



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 Past President

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as the Vilas Neighborhood Association President for the past three years. I have enjoyed the role as I faced many challenges. The biggest challenge we all faced was the COVID-19 pandemic. As an association, we found new ways to gather by creating new events outside and on-line and to support one another in Vilas and throughout District 13. We started new events like the Lake Wingra Clean-up and gathering holiday gifts for the elderly in our community. On the other end of the spectrum, we stayed on top of city-wide issues that would effect Vilas. We provided a forum for discussion around issues such as the Transit Oriented Development and a proposed alcohol license on Regent St.

Of course, this wouldn't have happened without an active council and dedicated volunteers. Much gratitude goes to outgoing councilmembers, Ben Biltz and Pat Scheckel. Ben worked hard as co-chair of the zoning committee and helped us navigate through many city issues that came up. Pat worked tirelessly as both treasurer and editor of the Vilas Ink for many years. I am also very thankful for all the councilmembers this year- Rachel Bennett, Regan Botsford, Doug Carlson, Wendy Fearnside and Bonnie Gruber – each dedicating a lot of time and energy to the neighborhood by serving on committees and as officers.

Other volunteers include our social chair, Bethany Nelson, who has been instrumental in creating new social events and service projects; and Roz Woodward who has led our block captains and created an informative, weekly email. There are so many folks to thank for their contributions to the VNA – like those who run the listserv, the families who organize the summer and Halloween parties, and all the block captains – and that is just some!

Lastly, I want to thank all of YOU, Vilas Neighbors for allowing me this opportunity. It was so wonderful to meet and get to know so many of you over these past years. I will still be around, walking my dog through the neighborhood, going to meetings and social events. I hope to be able to say “thank you” in person!

I am so proud of our association and all we have accomplished, and I could not be happier to leave the role of president in the capable hands of Doug Carlson. I am confident that Doug and the VNA council will do a fantastic job in whatever challenges might come up. ♦



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Bonnie Gruber
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 February 24, 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)

Help Manage Your Energy Use This Winter With These Tips - *From Madison Gas and Electric Company (MGE)*

The holiday season is here and with it often comes a full schedule of events, including gatherings, shopping and decorating. If you're looking to save energy but don't have a lot of time, MGE has some quick, no- and low-cost tips to help.

Lower Your Thermostat

You can save an estimated 10% on your heating by turning your thermostat down 10 degrees for eight hours a day. Visit mge.com/setthermostat for recommended thermostat settings.

Check Your Vents

Properly opening and closing high and low vent returns will help your furnace to operate efficiently. If your home has these vents, you will see low vents on the wall near the floor. Straight up from the low vents toward the ceiling will be the high vents. Remember that hot air rises and cold air falls. In winter, you want the cold air to be drawn through the return registers so the furnace can heat it. You can achieve this by opening lower vents and closing top vents.

Check Your Furnace Filter

The furnace filter is a small part of your heating system but an important one. A clogged filter can inhibit airflow. It causes your furnace to work harder and use more energy. During heating season, check your filter monthly, and clean or replace it when it is dirty.

Check Your Windows

Leaving windows unlocked allows the air to move in and out of the house as energy loss. It's common for the upper sash of a double-hung window to "fall down" a bit, leaving the top of the window "open," which often goes unseen because of blinds or shades. Ensure this doesn't happen by locking your windows!

And, if you have any drafty windows, consider installing inexpensive window film to help keep the cool air out. These kits are sold in stores and online and only require a household hairdryer to install.

Let Sunlight Help Warm Your Space

Just as shade helps keep you and your home cooler in the summer, letting in the sunlight during winter helps warm a room. Open your blinds or drapes during the day to take advantage of the sunshine, and close them at night to reduce heat loss and drafts.

Heat the Person, not the Room

Instead of turning up the heat, put on another layer, get up and move around, or plug in a low-energy-using item such as a heating pad, heated blanket or heated slippers.

Want more ways to save energy? Stay up-to-date on energy-saving tips and products by visiting mge2050.com.

2023 County Budget Seeks to Make Opportunity Out of Adversity

By Dane County Executive Joe Parisi

Each year around this time local leaders set work priorities for the coming year by building a budget. As County Executive, I take what I hear from you throughout the year and create a vision for a county government that works the way you want it to. What we have in store in 2023 reflects what I hear time and time again—a desire for highly livable communities where empathy and compassion for our most vulnerable thrive.

We're now only weeks away from being the first county government in the region to achieve 100% renewable energy status—meaning we will soon produce more clean electricity through our solar developments than all our facilities use. We are leading the way on the hard work needed to stem the advance of climate change, setting the template for how communities can make themselves both more sustainable and resilient.

We're also advancing our work to improve access to behavioral health services. My 2023 budget adds more teams of mental health professionals in our schools and our rural sheriff's precincts and adds staff to our Dane County Behavioral Health Resource Center, which continues to see increasing call volumes. These comprehensive efforts will improve access to mental health care.

My 2023 budget infuses \$6 million into our food pantries and local growers to keep Dane County's "Farm to Foodbank" initiative going through the coming year. Teamed with another \$1.5 million to build a new pantry and \$2 million in emergency food grant awards, we can help buffer the impacts of high grocery prices on those in need.

In the midst of all the noise and distraction of these times, it can be easy to tune out—but it's important people know their county government is hard at work, always innovating and building smarter ways to do the work they value. It's an honor to serve as your County Executive and I'm grateful for all of the ideas I heard from you this year that shaped my 2023 Dane County budget. ♦



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Social Scene

By Bethany Nelson, Vilas Social Chair

Holiday happenings are here!

We have some great events for the neighborhood this winter and hope all will participate.

Charity Auction

We have our second annual charity auction this year, helping residents of senior living facilities receive gifts this holiday season. 70% of people living in these facilities will not receive anything for the holidays so we are happy to help.

We raised over \$800 last year which allowed us to help countless residents. We are happy to accept donations, which can include handmade crafts, culinary creations, gift cards, art, and anything you're happy to pass along. There are some great auction items that will be up for bid and we hope you take a look!

Please visit 32auctions.com/vilas to see the listings

Craft Party

New this year, for children of all ages- craft making party!

We've paired with the Beth Israel Center to host a craft making party filled with stickers, crayons, and fun (and treats, we won't forget the treats)! Everyone is welcome to come and make cards and crafts to take home and we hope that attendees consider starting by making one for the senior homes for our charity event to help brighten their day. We are looking for volunteers for this event.

Where: Beth Israel Center, 1406 Mound St, parking lot entrance

When: December 4th, 10-12pm (come by anytime, no set schedule)

Who: Kids, adults who like to color,

adults who don't like coloring but like stickers, adults who don't like coloring or stickers but like treats, adults who do not like coloring, sticker, or treats, but who love our neighborhood.

Cocoa and Cookies

Back by popular demand, we will be having cocoa and cookies night.

Come by the 1900 block of Jefferson on Friday, December 9th and have a mug of cocoa and some sweet treats while chatting with neighbors. Please reach out if you'd like to donate a batch of your favorite holiday cookies for your neighbors to ooh and aah over

Please also consider bringing a mug to lessen waste.

(Where: 1919 Jefferson

When: 6:30-8pm

Who: Anyone willing to brave the cold and connect!

Holiday Party

We are pleased to revisit Garth's on Monroe for the second year running for our holiday party.

Sunday, December 11th from 12-2, they are open just for us! The neighborhood will provide some snacks and non-alcoholic beverages (beer is on you).

Where: Garth's on Monroe

When: Sunday, December 11th 12-2pm

Who: All neighborhood residents

All of these events are free and open to all in the neighborhood. We would certainly appreciate if you would consider donating in lieu of dues so we can continue to provide events like these!

If you are interested in helping out with anything or have any questions, please contact socialchairvilas@gmail.com ♦



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WELCOME TO

M N *r* E

Holiday Glow on Monroe

Friday, December 2nd from 4:00 to 8:00

Come celebrate the official launch of the season with Holiday Glow on Monroe on Friday, December 2!

Carolers from the Madison Savoyards will sing the songs of the season along the street.

Santa will arrive at Monroe Commons - by Trader Joe's - at 4:00 and then visit with children (and the young at heart) in the 1700-1900 blocks of Monroe Street.

Eric De Los Santos will play holiday music on the marimba at Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream starting at 4:00, and then at Monroe Commons.

Many merchants will have special events! Be sure to check them all out on the [Monroe Street Madison Holiday Glow on Monroe webpage](#).

First Friday on Monroe Street will resume on January 6.



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Monroe Street Library News

What's happening at your neighborhood library?

Tuesday morning storytimes resume January 10.

Multi-Age story time for ages 5 and under at 10:15

Baby and Toddler time at 11 through Dec. 20.

Saturday Art drop-in workshops

Two Saturdays per month. Times and projects vary. Stay tuned for additional dates and info.

- January 14, 1-3 pm - Maps and Mazes with Keva Planks
- January 28, 10-12
- February 4, 10-12
- Feb. 11, 10 - noon - Watercolors
- March 4, 1 - 3 pm - Zines and Mini books
- March 18, 10-12
- April 22, 10-12
- May 6, 1-3 pm - Paper Puppets

Jigsaw Puzzle Swap and Table.

Attention jigsaw puzzlers: Swap one of your puzzles in our ongoing puzzle swap! When you finish that one, bring it back and swap it for another. We have puzzles to get you through the winter. And check out our puzzle table. We almost always have a puzzle going.

I can do that with my library card?

Transparent Language Online is a fun way to study a language on your computer or mobile device with robust courses, extensive grammar, and pronunciation instruction. Choose from more than 100 languages including Ukrainian, Ojibwe, and American Sign Language. Go to madpl.org/databases. Type **Transparent Language** in the search bar. Have your library card number ready - you'll need it to access the database.

Book discussion kits. Check out a discussion 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 include *Trust* by Herman Diaz on many best book of the year lists, *True Biz* by Sara Nović, and *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. Order kits by calling 608 266-6300, then pick them up here at Monroe Street.

New **Too Good To Miss** titles

include *That Bird Has My Wings: the Autobiography of an Innocent Man on Death Row* by Jarvis Jay Masters, *Beautiful Country: a Memoir of an Undocumented Childhood* by Qian Julie Wong, *100 Animals That Can F*cking Kill You* by Mamadou Ndiaye, *By Her Own Design: a Novel of Ann Lowe, Fashion Designer to the Social Register* by Piper Huguley, *It Starts With Us* by Colleen Hower, and *A Minor Chorus* by Billy-Ray Belcourt. This collection is available on a walk-in basis. ♦

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Keep Up with Madison's Investments in Sustainability and Resilience - Mayor Rhodes-Conway

The City of Madison has launched a [Sustainability and Resilience](#) webpage. Organized into six topics – climate, energy, zero waste, transportation, water and nature – the site describes our goals, programs, partnerships and policies. And we recently shared Madison's Top 15 Climate Actions:

1. Using clean energy for City operations. Nearly 75% of electricity for City operations comes from renewable sources, putting us well on the way to our goal of 100% clean energy by 2030.
2. [Installing solar at City facilities](#). We have installed more than 1.3 MW of behind-the-meter solar at City facilities, and we plan to install another 8 MW by 2030.
3. Providing green workforce training through our [GreenPower program](#). The GreenPower program prepares young people for careers in clean energy and the trades.
4. Spreading solar in the community. Our [MadiSUN program](#), administered by local nonprofit partner [RENEW Wisconsin](#), works to expand solar energy for homes, businesses and nonprofit organizations in the community through grants and group purchasing.
5. Leading on green buildings. Since 2008, we have committed to reaching LEED Silver certification or better for all new and renovated City buildings. We now have [14 LEED certified buildings](#), including 5 with Platinum certification, with 6 more in progress.
6. Investing in energy efficiency for naturally occurring affordable housing. We are collaborating with [Sustain Dane](#) and [Elevate Energy](#) to provide clean energy and energy efficiency upgrades to 100 units of affordable, multi-family rental housing through a [new pilot program](#).
7. [Decarbonizing our Fleet](#). We're transitioning our fleet to low and no-carbon fuels. So far, we have over 60 electric vehicles, more than 100 hybrid-electric vehicles, [3 all-electric buses](#) and we use a mix of Wisconsin-made biodiesel for all trucking. And the Madison Fire Department is running North America's first and only operational electric fire engine – the Volterra made by Wisconsin-based Pierce Manufacturing.
8. Providing all-electric Bus Rapid Transit. The new BRT system will expand access to low-cost, reliable transportation using zero-emissions electric buses.
9. Growing sustainable transportation options. Through [Complete Green Streets](#) and [Vision Zero](#), we are updating and expanding our transportation network to support walking, biking and other active transportation and expanding green infrastructure and other solutions to grow resilience.
10. Partnering for regional, statewide and national action. To leverage local action for greater impact, Madison, along with Dane County, convenes the [Sustainability Leaders Collaborative](#), a group of elected leaders and staff from Dane County municipalities that share information and lessons learned on solar installation, green fleets and more.
11. Growing our climate capacity. In 2021, we hired Madison's first [Sustainability and Resilience Manager](#) to lead our work to reduce emissions and grow resilience to the impacts of climate change.
12. Reducing flood risk across Madison neighborhoods. Since the 2018 floods, we are going all in on flood resilience by updating Madison's [stormwater ordinance](#) in 2020, embarked on [detailed watershed studies](#), upgrading our stormwater infrastructure to better handle large rain events and investigating ways to expand our use of [green infrastructure](#).
13. Prioritizing climate and equity in City purchasing. In July, we issued the [first-ever citywide RFI](#) to help identify and do business with a diverse pool of vendors, business owners, local businesses and entrepreneurs, especially those that can assist in reducing carbon emissions for City operations.
14. Converting our streetlights to LEDs. The City's Traffic Engineering team is undergoing a multi-year effort to convert all of the City's nearly 6,000 streetlights to efficient LED bulbs, saving us energy and money and reducing carbon emissions in the process.
15. Requiring sustainability features in our affordable housing funding. The City Affordable Housing Fund helps the private sector develop long-term affordable housing in Madison. We require applicants for these funds to reduce energy use by 20% based on a Focus on Energy analysis and install at least 30 kW of solar on site. ♦

A Message from Alder Tag Evers

2023 Budget

November is not only the start of the holiday season, but it's also the time the City determines its budget for the next year. Common Council met on November 15 and 16 for two marathon budget deliberation sessions to vote on amendments to Mayor Satya's 2023 budget.

Prior to these deliberations, I successfully moved an amendment to the Mayor's operating budget at the October 31st meeting of the Finance Committee to address the 6% wage gap imposed on the city's general municipal employees. Raises in previous years were provided to those employee groups who retained bargaining rights under Act 10, namely Fire and Police, while these same raises were denied to those who had lost their bargaining rights. My amendment will cover half of the gap in 2023 and provide a path to wage parity in the 2024 budget year.

I sponsored several amendments at our November budget hearings. On the capital budget side, I sponsored an amendment to borrow an additional \$3.5 million to pay for the build-out of grocery store at the Truman Olson site on South Park St., which will be paid back with interest by the grocer, Maurer Urban Markets.

On the operating side, I sponsored amendments to expand CARES services and to add a Sustainability Program Coordinator to augment the city's climate preparedness. After much deliberation, I voted to provide \$4.5 million in tax-incremental financing (TIF) revenue to the Madison Public Market. I am pleased my colleagues agreed as I am convinced the Public Market will be a wonderful addition to our community and will provide generational wealth to minority entrepreneurs.

I also voted to hire six additional police officers funded in part through a Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant from the federal government. Chief Barnes has stipulated these officers will be assigned to each of the six police districts to work directly with youth. Several leaders in the Black

community supported this grant, including Judge Everett Mitchell, calling for a collaborative approach across agencies, departments, and community organizations to address juvenile empowerment.

Transit Oriented Development and Housing

The TOD Overlay ordinance change was referred for introduction at the November 22 meeting of Common Council. It will be taken up at the December 5 meeting of the Transportation Policy & Planning Board, to be followed by Plan Commission on December 12, and then back to Common Council for a final vote on January 3rd.

I'm aware there are concerns in Vilas regarding the proposed changes. Change is difficult, yet we have little choice but to address the inevitability of change as our city continues to grow at a rapid pace. I strongly believe TOD to be a common-sense policy approach, the purpose being to incentivize the development of housing along our city's high-frequency corridors.

Lastly, as this year comes to an end, I wish all of you a blessed holiday season and a safe, happy and healthy new year. ♦

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Dane County Supervisor Cecely Castillo

Hello from the Dane County Board! The biggest news to report is that we recently completed the annual budget process. The proposed budget made their way through the various committees, passed the full board and was signed by the County Executive. There was healthy debate and in depth discussions at every step. In the 2023 budget I strongly supported proposals and investments to reduce homelessness in our community, protect our lakes and waterways, support the Henry Vilas Zoo, and expand healthcare access for people in Dane County.

A budget amendment that I authored was included in the final budget that creates full-time patient navigators within Public Health Madison & Dane County. These navigators will help to address gaps in reproductive health care in this post Roe v. Wade world we are living in. Public Health will be able to connect patients with the healthcare they need. This will also add capacity for prenatal care coordination which has seen a steep increase in demand over the past few years. These navigators will get to work directly assisting people in our community in 2023.

It is such an honor to represent District 7. I wish upon each of you wonderful winter festivities shared with family and friends in this amazing community we all call home.

Please feel free to reach out to me any time about the budget or other issues important to you. Dane County budget info is available here: <https://admin.countyofdane.com/finance/budget>).

Cecely Castillo
Dist. 7 Supervisor
castillo.cecely@countyofdane.com. ♦

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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Please identify yourself by
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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/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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