

VNA Good Neighbor Digest



03-11-2024

Vilas Neighborhood News

VNA News

A VNA survey on the subject of ADU's was conducted and will be submitted to the Council in time for the meeting this evening. Results were distributed through the list-serve.

Monroe St. Library

Have you checked out our **seed library** yet? It's off to a great start. Come by for packets of herbs, flowers, and veggies. A huge THANK YOU to our volunteer seed packagers, including a powerhouse passel of West High students. It seems seed packaging may be an ongoing project. If you have an hour or two to help out, please let us know.

Yesterday's musical storytime, presented by Growing Voices, was a big hit with the baby and preschool crowd. The lilting sounds of Sam, her guitar, and lots of little voices wafted up the steps so sweetly. Sam will be back the next three Tuesday mornings, March 12, 19 and 26, at 10:30. Jennifer will be back for April storytimes.

Saturday art Holly will be at the library Sat., March 16 from 10 - noon to make paper plate crowns with kids. We are all royalty, are we not?

Stay tuned for specifics about **spring break activities for kids March 25-29**. An overview: every afternoon that week (except Thursday) from 1:30 - 3:30 kids can drop in to do an **art project with Posca** markers - every day a different project. Also, Monday at 10:30: **cardio drumming** for kids ages 6 and up, and Tuesday at 10:30: **musical storytime**.

Our new March **scavenger hunt** is up and running! This month's hunt features the letter M.

MSCR summer program guides have arrived, as have Dane County bike maps. And we have Covid tests and some tax forms.

Watch the **Too Good To Miss** shelves for new titles in the next few weeks. Itching to get your hands in the dirt? Check out our display of gardening books (earliest we've EVER displayed that topic). Watch soon for a display of kids' books that the Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) considers the best books of 2023.

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



Tag Evers blog (edited)

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

Alders are receiving many emails containing a fundamental misunderstanding of the source of the budget deficit and what steps might be taken to fix it. Please take this opportunity to learn more about our structural deficit and options to address it

Save The Date – Budget Engagement Event

Wednesday, May 29 is the tentative date we've set for a Southside/Near Westside Budget Engagement, 5:30pm to 7:30pm at Goodman South Library, 2222 South Park Street. Meant to appeal to residents in Districts 13, 14, 5, and 10 Refreshments and food will be provided.

Finance Department staff will be at the event to offer specifics on budget challenges. Stay tuned for more details.

For more info. <https://www.cityofmadison.com/finance/budget/2025-budget/2025-budget-outlook>.

This is a first step toward balancing next year's budget. It includes: A general understanding of the overall City budget. Fundamentals of the City budget and options for closing the deficit.

An explanation of the "structural deficit". For example, there is apparent confusion between capital and operating expenditures, as many emails suggest the budget could be balanced by cutting affordable housing, BRT, and other capital projects.

I'm Working On Three Ordinance Changes

Dog Attacks

In response to a [vicious dog attack](#) last spring, Alder Myadze and I authored an ordinance change that would require dog owners who have been cited as a result of their dogs attacking, biting, and injuring another dog or person to muzzle their dogs off premises and keep their dogs physically restrained on premises. Electronic collars and electronic fences would not be acceptable means of physical restraint.

The ordinance change was [introduced](#) at last week's Council meeting on March 5, & goes to the Board of Health in April for review. It's likely the item will be returned to Council on April 16 for a vote.

Now a fine is up to \$500 for dog attacks, but there are no additional requirements. This ordinance addresses this gap.

ADU Changes

In 2021 I worked with staff and former alders Patrick Heck and Grant Foster to ease the approval process to build an [accessory](#)

[dwelling unit \(ADU\)](#). Sometimes referred to as “granny flats,” as many of these additions are meant to accommodate an aging family member, ADUs had been allowed in the city since 2013 as a conditional use. Because the approval process was lengthy and arguably onerous, few were built. In December 2021, [Council approved changes](#) that made ADUs in single-family neighborhoods a permitted use subject to staff review.

Owner-occupancy of either the primary or accessory dwelling unit was required in 2013 and that requirement remained intact with the changes made in 2021. Moreover, ADUs were limited to single-family homes -- duplexes and other multi-family structures were not eligible.

Last year, Council approved the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Overlay District, which allowed owners of single-family homes within ¼ mile of high-frequency transit routes like South Park and Monroe St to convert to a duplex “by right,” no longer requiring a conditional use. I supported this change to “gentle density,” which allows for an incremental increase in housing units in our neighborhoods.

At the time, [I argued for duplex conversions to be limited to owner occupied homes](#). I did not prevail, and the TOD Overlay District as it stands allows landlords to convert single-family homes to duplexes. My thinking has since evolved and I now believe the owner-occupancy requirement to be unnecessary and overly burdensome. I am therefore co-sponsoring an [ordinance change](#) that would allow ADUs to be built by landlords on properties containing up to 8 units, subject to staff review.

The proposed ordinance change goes to Plan Commission tomorrow, March 11, but the recommended action is referral to the next meeting of the Housing Strategy Committee on March 28 before coming back to Plan Commission on April 8. In other words, it’s very likely that no action will be taken by Plan Commission tomorrow.

Drive-Through Windows

In view of Bay Creek neighborhood concerns about drive-through establishments reducing neighborhood walkability, zoning ordinances have been revisited. District 3 Alder Derek Field and I

have worked to clarify rules around such structures. We are proposing a ban on new drive-through only businesses. [This item](#) will appear at the Plan Commission meeting.



City News

For further details check:

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

Boards, Commissions, and Committee Meetings of interest
[Complete Meeting Schedule page.](#)



Metro Fare Technology Updates; Public hearing

Proposed Fare Updates

Wednesday, March 13, Metro Transit and the City of Madison Transportation Commission will hold a public hearing at **6 p.m.** to discuss fare updates related to new fare technology being installed this summer.

There will not be any fare increases related to these proposals.

- [Background/Roll Out Plan](#)
- [Proposed Fare Updates](#)
- [Fare Equity Analysis](#)
- [Bus Flyer](#)
- [All Legistar Items](#)

Please attend the virtual public hearing or provide feedback prior to the hearing date. (see link on city website)

Consideration will be given to views and comments expressed at the public hearing as well as to all phone and written comments received. All feedback submitted prior to the hearing will be considered by commission members in the same manner as verbal testimony.

Give Feedback (see link on city website)

Attend the virtual public hearing or provide feedback prior to the hearing date.

Online Form: mymetrobus.com/feedback.

- Written comments to: Metro Transit Public Hearing Comments, 1245 E. Washington Ave., Suite 201, Madison WI 53703
- Email: mymetrobus@cityofmadison.com
- Call: (608) 266-4466.

Funding for Madison’s Second Bus Rapid Transit Line Included in Federal Spending Bill

Today, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced that \$118.1 million for the Madison area’s second bus rapid transit line, Metro Rapid Route B, has been included in President Biden’s 2025 Proposed Budget. About 78 percent of the project would be federally funded, with the remainder coming from local communities benefiting from the route.

The next round of public meetings for Metro Rapid Route B are planned for April, where residents can learn more and share feedback about the proposed route, station locations, and more. For additional details, visit www.madisonbrt.com.



Join Us for Terrace Town 2024: Explore Eco-Friendly Model Cities Designed by Students

Terrace Town brings architecture, design and city planning curriculum to Dane County elementary classrooms. 700 students learn how cities are planned, what makes a quality city, and how citizens can participate in the improvement of their community. The classrooms then design and construct a scale model city and install them in Monona Terrace’s Exhibition Hall for public viewing. Teachers work in partnership with volunteer “mentors”- architects, planners, and design professionals- to facilitate the students’ work.

Media Opportunities:

On **Friday, March 15**, students will build their model cities in our Exhibition Hall, with two ribbon cutting ceremonies.

- **9:15- 10:30 AM** Morning schools arrive (375 students from Crestwood, Hawthorne, Henderson, Nuestro Mundo, and West Middleton) and install their cities.
- **10:30-11:00 AM Ribbon cutting ceremony with Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway** and DJ Nick Nice.
- **11:30 AM-12:45 PM** Afternoon schools arrive (324 students from Glacier Edge, Marshall, Mendota, New Century, Sandburg, Westside, and Wingra) and install their cities.
- **12:45 – 1:15 PM Ribbon cutting ceremony with PBS Wisconsin/ Wisconsin Life host Angela Fitzgerald** and DJ Nick Nice.

Open to the Public:

On Saturday, March 16 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

It's a day of free architectural fun and learning for the whole family! Come view "green" scale model cities, designed by 775 local students using recycle materials during Terrace Town 2024. You can create your own building and add it to our model city of Madison and enjoy hands-on activities from our partners AIA Wisconsin, Wisconsin Architects Foundation, Wisconsin Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects, Society of Women Engineers UW Madison, and the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation. The event is free and open to the public at our Exhibition Hall on the lakeside level of Monona Terrace.

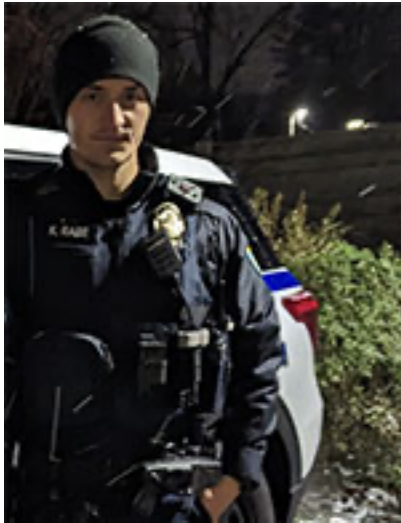


Madison Police Dept.

Midtown District Neighborhood Officers

The mission of the Madison Police Department Neighborhood Resource Officers is to create positive change within multiple neighborhoods or areas in which they are assigned. This is accomplished by working in collaborative partnerships with the community and neighborhood stakeholders to build trust, break down barriers and enhance the quality of life for all, toward the common goal of a successful, self-sustaining neighborhoods. The

geographic scope of the NROs is flexible and will change as problems or neighborhood concerns change.



Keagan Rabe

Hello Madison, I'm Officer Keagan Rabe and am currently serving as the Triangle Neighborhood Police Officer. I have been with MPD since 2019, most of which has been spent in the Midtown District. I am part of the Special Event Team and Mental Health Unit. Like my predecessor in the Triangle Neighborhood, I have a commitment to be physically present in my neighborhood as much as possible and can often be found walking around or sitting with residents. I work closely with community stakeholders and am an advocate for my residents to ensure they are connected with the resources they need. I am thrilled to watch my community and residents thrive during my time as the neighborhood officer.

When I'm not in uniform, I enjoy winter camping, hiking, traveling, playing video games, and spending time with my three dogs.



Kelly Powers

Greetings - I'm Officer Kelly Powers and am currently serving the Midtown District at the Neighborhood Resource Officer. I've been a part of the MPD since 2007 as a Police Officer and have spent most of that time working west of the square in the South, West and Midtown Districts in patrol assignments and in a Community Policing Team. My primary focus will be facilitating problem solving efforts throughout the Midtown District by partnering with both internal MPD resources and external resources.

When I'm not working I focus most of my energy on maintaining good work life balance by spending time with family and dogs, watching baseball, and manicuring my yard.



Brandon Sheraden

Hello, I'm Officer Brandon Sheraden and I currently serve as the Allied Drive Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO). I have been with MPD since 2018. As a patrol officer, I spent most of my time working the afternoon shift in the Midtown District. I am a member of the Special Events Team, Mental Health Liaison officer cadre, and serve as a Field Training Officer. As the Allied Drive NPO, I am dedicated to working with the community to address public safety and quality of life concerns.

During my free time, I enjoy outdoor activities such as fishing, hiking, and spending the day on a lake. I am a big sports fan and always enjoy watching or attending football games.



In case you missed it and For Reference

Vilas Park

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
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. 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

City of Madison

- **[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.
- **[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.

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.



- **[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 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 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.



- **[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](#)



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**.



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.
- **Winter Information:** Is available at www.cityofmadison.com/Winter



Trash and Recycling

www.cityofmadison.com/DropOffSites

Trash & recycling calendar 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

You have to live life in the real and then take it to the ideal Eric Adams