

VNA Good Neighbor Digest



01-01-2024

Happy New Year!
Vilas Neighborhood News

For your calendar **2024 VNA meeting schedule**

These are mostly on the fourth Wednesday at 6:30, with a few changes noted below. We'll use Zoom through April and consider in-person meetings over the summer and for the annual meeting in November. A few noteworthy items:

- The January meeting is the THIRD Wednesday, January 17th due to schedule conflicts and the gap from December.
- The March and April meetings are combined to April 10 to avoid Spring Break. Usually a slow period anyway.
- The May to October meetings are all on the fourth Weds. and are scheduled in Zoom as "recurring" (one invite below for all). Any in-person locations TBD.
- The November and December meetings are the THIRD Wednesdays, 11/20 & 12/18 to avoid holidays.

Thanks to all of you for your contributions to our neighborhood.

Doug Carson (president)

[Tag Evers blog \(edited\)](#)

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district13/blog/> for complete text.

Announcements & News Releases

- [Jeffrey Clay Erlanger Civility in Public Discourse Award Winner is Dr. Fabu Carter](#)
- [Mayor, Common Council, Madison Police Department Joint Statement on Recent Acts of Vandalism](#): We believe that all residents and visitors of our community should have the right to feel safe on our streets, at their businesses, and in their homes. I urge everyone to help us with that by reporting potential crimes of hate or bias to MPD immediately.
- [Large Items Free with Work Orders for Resource Recovery Charge Ratepayers](#): Starting December 27, 2023 and continuing through all of 2024, Madison residents who pay the Resource Recovery Special Charge will not be charged for items that require a fee when they make their required large item work orders.
- [How to Have Your Christmas Tree Collected](#): The Streets Division provides two rounds of curbside collection for Christmas trees. Crews collect trees only. Wreaths, boughs, and other evergreen decorations go into the trash. The first round will begin on January 2, 2024.
- [2024 Neighborhood Grant Program](#): The application deadline is February 12, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. Refer to last year's [guidelines](#) for assistance. Once you are ready to start please contact the Planning Division at Neighborhoods@cityofmadison.com, and share project ideas with me (Tag). You are also invited to attend an orientation meeting: **Neighborhood Grant Program Orientation January 11, 2024**
- Virtual, 12:00 p.m. via Zoom. Please [sign up](#) to receive an email with information about participating in the meeting.
- In-Person, 6:00 p.m., Madison Municipal Building, 215 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Room 206.

Streets Division Updates

- **Drop-off Site Hours:** Drop-off sites are on winter hours. Check the hours before loading your car. Drop-off site information is available at www.cityofmadison.com/DropOffSites.
- **Winter Information:** Is available at www.cityofmadison.com/Winter

Best wishes for happy, healthy and safe new year!



City News (see above)

For further details check:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/>



From our Neighborhood MPD officer

Greetings and Happy New Year, Vilas People!

I bring tidings of joy and new beginnings as well as some unjoyous (?) reminders about financial safety. But first, the fun stuff.

You may have noticed that many of our MPD squads have two officers in them and, if you have been witness to a call, you might have noticed a larger response than usual. Have no fear, this is not a reflection of recent crime trends or officer safety concerns. Rather it is field training time. So, coincidentally the New Year is bringing in new officers. Our 2023 Academy started field training in late November and most will wrap things up around late January or early February. During that time the 40+ strong class will ride with field training officers at various shifts and districts. This is an exciting time as our department prepares the next group of responders to be proficient in constitutional law, criminal statutes, emergency driving, and professional communications. So far I can report that they are doing well, have tremendous attitudes towards learning and improving, and are excited to serve this great city. So, if you see a squad of two please feel free to say hello and maybe wish our new officers good luck in their training.

And as we continue this journey into the New Year there will of course be changes in the Midtown district. Every year MPD holds a "shift pick" during which our patrol officers choose new assignments or to continue with their existing beat. While this is always a nerve wracking time, think NFL draft without the booing Jets fans or the fantasy implications, it is also exciting to learn who will be paired together in each district. I can happily report that the Midtown district will be served by some of the best officers in the department. There is a strong mix of younger and more experienced officers who will provide you with tremendous service.

Now to the less fun. Unfortunately, job security aside, crime will not disappear in 2024. I would like to highlight one particular concern especially as I have read about financial fraud crimes recently. Of particular note I want to make you aware that there is a continuing scam in which an individual identifies themselves as a law enforcement officer when attempting contact by phone or electronically. The scam involves some type of threat that you or a loved one has an outstanding warrant or citations that must be resolved immediately. The information sounds convincing and the perpetrators will try to use verbiage that sounds like something law enforcement would say. First, rest assured law enforcement will not contact you by phone and demand payment be made, especially by going to a bitcoin ATM or other cash advance kiosk. That is not how warrants and citations work. Second, if you have any question about the veracity of the information you should advise the person that you will contact the supposed agency yourself and that agency can put you in contact with someone. Pro tip, if the person says that you cannot hang up on them or else that will constitute an attempt to flee or elude that is red flag that they are attempting to defraud you. Hang up anyway (you can drop my name if you think it will help 😊) and proceed to call a verified phone number for the supposed law enforcement agency contacting you. Remember, you can always contact the Dane County Non-Emergency Dispatch line at 608-255-2345 and confirm the information you are being given and/or ask to have a verified law enforcement officer contact you.

Well, that is enough rambling from your *favorite* beat cop. I hope that 2023 has been a spectacular, or at least tolerable, year and that you are looking forward to all

that 2024 promises to be. Enjoy the wonderful Wisconsin winter, cheer on the Packers and Bucks, and stay safe and warm.

Most Sincerely,
PO Jeff Hayes



In case you missed it and For Reference

Monroe St. Library

Lots of puzzle activity of late. Take home a puzzle from the library, and/or bring in finished ones from home to add to the swap.

Here's one thing we DON'T want to swap: Covid 19. We have home tests for you to pick up. Each household is welcome to take two kits (four tests total).

Thank you to all who donate books to the library. We are grateful! A reminder that if you want to leave boxes of books at the back door, please call or stop in and let us know you're doing so. We can't use soggy boggy books.

Monroe Street Library is open 10-6 weekdays except closed Thursdays, and 9-5 Saturdays.

See you soon,

Here's a list of winter break activities to enjoy from home. Keep this link handy for snow days.

<https://www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/winter-break>

Twice-monthly Saturday morning art workshops will continue into 2024 with Annie and Holly. Put these dates on the calendar and stay tuned for specifics. Each drop-in workshop runs from 10 a.m. - noon.

January 6 and 20

February 3 and 17

March 2 and 16

April 6 and 20

May 4

Jill (librarian)

City of Madison

How to Have Your Christmas Tree Collected

- The Streets Division provides two rounds of curbside collection for Christmas trees.
- Crews collect trees only. Wreaths, boughs, and other evergreen decorations go into the trash.
- The first round will begin on January 2, 2024, following the New Year's Day holiday.
- The second and final round begins on January 16, 2024, following the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday.
- Both collections are weather dependent as snowstorm response takes precedence.

- In order to have your tree picked up at the curb, please help the crew by

following instructions and putting them out at the right times.

- Failure to follow the instructions below may result in your tree being left uncollected at the curb.

- Remove all tree stands regardless if they are metal or wood.
- Remove all tree decorations such as lights, tinsel, ornaments, tree toppers, and so on.
- Do not place your tree into any kind of bag.

When Should You Set Out the Trees & When Will the Streets Division Collect Your Tree?

Round One Information - January 2, 2024

- In order to have your tree collected during the first round, set your tree to on the terrace or right-of-way space near the public street by your home on or by 6:30am on January 2.

- Trees set to the curb on or before January 2, 2024 will likely be collected sometime between January 2 and January 12, 2024, depending on weather conditions and crew availability.

- If you place the trees out for collection after January 2, your tree may not be collected until the second round.

Wreaths, Garlands, Boughs, Other Evergreen Decorations

- Do not place wreaths, evergreen rope, garlands, and boughs out for tree collection.

- These belong in the trash.

- They contain wires or metal that can damage wood chipping equipment.

[Monona Terrace to Close for Renovation in January](#)

Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center will be closing to the public for just over two weeks in January for facility improvements. The closure will begin on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 following the Madison Home Expo, through Friday, January 26, 2024. Planned projects include replacement of the facility's signature carpeting, restoration of wood doors and furniture, resurfacing of the kitchen flooring, painting throughout the building, and other repairs.

The City of Madison is thrilled to announce we have been selected to receive a [\\$25,000 urban forestry grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources](#). With this funding, the City of Madison Urban Forestry section of the Streets Division will undertake two projects.

First, funds will support establishing a gravel bed holding system for approximately 400 bare root trees. These trees are less expensive, easier to plant, and have a greater chance of thriving than other options. In the gravel bed process, small bare root trees are installed in the spring, lightly irrigated in loose gravel throughout the summer, and transplanted to their eventual home in terraces or parkland in the fall.

The second project is the integration of an efficient watering solution into the Urban Forestry planting program. After planting a new trees, they should be watered

every two to three days to ensure their survival. With the grant funding, Urban Forestry will purchase devices called “TreeDiapers” that are installed beneath the mulch at the time of planting. These devices absorb moisture and then slowly release it to the tree, which will help young trees endure hot, dry summers like what we experienced this past year.

Madison Police Dept.

Season's Greetings. . . with prevention

Season's Greetings from the Madison Police Department – Central District. We want you to have a fun, safe holiday season. . . to include festive moods **after** the holidays and not frustration that your place has been burglarized. Each year, after vacations some people return to their homes realizing they have been the victim of a burglary. MPD will do our part to provide extra patrols, message out precautions and take reports of suspicious activity; but you can help yourself and MPD by reviewing the below tips and enacting on what you can:

- Use a timer to set lights/radio/TV
- Lower your shades/close your blinds
- Stop the mail
- Take all your valuables
- Lock your bike
- Don't leave cash, cards or keys visible
- Pack your vehicle the day you leave, avoiding leaving precious items in your vehicle overnight
- Have a trusted friend check on your place and leave tracks in your driveway if it snows
- Report suspicious activity to the police (non-emergency 608-255-2345 or 911)

Mike Hanson

Captain – Central District

Winter advisory

Sidewalks have been slippery of late, so from Wisconsin Salt Wise about how to stay safe while using less or no salt to slow the harmful salt pollution of our lakes - <https://www.wisaltwise.com/documents/PDFs/Handouts/homeowners.pdf>

VNA

We would still like to receive updated information for VNA emails. Please provide: Street address, Names, Emails, One phone # (not required, just helpful) to Mary Clare Murphy, (608) 235-4281 maryclarem@charter.net or Rachel Bennet (treasurer) (214) 538-0400 cashdollarb@gmail.com



Rates Increasing in 2024 for City of Madison Owned Parking Facilities

Effective January 1, 2024. Rates changes are reviewed on an annual basis, though due to the impacts from the pandemic, the last rate increase occurred in 2018.

Hourly rates as follows (more details on city web site):

State Street Capitol Garage

- Increasing the State Street Capitol Garage rate from \$1.20/hour to \$1.50/hour.

State Street Campus Garage

- Increasing the State Street Campus Garage rate from \$1.50/hour to \$1.80/hour.

Capitol Square North Garage

- Increasing the Capitol Square North Garage rate from \$1.20/hour to \$1.50/hour.

Overture Center Garage

- Increasing the Overture Center Garage rate from \$1.00/hour to \$1.60/hour.

South Livingston Street Garage

- Increasing the South Livingston Street Garage rate from \$0.80/hour to \$1.20/hour.

Wilson Lot

- Establishing a 24/7 monthly permit rate for Wilson Lot of \$200 per month.
- Increasing the weekday monthly permit from \$135/\$155 per month for resident/non-residents to \$155/\$175 per month.



Winter Updates: What happens when the City of Madison [declares a snow emergency](#)? NOTE* There is no declared snow emergency currently in effect. **Don't let the snow lead to a ticket or a tow!** Sign up to get notified via [Text Messaging](#).

Boards, Commissions, and Committee Meetings

All meetings and their details can be found [here](#).



Alternate Side Parking Rules [Español](#)

Don't let the snow lead to a ticket or a tow. Here are few things you need to know to avoid a ticket or a tow:

- Alternate Side Parking is in effect city-wide with the exception of the [Snow Emergency Zone](#) (unless there is a [Declared Snow Emergency](#)).
- Alternate Side Parking is in effect from November 15 - March 15, seven days a week, regardless of weather conditions.
- Park on the **EVEN** house numbered side of the street on even numbered days from **1:00 am – 7:00 am**.
- Park on the **ODD** house numbered side of the street on odd numbered days from **1:00 am – 7:00 am**.

Fines

- Violations of the Alternate Side Parking rules are subject to a fine of \$20

- Violations of the Alternate Side Parking rules are subject to a **fine of \$20** when a Snow Emergency **has not** been declared.
- Violations of the Alternate Side Parking rules are subject to a **fine of \$60** when a Snow Emergency **has been** declared.

Get Reminders

Sign up for [Daily Alternate Side Parking Reminders](#) via text messaging!

You will receive a text message every day at 5:00 pm telling you which side of the street to park on. Announcements & News Releases

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Open enrollment on [HealthCare.gov](#) began November 1. Enrollment is open **through January 15, 2024.** Sign up by Dec. 15 for coverage to start January 1st. Free, unbiased, local help from [coveringwi.org](#)



Trash and Recycling

www.cityofmadison.com/DropOffSites

Trash & recycling calendar for 2023 is available at www.cityofmadison.com/CollectionSchedule.

- **Large Item Pickup:** Large item collection rules changed a few years ago and now you need a work order to get on the crew's pickup schedule. Learn more about the process at www.cityofmadison.com/LargeItem
- **Brush Collection is Over:** Do not set out brush for pickup. If you have brush that needs collection, you need to [take it to a drop-off site instead.](#)
- **Recycle Right:** Be sure you're putting the right things in your recycling cart. Get the rules at www.cityofmadison.com/recycling.



Electronics Recycling Now Free

Starting Monday, February 20, 2023 the Streets Division will stop charging recycling fees for televisions, computers, laptops, and monitors. Click [here](#) for more information.



Recorded city meetings you have missed can be watched on the on [City Channel](#). If you have questions and/or concerns about the budget, please email Tag Evers at district13@cityofmadison.com

Don't believe every worried thought you have. Worried thoughts are notoriously inaccurate.

Renee Jain