

VNA Good Neighbor Digest



02-05-2024

Vilas Neighborhood News

VNA Vilas Ink publication deadline

Friday, February 16, is the deadline for articles, columns, photos, and ads for the spring issue of *Vilas Ink*, which will be published about March 1.

This issue will be printed and distributed to the 700 or so households in the neighborhood as well as being posted on <https://www.vilasneighborhood.com/vilasink>. Any color photos or other graphics will be converted to grayscale (black and white). This issue will include information about March through June events and more.

For 2024, we have new standard sizes for ads to fit better in the newsletter's 2- and 3-column format. For more information about advertising ask either Doug Carlson, vnapresident@gmail.com , or me.

Bonnie Gruber, editor *Vilas Ink*
bonniegruber@mac.com

Monroe St Library

A sign of spring: tax forms and instruction booklets have arrived. They're on the top two shelves of the red cart by the checkout desk. On the bottom shelf are Covid tests. Take no more than two packages, and please test negative.

Speaking of spring, Monroe Street Library is gearing up to host a seed library. Stay tuned for more info. We'll be needing volunteers to package the seeds.

Storytime for kids ages 5 and under take place Tuesday mornings at 10:30. Sibs and daycare groups are welcome to join Jennifer for stories, songs, and play.

Saturday drop-in workshops run from 10 a.m. - noon.

February 17

March 2 and 16

April 6 and 20

May 4

Monroe Street Library is open weekdays 10 - 6 except closed Thursday, and Saturdays 9-5. Call us at 608 266-6390,

Jill

Tag Evers blog

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

No updates this week.



Passenger Rail Meetings for Madison Station Location

The City of Madison Transportation Division, along with Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Amtrak, and consultants, will discuss the eight potential passenger rail station sites located along three general corridors—downtown, near the coming Madison Public Market and by the former Oscar Mayer plant. There will also be a brief question and answer

panel, paired with public input survey, and an open house after the presentation.

Please consider joining us for the upcoming public meetings:

Virtual Public Meeting

- **Tuesday, February 6, 2024**
- 6:00 - 7:30 pm.
- Registration is required.
- Zoom – [Register here](#)



City News

For further details check:

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

Absentee Voter Reminder

With just two weeks remaining before the February 20 Primary Election, the City Clerk's Office reminds voters who would like to receive an absentee ballot in the mail that time is of the essence.

Madison mail is taken to Milwaukee for sorting, so it could take up to a week to receive your absentee ballot in the mail. Plan on an additional week for your ballot to return to the Clerk's Office through the mail.

Postmarks on absentee ballots do not count. Your ballot must be at your polling place on Election Day in order to be counted.

To request an absentee and track your ballot, visit myvote.wi.gov.

The goal of the City Clerk's Office is that each eligible voter will be able to cast a ballot and have that ballot count.

Recyclopedia Mini is Here

A mini [Recyclopedia updated for 2024](#) is now available.

The four page booklet contains information regarding the [changes to the large item fees and the Resources Recovery Special Charge](#), and other useful Streets Division information, like [what you should be placing into your recycling cart](#).

Paper copies of the booklet can be picked up at your local [Madison Public Library locations](#) or at [Streets Division offices](#).

If you would like a paper copy mailed to your home, please contact the Streets Division office that services your home, and one will be sent to you.

If you live east of South Park Street, please call 608-246-4532 for our east side office. The office is open 7:30am to 4:00pm, Monday to Friday. And if you live west of South Park Street, please call 608-266-4681 for our west side office. This office is open from 7:30am to 4:00pm, Monday to Friday as well.



Winter Bike Day is Back!

Demonstrating that biking isn't just a summer activity, even in snowy Wisconsin, the local bicycle advocacy group Madison Bikes is hosting a [Winter Bike Day on Friday February 9](#).

Madison Bikes envisions a Madison where anyone can ride a bicycle conveniently and comfortably to any place year-round, including the winter months. Christo Alexander, vice president of Madison Bikes, says, "people will ride a bicycle in the Winter if the city is designed for it. Madison Bikes is working hard to promote safe biking infrastructure and we want you to come out and talk with us about the best and worst things about Winter biking in our city."

To celebrate International Winter Bike Day, Madison Bikes, in partnership with the City of Madison, will host a couple of events.

- Friday morning, 7-9 a.m., bicyclists can enjoy free coffee, courtesy of Café Domestique, and doughnuts, courtesy of Madison Bikes, on the Capital City Path near the Monona Terrace bike elevator.
- Later that day, join us for happy hour at Working Draft Beer, located at 1129 E. Wilson St. Don't forget to bring your helmet and show your [Bike Benefits sticker](#) and receive 10% off your purchase. In addition to their brews, Working Draft also offers a selection of non-alcoholic options.



Madison Launches New Program to Improve Rental Housing

The City of Madison is excited to announce the launch of an aggressive new effort to help local owners of rental housing finance improvements to their properties. The Rental Rehab Program offers help to owners that need to make major repairs to their properties, implement energy-efficiency upgrades, and comply with building codes and regulations.

The program offers owners of properties that charge no more than fair market rents access to up to \$200,000 in low-cost loans to update or improve housing units. The amount of funding available varies based on the number of units in the property – owners of 1-6-unit buildings qualify for up to \$75,000; those with 7-12 units can get up to \$150,000; and 13-20 units qualify for up to \$200,000. For the first year, the City will waive application fees and offer more attractive loan terms for properties within identified north, south, and southwest neighborhood boundaries to encourage participation of property owners in those locations.

The investments made possible with this program will help prevent, or reverse, the deterioration of rental properties, reduce the risk of safety hazards, and extend the life of aging buildings. At the same time, they will enable property owners to upgrade to local housing standards and improve the quality of housing for their tenants.

“Our housing crisis requires an all-of-the-above approach,” said Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway. “While we work bring more housing to Madison, we must also take care of what we have – not only to preserve our housing supply, but also because all Madison residents deserve to live in safe and decent housing. The Rental Rehab Program is another tool toward that goal.”

Sustained population growth, changing demographics, and other market factors have combined to create a very difficult housing market, across the country and locally, especially for lower-income households. As a result, low-income households have limited options for safe and decent rental housing. Much has been done to promote the development of new rental housing in Madison but the Rental Rehab Program recognizes that a lot of good rental housing already exists here – some of it just needs a little TLC.

"The rental rehab program reflects the City's unwavering commitment to thriving and inclusive communities," said Community Development

Director Jim O’Keefe. "Everyone deserves a safe and affordable place to call home. By partnering with owners of smaller rental properties, we can improve housing conditions in our city today and have a lasting impact on the quality of life in Madison neighborhoods."

Property owners interested in participating in the rental rehab program should contact the City’s Community Development Division for [more information at: homeloans@cityofmadison.com](#) or (608)-266-4719 and visit www.cityofmadison.com/homeloans.



From Our Neighborhood Officer

Greetings, good people of the Vilas Neighborhood!

It is with great appreciation for your support that I must bid adieu as your neighborhood liaison. In my previous post I shared with you that MPD had completed its annual shift pick. Every year our entire patrol staff must select a shift, district, and shift rotation. I previously described this as being akin to the NFL draft, though the compensation packages are a tad different. In any case, subsequent to this process I have been reassigned to the city’s West District and as such will no longer be serving you directly.

I cannot yet share with you, since I do not know, the name of the person who will be replacing me but I am quite certain, based on the assignments for Midtown in 2024, you will be very well served. The Midtown command staff remains in place with Lt. Esser and Capt. Freedman still steering the ship.

I have enjoyed serving your neighborhood this year and hope that you all felt heard. We cannot be effective without your support and sharing your needs with us. I hope that you will continue to do both so that we can, together, ensure Madison stays atop as the greatest city in the land. Be well!

Best Regards,
PO Jeff Hayes
Badge 5915
City of Madison Police Department



In case you missed it and For Reference

Spring Primary Media Kit Is Now Available

As the February 20 Spring Primary approaches, the Madison City Clerk's Office is releasing a [media kit](#) to provide accurate and timely information to the media and the public.

The media kit includes essential details about the election, statistical information, and key dates.

Only three portions of Madison will have a Spring Primary: County Supervisor District 13, County Supervisor District 36, and the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District.

The goal of the City Clerk's Office is that each eligible voter will be able to cast a ballot and have that ballot counted.

VNA Book Club

Our next book is *The Covenant of Water* by *Abraham Verghese*. We will be discussing it on **February 22nd at 7pm** in person. Please note the new time of 7:00. We'll choose the next book at that meeting.

Please let me know if you would like to volunteer your home for our meeting place.

Sarah Bahauddin

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 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)

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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.

City of Madison

Get Involved After the Plow Comes Through

Residents can help out during snow storms by shoveling or snow blowing snow from the inlets in their neighborhoods.

Residents can report issues to us at 608-266 4430, engineer@cityofmadison.com or via the City's [Report-A-Problem](#) web app.

Additional Snowstorm Information

More details about the ongoing response from the Streets Division regarding winter storms, subscribe to receive [Snow Plow Updates](#).

More information about all City of Madison winter services can be found at www.cityofmadison.com/Winter.

More information about all other Streets Division services can be found at www.cityofmadison.com/Streets.

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- [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.

* * *

Winter advisory from Wisconsin Salt Wise

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>



Winter Updates: What happens when the City of Madison [declares a snow emergency](#)? **Don't let the snow lead to a ticket or a tow!** Sign up to get notified via [Text Messaging](#).



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** 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



Boards, Commissions, and Committee Meetings

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

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



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
- **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

The Streets Division no longer charges recycling fees for televisions, computers, laptops, and monitors. Click [here](#) for more information.



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

Ubuntu - I am who I am because of who we all are