

# VNA Good Neighbor Digest



02-19-2024

## Vilas Neighborhood News

### VNA Book Club

The 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 contact Sarah for the location.

Sarah Bahauddin [sarahbahauddin@gmail.com](mailto:sarahbahauddin@gmail.com)

### Monroe St. Library

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.

## South Park Street Grocery Store FYI

Despite delays, it is still happening. Pick 'N Save is not planning to close before the new store opens. It is reported to be worth the wait. In January on Channel 3, the family-owned Maurer's Market in the Wisconsin Dells recently won a major award as the [IGA Retailer of the Year](#).

## Boards, Commissions, and Committee Meetings (partial list)

For all meetings and details, see [Meeting Schedule page](#).

- **Board of Public Works:** The Board of Public Works Wednesday, February 21, in virtual format at 4:30 p.m. Agenda items include creating the City of Madison Honorary Street Name program, updating the street naming policy, and items involving Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, and 20.
  - [Meeting Details](#)
  - [Meeting Agenda](#)
  - [Register for Public Comment](#)
  - [Watch Online](#)
- **Economic Development Committee:** Wednesday, February 21, in virtual format at 5:00 p.m. Agenda items include amending the Land Banking Fund Policy to add urban agriculture as an appropriate secondary use for properties acquired through the fund, a discussion about the 2025 budget, and the selection of the Madison Region Economic Partnership to administer the City of Madison's BizReady Program.
  - [Meeting Details](#)
  - [Meeting Agenda](#)
  - [Register for Public Comment](#)
  - [Watch Online](#)
- **Madison Food Policy Council:** Wednesday, February 21, in virtual format at 5:30 p.m. Agenda items include amending the

Land Banking Fund Policy to add urban agriculture as an appropriate secondary use for properties acquired through the fund, revising City of Madison leases on lands being used for row crop agriculture, and reports from the chair, staff, and regular business.

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

## Public Information Meetings & Sessions

- [Public Input Meeting - Meadowood Park, Tuesday, February 20, 2024 \(IN-PERSON\)](#): The Parks Division is improving the playground at Meadowood Park and wants your input.
- [Public Input Meeting - Kestrel Park, Thursday, February 22 \(VIRTUAL\)](#): A Park Development Plan for Kestrel Park was completed and approved by the Board of Park Commissioners on June 14, 2023. Madison Parks is now beginning to implement the plan, with construction anticipated in 2024.
- [Public Information Meeting - Monona Terrace Tunnel Lighting Project, Thursday, February 22, 2024 \(VIRTUAL\)](#): The City plans to replace lighting on John Nolen Dr. for the Monona Terrace Tunnel with non-corrosive materials and light emitting diode (LED) fixtures.

## Announcements & News Releases

- [Learn How to Ride Metro at Central Library, Monday, February 19, 2024](#): Learn how to use Metro Transit's fixed route city bus service. Topics include using Google Maps, the Transit app, and other digital options; paper schedules and phone service; and discounted fare options. Metro employees will answer your questions about bus travel and provide one-on-one assistance in English and Spanish.
- [Spring Primary Election Day, Tuesday, February 20, 2024: Polling places open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.](#)



## City News

For further details check:

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

### **Madison Celebrates Adult Crossing Guard Recognition Week**

The State of Wisconsin has declared the week of [February 19th Adult School Crossing Guard Recognition Week](#). The City of Madison would like to recognize the 58 dedicated Crossing Guards who brave the elements to ensure students walk safely to and from school.

### **MPD volunteers at Ronald McDonald House**

Lending their hearts, hands and muscles, members the Madison Police Department recently volunteered with the [Ronald McDonald House](#).

### **This week:**

- [State Street--Bus Rapid Transit Station Construction](#): The two State Street Bus Rapid Transit stations will begin construction starting Monday, **February 19**, between W Gorham Street and W Dayton Street.
- [Street Closures--Southbound N Lake Street](#) Starting 7:00 a.m. on Monday, **February 19**, the southbound direction of traffic on North Lake Street will be closed between State Street and University Avenue for installation of temporary communication poles and overhead lines.
- [New Artist-in-Residence at Central Library Wants Your Help Filling A Vintage Doll House and Creating A Family Reunion](#): The Bubbler at Madison Public Library welcomes artist Grace Olson as the new Artist-in-Residence at Central Library.
- [City Breaks Ground on New Bus Storage, Maintenance Facility to Support Electric Fleet](#): For the first time in a decade, the City is able to expand its Metro Transit bus services thanks to federal funding for a major \$16M remodel project to support the City's new electric bus fleet.
- [Gentle Yoga, Tuesday, February 20](#): 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 20](#): This class incorporates seated, standing, balancing, and mat-based yoga poses focusing on strength, stability, and mobility. 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.
- [Meditation At Monona Terrace, Thursday, February 20](#): Mindfulness Meditation will be led by Sarah Moore M.D., a mind-body practitioner, therapist, and physician. Her personal practice has brought her peace, joy and stability, and she is excited to share her knowledge and enthusiasm with others.
- [Learn How to Ride Metro at Sequoya Library, Friday, February 23, 2024](#): Learn how to use Metro Transit's fixed route city bus service. Topics include using Google Maps, the Transit app, and other digital options; paper schedules and phone service; and discounted fare options. Metro employees will answer your questions about bus travel and provide one-on-one assistance in English and Spanish.
- [Yoga Core, Friday, February 23](#): This class incorporates a wide variety of seated, standing, balancing, and mat-based yoga poses focusing on strength, stability, and mobility. 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.
- [Bird & Nature Adventures I Edna Taylor, Saturday, February 24](#): Walk will begin at the Aldo Leopold Nature Center, 330 Femrite Drive. Meet outside at the Children's Shack. Co-sponsored by Madison Parks, Badgerland Bird Alliance, and [Aldo Leopold Nature Center](#) . No registration is required. No pets are allowed.
- [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!
- [March 14, 3-5pm I Alicia Ashman Library](#)
- [March 16, 10am - 12pm I Pinney Library](#)
- [April 23, 10am - 12pm I Lakeview Library](#)



- [Knowing and Understanding Your Rights, Wednesday, February 21](#): This meeting aims to inform community members about their constitutional rights during traffic stops. Madison Police Department officers will also share crime prevention tips to protect people from becoming a victim of identity theft.
- [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.

All sessions will start at 6:00 pm and end no later than 9:00 pm.

- Thursday, February 29, 2024
- Thursday, March 7, 2024
- Thursday, March 14, 2024
- Thursday, March 21, 2024
- Thursday, March 28, 2024
- Thursday, April 4, 2024

**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](#):

**March 6 1-4 p.m.**

**MPD Training Center, 5702 Femrite Dr.** 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*

*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.

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



## **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: \[homeloans@cityofmadison.com\]\(mailto:homeloans@cityofmadison.com\)](#) or (608)-266-4719 and visit [www.cityofmadison.com/homeloans](http://www.cityofmadison.com/homeloans).



## **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](mailto:maryclarem@charter.net) or Rachel Bennet (treasurer) (214) 538-0400 [cashdollarb@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.cityofmadison.com/Winter).

More information about all other Streets Division services can be found at [www.cityofmadison.com/Streets](http://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](http://www.cityofmadison.com/DropOffSites).
- **Winter Information:** Is available at [www.cityofmadison.com/Winter](http://www.cityofmadison.com/Winter)



## Trash and Recycling

[www.cityofmadison.com/DropOffSites](http://www.cityofmadison.com/DropOffSites)

Trash & recycling calendar for 2023 is available at [www.cityofmadison.com/CollectionSchedule](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:district13@cityofmadison.com)

I have noticed that even people who claim everything is predetermined and that we can do nothing to change it, look before they cross the road.

Stephen Hawking