

# VNA Good Neighbor Digest



03-4-2024

## Vilas Neighborhood News

### VNA Book Club

The nominations are in for the April VNA Book Club book. If you would like to read the book and attend the next book club meeting, we would love for you to vote!

Please vote for one book by this Friday March 8th

- Tom Lake by Ann Patchet
- Horse by Gearldine Brooks
- Master Slave Husband Wife by Ilyon Woo
- The Fraud by Zadie Smith
- Being Mortal by Atul Gawande
- The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown

Happy Reading,

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

## Monroe St. Library

Tuesday morning storytimes in March will feature music for preschool kids and their caregivers. Sing, play instruments, dance and have fun with Growing Voices. Sibs and daycare groups are always welcome.

We're planning a variety of spring break activities for kids of all ages starting Mon, March 25. Stay tuned!

We've seen lots of puzzle activity lately. We always appreciate donations of new or gently used jigsaw puzzles to add to the swap.

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



## Tag Evers blog (edited)

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

The nice weather is both nice and a bit unsettling. March is supposed to come in like a lion, not like a lamb. Hope you are getting outside and enjoying it nonetheless.

- **FYI [Tuesday, March 5 is the Last day to establish residency for Spring Election](#)**, : Voters who move after today will not be eligible to vote from their new address in April because it takes 28 days to establish residency for voting purposes.

## AASPIRE Internship

The City of Madison's [Affirmative Action Student Professionals in Residence \(AASPIRE\) Internships](#) are now open for students to [Apply!](#)

These paid internships offer students a chance to work for the City of Madison this summer while sharpening skills and getting paid! Interns benefit from:

- Essential skill building
- Hands-on experience
- Bi-weekly pay

- Management level projects
- Networking, and more!

Students must [Apply](#) before **April 1, 2024** to be considered for the AASPIRE Internship program.

## **Boards, Commissions, and Committee Meetings** of interest

Complete [Meeting Schedule page](#).

- **Common Council:** The Common Council meeting Tuesday, March 5, in hybrid format at 6:30 p.m. Agenda items include the 2025 budget outlook, the structural deficit, the Wisconsin Policy Forum, the City of Madison Honorary Street Name program.
  - [Meeting Details](#)
  - [Meeting Agenda](#)
  - [Register for Public Comment](#)
  - [Watch Online](#)
- **Board of Public Works:** Wednesday, March 6, virtually at 4:30 p.m. Agenda items include updated policy for assessing street improvements, and items in Districts 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20.
  - [Meeting Details](#)
  - [Meeting Agenda](#)
  - [Register for Public Comment](#)
  - [Watch Online](#)
- **Board of Health for Madison and Dane County:** Wednesday, March 6, 5:30 p.m, Atrium Community Room, 2300 S. Park St. at. Agenda items: Update on PFAS community engagement , private well testing and acceptance of funds from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for HIV tests.
  - [Meeting Details](#)
  - [Meeting Agenda](#)
- **Community Development Block Grant Committee:** Thursday, March 7, 5:30 p.m. Room 215, Madison Municipal Building, 215 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Public hearing and adoption of CDBG Unit's 2024 Action Plan, Adoption of the 2024 Annual Action Plan (AAP), approval for submission of the plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and a staff overview of housing developments and programs.
  - [Meeting Details](#)

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

## Public Information Meetings & Sessions

- [Review the Draft West Area Plan - Attend a Virtual Public Meeting!, Monday, March 4](#): Online registration is required. Link sent after registration. Questions? Planning Division staff: Linda Horvath, 608-266-1131, [lhovath@cityofmadison.com](mailto:lhovath@cityofmadison.com); Ben Zellers, 608-266-4866, [bzellers@cityofmadison.com](mailto:bzellers@cityofmadison.com).
- [Review the Draft West Area Plan - Attend a Virtual Public Meeting!, Tuesday, March 5](#): Online registration is required. Link sent after registration. Questions? Planning Division staff: Linda Horvath, 608-266-1131, [lhovath@cityofmadison.com](mailto:lhovath@cityofmadison.com); Ben Zellers, 608-266-4866, [bzellers@cityofmadison.com](mailto:bzellers@cityofmadison.com).

## Announcements & News Releases

- [Affordable Connectivity Program](#): Now is the time to let Congress know how important the ACP is to households in your community. Use the sample social media posts and tag your members of Congress to let them know your organization supports renewed funding for the ACP.
- [Celebrate Women in Construction Week 2024: March 3-9, 2024](#)
- [Three Finalists Announced in Madison Public Library Director Search](#): Hear each finalist's vision at an upcoming Meet + Greet on **Saturday, March 9**.
- [Spring Election Media Kit Now Available](#): For the April 2 Spring Election. To ensure each eligible voter will be able to cast a ballot and have that ballot counted.
- [Madison Fire Ambulances, Community Paramedics to Carry Buprenorphine](#): Effective Friday, March 1.
- [Ride the Drive Returns to Promote Health, Sustainability and Community Engagement](#): Sunday, August 11, from 10 am to 2 pm. Ride the Drive is a free, one-day rain-or-shine event promoting the use of alternative transportation with miles of open streets.



## City News (edited)

For greater detail check:

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

### Events

- [Yoga Core, Tuesday, March 5](#): Yoga Core is a great class to help build strength and body awareness. 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.
- [Transportation Options with Metro at Meadowridge Library, Tuesday, March 5](#): Metro employees will talk about different options for getting around the city, including buses, [RoundTrip](#), [BCycles](#), bikes, and more. They will also spend time talking about paratransit,
- [Wright by Design: Inclusion and Place - Planning and Design for the 21st Century City, Tuesday, March 5, 2024](#): Edna Ledesma explores the role that amenities and environments of choice have in redefining the 21st century landscape of Latino communities in American cities.
- [Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events Training, Wednesday, March 6](#): You'll learn the principles of what to do when there is an active shooter to increase your chance of survival.
- [Madison Parks Hiring Fair, Wednesday, March 6](#): Madison Parks is hiring seasonal staff across the Parks Division in aquatics, golf, maintenance, conservation and more! Apply and interview onsite
- [Public Input Meeting - Manchester Park, Wednesday, March 6](#): Parks staff will discuss & ask for feedback and ideas for the upcoming replacement, which will be installed in 2024.
- [Dane Arts Buy Local Business of Art Conference III, Thursday, March 7](#): Dane Arts is pleased to announce the Dane Arts Buy Local 2024 Business of Art Conference III.
- [Dane Arts Buy Local Business of Art Conference III, Friday, March 8](#): Dane Arts is pleased to announce the Dane Arts Buy Local 2024 Business of Art Conference III.

- [Warner Family Fun Night, Friday, March 8](#): Families can create art projects, play in the game room or the gym, watch a movie or win some prizes playing bingo!
- [Bird & Nature Adventures I Owen, Saturday, March 9](#): Free, family-friendly guided nature walks at Owen Conservation Park are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month, year-round 2:30-4pm. No registration is required. No pets are allowed.
- [Bird & Nature Adventures I Turville Point, Sunday, March 10](#): Held on the 2nd Sunday every month. Meet at the Turville Point parking lot, entrance at the E. Olin Ave. stoplight from John Nolen Drive at the railroad tracks, south of Olin Park (not at the boat launch). No registration is required. No pets are allowed.



### **Street Sweepers Now Working Overnight Hours**

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.

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- [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](#)



- [MPD officer finds new 'beat' during job shadow program](#): As a patrol officer, Sydney Hanick is used to working a beat. But during a recent shift on the north side, she found herself covering

a different kind of beat. One involving a musical mashup and the kids who attend after-school programming through the Kennedy Heights Community Center. This is the first round of the Madison Proximity Project. The program pairs an MPD officer with a community member. The officer shadows the community member, and, in return, that person goes on a police ride-along.

Anyone interested in participating in future rounds of the project can email Madison Police Department's Community Engagement Specialist Alex Ricketts at [aricketts@cityofmadison.com](mailto:aricketts@cityofmadison.com).



- **[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, 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*

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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](mailto:wendy.fearnside@att.net) or Ann Rivlin [amfrivlin@gmail.com](mailto:amfrivlin@gmail.com). 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.

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*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 if there are any left. Take no more than two packages, and please test negative.



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 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,



## **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)*



## 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](#) : Through 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](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 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)

*There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle, because we do not live single-issue lives.  
Andre Lorde*