell you if you need more attic insulation or ventilation. Remember, this problem is not going to just go away. It will continue to happen year after year when conditions are right.

Contact the Focus on Energy Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® program at 1-800-762-7077 or visit focusonenergy.com to request an energy audit. (Focus on Energy also has a separate program for the incomequalified.)



 Ø Regenerative Medicine

 Ø Vein Care

 Ø Vasectomy

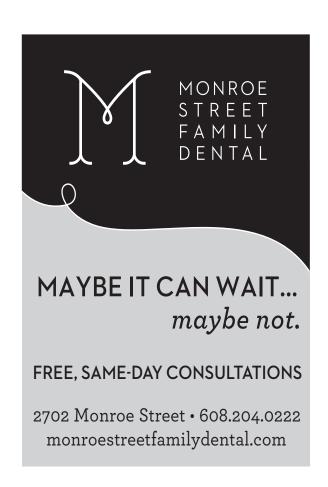
 Ø Chronic Pain Treatment

 Ø Skin Growth Removal

## Eric Phillippi, MD

1920 Monroe Street Madison, WI 53711 Office: 608-251-6060 info@medicalprocedures.com

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#### A Message from Alder Tag Evers

In November, the Common Council concluded three days of deliberations by passing the 2022 Capital and Operating Budgets. The Council adopted a \$354,244,062 Capital Budget and a \$360,321,028 Operating Budget. This was another very challenging task due to the economic impact of the pandemic, but we were able to pass a balanced budget thanks to federal assistance provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) adopted by Congress and signed by President Biden.

Budget highlights worth noting:

- More affordable and supportive housing, including for youth aging out of foster care, as well as programs to support tenants, increase homeownership, and assist current homeowners to stay in their homes
- Expansion of violence prevention services within Public Health, recognizing the connection between public safety and public health, with new funding focusing on gun violence reduction
- Moving forward with Bus Rapid Transit, which is essential to relieve traffic congestion, stimulate economic growth, and reduce our carbon footprint
- Targeting resources to provide immediate shelter and long-term solutions for those experiencing homelessness
- Expanding the CARES program, adding an additional response team for mental health 911 calls
- Ensuring equitable service delivery for the new residents from the Town of Madison who will be joining our City in 2022
- Hiring a Digital Equity Coordinator to expand digital access in low-income neighborhoods
- Expanding the Monroe Street Library hours of operation to five days a week

It's worth noting Council and the Mayor passed this budget addressing a variety of community needs while holding the property tax increase to the lowest level in twenty years.

In other news, construction has started at the Truman Olson site and an official groundbreaking was held on October 25. City staff are negotiating with an experienced grocer capable of stepping in. We have received assurances from Kroger's, the owner of Pick

'N Save, that they plan to remain open until the new grocery store is in place.

The Lake Wingra Heritage Plan working group has developed a mission statement. It reads as follows:

The Lake Wingra Heritage Plan will develop and help implement policies and practices that celebrate the unique natural and cultural heritage of Lake Wingra. The plan will focus on three areas:

- (1) addressing water quality concerns by building on past efforts and promoting greater community protection of Lake Wingra;
- (2) preserving and enhancing the natural views of Lake Wingra and its surroundings; and
- (3) identifying and pursuing the creation of a Lake Wingra Heritage Trail.

We continue to meet, working on objectives and strategies to implement our goals, including taking a collaborative approach with the Ho-Chunk nation to emphasize the cultural heritage of this precious resource.

The Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee recommended a map that keeps the boundaries of District 13 largely intact. Council voted to approve the final map on November 2, which included an amendment I submitted to add Town of Madison parcels in and adjacent to the Arboretum to District 13.

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! We've got a ton of events this holiday season, but first, a big thanks to everyone who participated in our Halloween events, including the block party, trick or treating, and our house and costume contest. We hope to see even more next year! We have something for everyone this holiday season, including indoor and outdoor celebrations! VNA Holiday Party-December 12th!

It's back! The VNA will be hosting a holiday party on Sunday, December 12th from 12-2pm at Garth's on Monroe. Snacks and finger food will be served, and a cash bar will be available. All ages are welcome to attend!

#### Neighborhood holiday light walk with cookies and cocoa

Please join us this December for a night of holiday light in the neighborhood! On an evening in December (to be determined), the VNA will host a cookie and cocoa station.. We hope everyone will take a breather from the busy holiday season, stop by for some treats, and spend time with their loved ones while enjoying the brilliance of the season in our own backyard! (Also, if we have anyone who wants to organizer carolers, please let your tone-deaf social chair know).

There is not charge for either of these events (though we'd love it if you'd volunteer to pay your dues to help keep us doing things like this)!

#### Holiday Charity Drive

Did you know that 70% of people living in senior and assisted living facilities will receive 0 gifts this holiday season? That's why Vilas has paired with Heritage Senior Living to do our best to provide as many of their residents as we can a gift. The center will provide us with a list of residents' wishes that will be sent to the neighborhood. They have 144 residents, which may seem daunting, but if we can help even a fraction of those people, it will be well worth it!

#### Calling artists, big and small

With our charity drive for Heritage we are asking folks, big and small to consider making cards, crafts, or decorations for the seniors. Handmade tokens can do a lot to help a person feel remember so if you have some extra construction paper, crayons, and a few minutes to spare, we'd love it if you'd make something that we could attach to the gifts we pass along.

#### Auction Items Needed

In addition to a direct appeal, we will be hosting an auction where the money raised will go toward helping us provide items for the seniors. If you have an item, gift, card, ticket, or service like the promise of cookies or snow removal that you would like to donate, please email socialchairvilas@gmail.com

Do you need help for the holidays? There's no denying that it's been a rough couple of years. If you need some help this holiday seasons with gifts, décor, groceries, or something else, please reach out to me directly at <a href="mailto:socialchairvilas@gmail.com">socialchairvilas@gmail.com</a>. Your request is completely confidential and I will work with you to ensure that you get what you need discretely. We want to do what we can to help those in our own backyard so if you need some help, please don't hesitate to ask!

#### 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.

#### **VNA Book Club**

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

Our January read is: Finding Mother Tree by Suzanne Simard

A non-fiction book that talks about the ecosystem of trees and the interconnected world they form. Soon we'll be voting on our picks for 2022, so please email socialchairvilas@gmail.com if interested in joining!

Do you have an idea for a social event or want to volunteer to help host? Please let me know as I'd love to hear your ideas and see what we can do to make it happen! To participate or provide feedback, please email <a href="mailto:socialchairvilas@gmail.com">socialchairvilas@gmail.com</a>





# You can donate to the 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 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 I - December 3 I	
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# **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)				
Na	umes				
Address		Telephone			
Ch	Children's name(s)				
Ho	ome email address(es)				
Ye	ar moved into VNA area				

Checks should be made out to Vilas Neighborhood Association and mailed to Pat Scheckel 1915 Jefferson Street, Madison, WI 53711. Or use PayPal: https://www.paypal.me/VilasNA

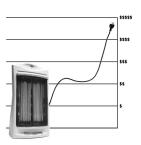
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Questions? Visit: mge.com/heater



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