

VNA Good Neighbor Digest

02-26-2024

Vilas Neighborhood News

Attached is the agenda for Wednesday's VNA meeting and below is a Zoom link.

While there are no special presentations, several topics will be addressed through Committee updates including Vilas Ink, plans for Vilas Park woods, the Vilas sign replacement grant, the 2024 Vilas neighbor survey, and a proposal to remove the owner requirement for accessory dwelling units (ADUs).

We hope that you can join us (virtually) on Wednesday!

-Doug Carlson, VNA President

VNA President is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: VNA February 2024 Meeting

Time: Feb 28, 2024 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82643621531>

Meeting ID: 826 4362 1531

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,82643621531# US

+13092053325,,82643621531# US

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcd00CPyDQ>

VNA Book Club

The next book club will take place Thursday April 25th at 7pm.

Anyone in the neighborhood is welcome to join!

This is the last day for the next book nominations.

Some books discussed for future reads are:

Tom Lake by Ann Patchet

Horse by Gearldine Brooks

Master Slave Husband Wife by Ilyon Woo

The Fraud by Zadie Smith

Suggestions to: Sarah Bahauddin, sarahbahauddin@gmail.com

Other Info.

The Parks Department has been doing maintenance work on trees in Vilas Park, as well as removing invasive shrubs and deadfall. Parks is working with the City Forester to develop a restoration plan. There will be a meeting on **March 21st from 11-12:30** to learn about the proposed restoration plan and provide feedback. If you are interested in attending, the meeting spot is the Vilas Park tennis court parking lot.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but have thoughts about trees in Vilas Park, please feel free to email VNA Vilas Park Representatives, Wendy Fearnside wendy.fearnside@att.net or Ann Rivlin amfrivlin@gmail.com



Tag Evers blog

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

The 43rd annual **Freeze for Food 5K/10K race** is scheduled on **Saturday, March 2, 2024** at the Vilas Park shelter and around Lake Wingra. I have just today been informed by Jeremy Nash at Madison Traffic Engineering that he has passed this on to Madison Police Dept. with a recommendation to approve. Our Madison Parks Permit specifies that we should provide the neighborhood with event details. Further questions:

Kate Schachter
Freeze for Food Race Co-Director
RPCVs of Madison
Cell: 608-440-0674



City News

For further details check:

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

Street Sweepers Working Overnight Hours Starting March 3, 2024

Starting on the evening of Sunday, March 3, 2024, Streets Division sweepers will be operating on Madison roadways 16-hours a day collecting the sand, salt, and other accumulated grit from the roads.

One shift will be working from 10:00pm to 6:00am. And another shift of operators will be sweeping from 7:00am to 3:00pm.

Crews will be working these hours for the next four weeks, depending on weather conditions.

How to Help

Sweepers can only collect what they have access to along the curb. Remember to follow all posted parking restrictions, and please choose off-street parking options at night. Also, avoid placing trash and recycling carts in the street.

Parked vehicles and collection carts in the street block sweepers from collecting the debris in the gutter.

And it can be several days until a sweeper can rotate back to neighborhoods for another pass to collect the missed grit.

As a reminder to all roadway users, street sweepers are very slow vehicles.

When they are actively collecting debris, they move at a top speed of 5 MPH. If you encounter a street sweeper while traveling through the city, please be patient. Give them plenty of space to do their work safely.

Why are sweepers working extra hours at night?

Street sweepers cannot work when temperatures are below freezing because they require water to work. This means during the winter months, sweeping cannot occur. This creates a buildup of general grit and grime, plus winter sand and salt on city streets.

The goal of the extra sweeping hours is to collect as much debris that has accumulated on the roads over the winter as possible before spring rains wash it into the storm drains and out into our waterways.

The extra hours occur during the overnight hours because it is safer. As stated earlier, sweepers are very slow vehicles.

Whenever possible, it is best to have them working when they are less likely to come into conflict with heavy traffic.

Additional Information

For more information about the Streets Division [sweeping operations](#), go to street sweeping page the [Street Maintenance](#) section of the Streets Division's website, www.cityofmadison.com/streets.

Black History Month Event: Stamp Presentation, Film, Conversation with Dr. Charles Taylor

The City of Madison Department of Civil Rights, in partnership with the Dane County Tamara D. Grigsby Office for Equity and Inclusion, and Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, invite the public to celebrate the end of Black History Month with a presentation, film viewing and discussion at **6 p.m., Feb. 29, 2024, at Monona Terrace** in Madison.

- [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 | Alicia Ashman Library](#)
- [March 16, 10am - 12pm | Pinney Library](#)
- [April 23, 10am - 12pm | Lakeview Library](#)



[K9 Unit - Field Operations - City of Madison, Wisconsin](#)

The mission of the Madison Police Department Canine unit is to provide a team of highly trained, dual-purpose canines to support the work of MPD operations through narcotics detection and patrol work (building searches, tracking, evidence location, etc).

K9s trained in patrol applications may be utilized for area searches, building searches, tracking, evidence searches, narcotics detection, bomb detection, subject apprehensions, K9 handler protection, and community presentations. The K9 handler is, at all times, responsible for the control of their dog.



- **[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



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.



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)



City of Madison

- [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.



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

What would men be without women? Scarce, sir... mighty scarce.- Mark Twain.