

VNA Good Neighbor Digest



02-12-2024
Vilas Neighborhood News

Monroe St. Library

Kids of all ages, come to the library this **Sat., Feb. 17 from 10 – noon** to make watercolor pictures and cards with Holly. If you are age 7 or under, please bring a grown-up.

We are happy to report that our seed library is taking shape. Seeds have begun to arrive – and now we need your help packaging them into envelopes for people to take home. If you are able to help us out during either of these times below please respond to me privately via email, or call the library during open hours (see below). If you are available at another time, please let me know when. We can be flexible. Thank you so much.

Sat., Feb. 17 from 2-4 p.m.

Mon., Feb. 19 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Check out our mini displays. In the front of the library are books for a sweet, or maybe sassy, Valentine's Day including Love Poems for Married People by John Kenney. Poem titles include "I honor you and our love but I also lost track of time at a bar with my coworkers," and "Why are you in the shower with me?"

In the back near the 649s (parenting) are children's books about kids with special needs, and kids with siblings who have special needs. We'll be creating a series of children's book displays on tough topics for parents, teachers, etc. Let

us know if you'd like us to cover a particular topic.

If you have a young kid in your life, pick up our calendar of easy daily literacy-building activities that include writing, playing, talking, singing, counting, and reading.

We still have Covid tests. You are welcome to take two boxes per household, and here's hoping they'll all be negative. Tax forms are also available.

Storytime for kids ages 5 and under continue every Tuesday morning at 10:30. Join Jennifer for stories, songs, and play.

Stay tuned for spring break activities!

Monroe Street Library is open weekdays 10-6 except closed Thursdays, and 9-5 Saturday. Call us during open hours at 608 266-6390.

Jill

* * *

Tag Evers blog

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

Meeting and Event Highlights for the Week of February 12

A detailed list of meetings can be found at the [Meeting Schedule page](#).

- **Common Council: Tuesday, February 13**, in hybrid format at **6:30 p.m.** Agenda items include a presentation on the 2025 budget outlook, designating the polling locations for the 2024 spring election, and receiving bids for Safe Streets Madison 2024.

- [Meeting Details](#)
- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Register for Public Comment](#)
- [Watch Online](#)

- **Public Safety Review Committee:** Wednesday, **February 14**, in virtual format at **5:00 p.m.** Agenda includes a report from the Madison Police Department on recent gun violence, an update from the Madison Fire Department on CARES, and authorizing the Chief of Police or his designee to enter into a cost reimbursement agreement with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for overtime costs associated with participation in an ATF Task Force aimed at preventing/deterring gun violence.

- [Meeting Details](#)
- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Register for Public Comment](#)
- [Watch Online](#)

- **Board of Park Commissioners:** Wednesday, **February 14**, in virtual format at **6:30 p.m.** Agenda items include a request from staff to amend 2024 athletic reservation fees, approving requests by Madison Mallards for Capital Improvements at Warner Park Stadium, and approving firework displays.

- [Meeting Details](#)
- [Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Register for Public Comment](#)
- [Watch Online](#)

Announcements & News Releases

- **[Luna's Groceries to Open Second Location in South Madison](#):** The Community Development Authority of the City of Madison (CDA), working closely with the City's Economic Development Division (EDD) is pleased to announce that it has executed a lease with Luna's Groceries to open a store in the former Yue-Wah's grocery space at the Village on Park mall in South Madison (2328 S Park St).

- **[Public Test of Election Equipment This Weekend](#):** The public is invited to witness the City of Madison public test of election equipment taking place this weekend. The

City of Madison deliberately schedules the public test on a Saturday to maximize accessibility for the community.

- **BRT East-West Project: One of the Largest Public Works Projects in City History**: The City of Madison is proud to celebrate its partnerships with several independent businesses making an important contribution to the community through Bus Rapid Transit. Coming in at \$65.7 million, it's one of the largest public works projects in City history. Several Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) are doing the heavy lifting on the project, including Beson & Houle, Arbor Green, and ConCor. DBEs are independent businesses, 51 percent or more owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

- **In-Person Absentee Voting Starts Today**: In-person absentee voting for the February 20 Spring Primary begins today. Most Madison residents do not have a February Primary. The only Madisonians with a primary are voters in County Supervisor districts 13 and 36.

- **The Bubbler at Madison Public Library Seeks Artists for 2024 Residencies and Exhibitions**: The Bubbler is accepting applications for three residencies and exhibitions at multiple Madison libraries

- **Christmas Tree Collection is Over**: There will be no more guaranteed collection of Christmas trees this season.



City News

For further details check:

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

- **Gentle Yoga, Tuesday, February 13**: Yoga Accessible for All (YAFA) teachers dedicate themselves to making yoga safe and inviting for anyone who is interested in gaining the

benefits (yafayoga.org).

- [Yoga Core, Tuesday, February 13](#): All levels are welcome. Participants will need to be able to get up and down off the floor. Chairs or walls may be used for balance assistance.
- [Yoga Core, Friday, February 16](#): Yoga Core is a great class to help build strength and body awareness.
- [Metro Transit Info Sessions](#): Learn how to get around the city with help from Metro Transit! Several sessions are planned in library locations between January and April 2024. Metro employees will be available for one-on-one conversations in English and Spanish. No registration required; all are welcome!
 - [February 13, 3-5pm | Pinney Library](#)
 - [March 14, 3-5pm | Alicia Ashman Library](#)
 - [March 16, 10am - 12pm | Pinney Library](#)
 - [April 23, 10am - 12pm | Lakeview Library](#)
- [Meditation At Monona Terrace, Thursday, February 15](#): Mindfulness Meditation will be led by Sarah Moore M.D., a mind-body practitioner, therapist, and physician.
- [Westside Community Connections, Thursday, February 15](#): Join Alder Wehelie, Alder Duncan, and Alder Harrington-McKinney as they host Charlie Romines, Streets Superintendent, and Bryan Johnson, Streets Public Information Officer to address resident concerns and present on winter weather policies and practices.
- [Bird & Nature Adventures | Starkweather Creek Area, Saturday, February 17](#): Outings in the Starkweather Creek area vary each month - be sure to check the starting location. Adventures typically at 10:00am on the 3rd Saturday of the month, year-round, and frequently start at the Goodman Community Center, unless noted otherwise. Outings include nature walks, canoe/kayak adventures,

bicycling tours, and more, and are sponsored by the Madison Friends of Urban Nature , Madison Parks, [Goodman Community Center](#) , [Madison Audubon Society](#) , and [Friends of Starkweather Creek](#) . No registration is required. Pets are not allowed.

- [Candlelit Snowshoe Hike, Saturday, February 17](#): In partnership, Aldo Leopold Nature Center, Monona Parks & Recreation, and Madison Parks. Glowing lights illuminate the trails through Aldo Leopold Nature Center, Edna Taylor Conservation, and Woodland Park. Snowshoe or hike and enjoy a roaring bonfire outside. All ages are welcome.

- [Bird & Nature Adventures at Warner Park, Sunday, February 18](#): Walks at Warner Park held on the 3rd Sunday of every month are co-sponsored by Madison Bird City FUN partners [Wild Warner](#) and [Madison Audubon](#) . Meet at the Warner Park shelter. Parking is available. No registration is required. No pets are allowed.



- [MPD providing up-close look at police work through Community Academy](#): The Madison Police Department is now accepting applications for this year's Community Academy. The academy will run 6 consecutive Thursdays starting February 29. The evening will start at 6 pm and conclude no later than 9 pm. The first five weeks will be held at the Madison Police Department's Training Center, 5702 Femrite Rd. The last session will move to the Midtown Police District, 4020 Mineral Point Rd.

The academy will include:

- Police Ride Alongs with patrol officers for those who are interested.
- Organizational Structure and Staffing the Streets of Madison

- Community Partnerships
- Use of Force
- Mental Health
- Investigative Services
- Last date is to be determined based on input from

attendees!

See the link below for more details, application, and waiver.

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/police/community/academy/>

- **MPD to hold free active shooter response training** :

On average, it takes police 3 minutes to respond to an active shooter event. About two-thirds of these incidents are over by the time police arrive on scene. But there are steps people can take during these tragedies to improve their chances of survival.



In case you missed it and For Reference

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



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.

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.



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.

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.



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)

* * *

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.



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

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.

* * *

- [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 on [City Channel](#). If you have questions and/or concerns about the budget, please email Tag Evers at district13@cityofmadison.com