

VNA Good Neighbor Digest



04-08-2024

Vilas Neighborhood News

VNA News

The March/April VNA meeting is this Wednesday, April 10 at 6:30 via Zoom. A Zoning Committee update on the ADU proposal status, Alder Update and Committees followed by a few known items to discuss via committee updates, including the plan for the Vilas Park woods and the Vilas triennial survey to be distributed in mid-May.

we hope you can join us.

Topic: VNA March-April 2024 Meeting

Time: Apr 10, 2024 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84392596062>

Meeting ID: 843 9259 6062

Doug Carlson (*President*)



Tag Evers blog (edited)

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

Happy Eclipse Day!

Boards, Commissions, and Committee Meetings

Note: This is not a complete list of meetings for this upcoming week. All meetings and their details can be found at the [Meeting Schedule page](#).

Events

- [Learn How to Ride Metro, Tuesday, April 9](#): Learn how to use Metro Transit's fixed route city bus service. Metro employees will answer your questions about bus travel and provide one-on-one assistance in English and Spanish.
- [Learn to Fall Safely, Wednesday, April 10](#): SAFELY Learn to fall safely and to get back up without injury. Classes are progressive. Attending all 4 classes recommended. Scholarships available.
- [Strategies to Prevent Basement Flooding, Wednesday, April 10](#): Ever had water in your basement? With some planning, a few rules and basic landscaping tools, most homeowners

can address this problem on their own. No registration is required, but [sign up for an email or text reminder](#) if you like.

- [Homebuyer Education Workshop, Saturday, April 13](#): FREE Homebuyer Education workshop takes place in-person at the Sunshine Place (18 Rickel Rd., Sun Prairie, WI) on from 8:30am-3:30pm! Lunch will be provided.

how to find the right home
how to apply for a mortgage
credit improvement tips
how much you can afford

what down payment assistance may be available to you
barriers that prevent you from qualifying for a mortgage.



- [Prescribed Burn Crew Training, Saturday, April 13](#): Learn what it means to be part of the Burn Crew at Elver Park, weather and conditions allowing.
- [Bird & Nature Adventures | Turville Point, Sunday, April 14](#). Walks are held on the 2nd Sunday every month No registration is required. No pets are allowed.

Events

Earth Day Challenge

Earth Day Challenge Projects are held throughout the city. Volunteers may assist with trash pickup, raking, weeding, and removing sticks. Parks staff will supply gloves, garbage bags and rakes. Rakes at each park will be based on the number of volunteers participating. TO PICK UP SUPPLIES: Look for the Earth Day Challenge sign in each of the designated parks. No staff is onsite during the event.

- **Date: Saturday, April 20, 2024**
- **For More Information Email: [Parks Volunteer Coordinator](#)**
- [Advanced Registration Required](#) (Hint: District 13 Volunteers have already responded in great numbers! Yesss, way to go D13! Brittingham, Olin, Vilas, and Wingra Parks are all filled up. However, you can still sign up to for **Edward Klief Park**,

1200 Milton St., Glenwood Children's Park, 602 Glenway St., and The Glen Golf Park, 3747 Speedway Road.



City News

For further details check:

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



Urban Forestry Planting 1,300 Trees in Spring 2024

Urban Forestry's spring planting season began today, Monday, April 8, 2024.

Crews will be planting 1,374 trees from 27 different species along City of Madison streets this spring.

The variety of species was selected by the City's trained arborists to ensure a diverse and resilient canopy that can thrive in our urban landscape, benefitting us all.

The spring planting will occur throughout the city, including on the isthmus.

Overall, the spring planting is expected to continue through the end of the month.

Upon the conclusion of the spring planting season, Urban Forestry crews then return to pruning and other tree care operations. In the fall, there will be a second round of planting.

New Tree Care

If you were one of the fortunate residents to receive a tree in the right of way space in front of your home, please be sure you are following the [new tree care](#) advice on the City of Madison Urban Forestry website, and please help keep the young tree watered.

Additional Information

If you have additional questions about Urban Forestry operations, please go to www.cityofmadison.com/Forestry or call the Urban Forestry office at 608-266-4816.



Volunteer to help paint State Street ahead of Pedestrian Mall Experiment



Image credit: Design by Rahul Kamath

The City of Madison is conducting an [experiment to turn the 400-600 blocks of State Street into a pedestrian mall](#) this summer.

On Sunday, April 21, people of all ages are invited to volunteer and help a group of local Madison artists – Rahul Kamath, Taylor McAda, Sharon Bjyrd, and Jessica Gutierrez -- paint four original 20-foot circle murals on State Street between Gorham Street and Hawthorne Court. The City is also looking for volunteers to help paint more than 150 whimsical Madison-themed stencils designed by another local Madison artist, Maeve Makielski. Volunteers can sign up for one of two painting shifts from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Noon to 3 p.m., or sign up to volunteer for both shifts.

Street Painting - Stencils



Stencil designs by Madison artist Maeve Makielski

The event is dependent on the weather. A rain date of Sunday, May 5 has been set as a backup.

Those interested in helping paint State Street [are asked to register for free ahead of time](#) to ensure there are enough supplies to go around.

Departments: [Planning](#)

Categories: [Madison Arts](#)



Madison Public Library Celebrates National Library Week

From April 7-13, 2024, Madison Public Library is celebrating National Library Week online and at all library locations with a variety of activities including a “share your story” postcard campaign, the debut of a [Library Value Calculator](#), and the [Our Town Everywhere Exhibition & Celebration](#).

The theme for National Library Week 2024, “Ready, Set, Library!,” promotes the idea that in our always-online world, libraries give us a green light to something truly special: a place to connect with others, learn new skills, and focus on what matters most. No matter where you find yourself on the roadmap through life’s journey—preparing for a new career, launching a business, or raising a family—your library provides an inclusive and supportive community where everyone belongs. Get ready to explore, become inspired, and connect with your library this National Library Week. Libraries are there for you, all the way to the finish line.

National Library Week was first celebrated in 1958 by the National Book Committee and has since evolved into an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities.

Daily celebrations:

Share Your Story - Sunday, April 7

Throughout the upcoming week, library users are invited to share why they love their library. It may be because of a fantastic event, a free service, a great book, or something else entirely! Library users are invited to post a story with the hashtags #nationallibraryweek and tag @MadisonPublicLibrary on Instagram or Facebook, or stop in and share a story in person through a postcard campaign. You can also check out our new [Library Value Calculator](#) and let us know via social media, email or postcard how much your library saves you each month!

State of American Libraries Report Release - Monday, April 8

The State of America's Libraries 2024 Report is an annual summary of library trends that outlines statistics and issues affecting all types of libraries during the previous calendar year. This report also includes a list of the Top 10 Most Challenged Books for 2023. At Madison Public Library, we support everyone's right to read and choose their own books. We encourage you to learn more and support [Right To Read Day](#) or read the full [State of America's Libraries Report 2024](#) (will be released on April 8).

National Library Workers Day - Tuesday, April 9

National Library Workers Day is a day for library staff, library patrons, and library supporters to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers. Over the past year, we asked library staff to show us around their library and highlight some of their favorite parts of their jobs. Visit us on Instagram at [@MadisonPublicLibrary](#) and browse our Instagram Story series where you can learn more about different types of library jobs, what each location has to offer, and meet some of our staff.

National Library Outreach Day – Wednesday, April 10

Madison and Dane County's mobile library, the [Dream Bus](#), visits a dozen locations around Madison on a weekly basis. First launched five years ago, the Dream Bus visits neighborhoods and locations around Madison and Sun Prairie that may face transportation barriers in getting to a library location. The Dream Bus literally meets residents where they are at, and helps hundreds of patrons each year get library cards and check out library materials. The Dream Bus is just one way that Madison's libraries connect to the community, however. Expect to see Madison Public Library in parks across the city this summer as part of Juneteenth, [Parks Alive](#), as well as other neighborhood events and activities.

Take Action for Libraries Day – Thursday, April 11

On this day, library users are encouraged to contact their local alders and/or their [county or state representatives](#) to express their support for Madison's libraries!

Madison's Common Council encourages all City of Madison residents to get involved in the decision-making processes of their local government. By participating in Common Council meetings, you can have a say in policies, services, and developments that directly affect your lives - and libraries! All Council meetings are open to the public to attend in-person and streamed live on Madison City Channel. To learn more:

- Visit the [Common Council Meeting Calendar](#).
- Visit the [Common Council website](#).
- Email or call your alder. [Find your alder](#).
- Contact the Common Council Office by filling out the [online contact form](#).
- Call the Common Council Office at (608) 266-4071 to leave a message for the entire Common Council. Council staff will compile and forward messages to the Common Council members.

Connect at Your Library Day – Friday, April 12

Libraries connect us to books and resources, to stories and experiences, and to each other. With nearly 3 million in-person and online checkouts, 713,000 online checkouts, 1.28 million

visits, 130,644 in-library computer uses, and 4,573 programs offered per year, libraries are busy places for connection.

One library initiative, The Bubbler, connects library visitors to creative expression and hands-on learning through artist residencies, exhibits, and programs. On Friday, April 12, 7-10pm, join us at the Central Library for the [Our Town Everywhere Exhibition & Celebration](#) event to experience The Bubbler for yourself at the launch of the Central Library's Our Town Everywhere exhibit, a culmination of a two-year public art project led by 20+ artists and touched by 1000+ community members.

Find all upcoming library events at our [public event calendar](#) or find upcoming author readings at the Wisconsin Book Festival on the [Wisconsin Book Festival website](#).

Last Day of National Library Week - Saturday, April 13

The Library Board adopted a new vision and mission for the library in January of 2024. The library's mission is:

Madison Public Library sparks literacy, fosters curiosity and supports community. We provide equitable access to experiences, ideas and resources necessary to thrive.

Learn more about the mission, vision, values and strategic priorities at www.madpl.org/about/mission-and-vision

"From helping your children learn to read, to using library resources to find a job or further your career, to connecting to important health information or combating social isolation as you age, libraries are free resources for each stage in your growth," said Tana Elias, who will be Madison Public Library's Director starting May 12. "I invite you to support your local library this week or to stop in to your nearest library to get your free library card so you can take advantage of this vital community resource."

Learn what library card is right for you and sign up at madpl.org/apply.

Follow along and share your own content for National Library Week 2024:

- Web site: madpl.org/national-library-week
- Facebook: [@MadisonPublicLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/MadisonPublicLibrary)

- Instagram: [@MadisonPublicLibrary](https://www.instagram.com/MadisonPublicLibrary)
- #MadisonPublicLibrary #nationallibraryweek

About Madison Public Library

Madison Public Library's tradition of promoting education, literacy and community involvement has enriched the City of Madison for nearly 150 years. Visit the library online at www.madisonpubliclibrary.org, madisonpubliclibrary on Facebook, or @madisonpubliclibrary on Instagram

Departments: [Madison Public Library](#)



Cares Team News

Three CARES Teams Now in Service During Peak Call Hours

CARES, Madison's alternative response service for behavioral health emergencies, announces the activation of a third team to respond to calls for service on weekdays.

Effective today, 'CARES 3' is on duty Monday through Friday, 12:00 PM to 10:00 PM, responding from the old Town of Madison fire station on Fish Hatchery Road. The addition of a third team allows the CARES program to expand its service capacity in response to ongoing demand.

Call data from Dane County Public Safety Communications (911) identified the busiest hours of the day for behavioral health emergencies occur between 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM weekdays. With CARES 3 on duty from 12:00 PM to 10:00 PM weekdays, three CARES teams are now available to respond to calls for service during hours of peak demand.

Since the program's inception on September 1, 2021, CARES has responded to approximately 5000 calls for service.

“CARES continues to provide a much-needed service to our community,” said Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway. “It’s my hope that we will continue to be able to expand coverage and meet the needs of people experiencing mental and behavioral health issues in Madison.”

Each CARES team is comprised of a Madison Fire Department community paramedic and a Journey Mental Health crisis worker. These teams are trained and equipped to respond to non-violent behavioral health emergencies that do not require law enforcement. CARES responds to calls throughout the City of Madison.

In addition to CARES 3, two other CARES teams are on duty from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM weekdays. One CARES team is on duty weekends from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM. [Learn more about CARES.](#)



CARES teams are comprised of Madison Fire Department community paramedics and Journey Mental Health crisis workers.



In case you missed it and For Reference

Monroe St. Library

The **seed library** is going strong. New seed arrivals include sugar snap peas and pansies. We have a great selection of seeds for you to plant. You are welcome to take however many you will use. Supplies are limited.

Check out our micro **book displays**. For adults, epistolary fiction - stories told through letters. For kids, picture books that focus on empathy, kindness and understanding.

Storytimes happen Tuesday mornings at 10:30 for the age 0 - 5 crowd. This coming Tuesday is a musical storytime.

Tax forms and **Covid tests** are on the red cart by the checkout desk.

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

VNA Book Club

The votes are in! The next book is Tom Lake by Ann Patchet. We will discuss it on Thursday April 25th at 7pm. Please let me know if you are interested in hosting!

I'll send reminders out as we get closer to the date. Enjoy the read! Sarah Bahauddin sarahbahauddin@gmail.com

Vilas Park

Thanks to everyone who attended the meeting about Vilas Woods! It was a cold two hours, but Parks shared a lot of information, including some general park updates beyond tree maintenance/restoration topics. I do want to note that everything depends on Parks having the budget for these efforts, and Parks staff noted that budgets can change. Highlights from the meeting are:

- The tennis courts are no longer safe to use. Parks plans to close the courts this spring and remove the existing courts and fence in the fall time frame. New courts will be built in the 2026 timeframe, assuming current funding remains available. The meeting attendees had a number of good questions about this decision, such as couldn't the courts just remain as they are until 2026 and people could assume the risk of being injured, but Parks staff said that was not possible because the courts are so unsafe. Parks is coordinating with appropriate Ho-Chunk authorities and a firm that conducts Phase 1 Archeological surveys on the tennis court issue; their current understanding is a survey is not required for the planned tennis court work, but, after questions from neighbors, they are confirming that with the Ho-Chunk authorities. I asked after the meeting, and the

basketball court will remain in place until 2026, when the current court will be removed and a new court will be put in by the tennis courts (as envisioned in the Vilas Park master plan).

- The dinosaur play structure at the Dinosaur playground is going to be removed because it is no longer safe as a play structure. Given its proximity to mounds, it will be cut off at ground level to ensure the ground is not disturbed. Parks is willing to let a private entity have the dinosaur structure if there are any takers, but they have to make clear it is not safe as a play structure.
- The Shoe and Cheese (West) playgrounds will be renovated in the 2026 timeframe. There will be a planning process with public input for these playgrounds. The master plan for the park has the Shoe playground becoming larger (and the Shoe staying!) and the Cheese playground becoming a nature based playground (a new nature based playground is going in at Olbrich for anyone wanting to see one).
- An accessible beach mat is going to be added at Vilas Beach before Memorial Day. Bernie's Beach has one that is very popular and gets a lot of use.
- Parks has an ecology team that is starting to work on natural areas in community parks. They will be involved in maintenance and restoration of the natural areas in Vilas Park. The Park's challenge is it has beautiful, mature trees and very few new trees growing to replace them. We need more young trees now to ensure there are beautiful mature trees in the future.
- Parks staff have been removing invasive species, deadfall, and small safety hazards. However, there are a number of large, mature trees that are safety hazards and will need to be removed (for example, you can see through one tree). It will affect the look of the tree canopy in the park, but it will also give younger trees a chance to thrive.
- The very popular path in the park means that Parks needs to be much more involved in tree maintenance; the safety risks of a branch or tree falling are higher.

- Parks staff hopes to both plant new trees and allow for natural regeneration of oak trees in Vilas.
- They are open to leaving snags (portions of a trunk and main branches) of a tree to preserve wildlife habitat, but it will depends on the location of the tree and safety risk to people/homes.
- Parks staff will communicate their plan for the natural areas of Vilas Park; the neighbors encouraged Parks staff to clearly explain what is happening, why it is happening, and what the natural areas will look like in the future when the plans have been implemented/trees, etc., have grown
- It is possible to have native shrubs in the natural areas to screen the park from homes/roads. Young trees as they grow also can contribute to such a screen.

There was more information covered in the meeting, but these items felt like the most pressing/time sensitive.

Tag Evers blog



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

On Monday, March 11, 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.

Rapid Route B is currently in the development and planning stage and would run generally from Madison's Northside neighborhood through the downtown area, to South Madison, ending in Fitchburg—generally following Metro's existing Route B, one of the area's most heavily traveled routes. Metro Rapid Route B is planned to launch in 2028.

Features will match Metro Rapid Route A including service every 15 minutes or less, high-quality stations with raised platforms,

priority traffic signals, dedicated lanes with fewer stops, and faster fare payment. Metro Route A is currently under construction along Mineral Point Road, Whitney Way, University Avenue, and East Washington Avenue, and will launch this fall.

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.

City of Madison

Announcements & News Releases

- [RoundTrip's Spring Roll Challenge to Celebrate Green Trips this Earth Month](#): RoundTrip, a transportation options program in Dane County, is launching the Spring Roll Challenge to encourage car-free and car-light trips throughout April.



Madison Selected for “Nature Everywhere” Communities Initiative

The City of Madison is proud to announce it is one of nineteen communities in the country selected to join the inaugural [Nature Everywhere](#) Communities initiative. The initiative is designed to increase equitable access to nature everywhere children live, learn, and play.

Nature Everywhere Communities will receive two years of strategic planning, technical support, and start-up funding to develop and implement community-driven plans for connecting children and families to nature-based experiences and learning.

As part of this initiative, the City of Madison will host a [Nature Everywhere Day](#) event on June 1, 2024. Local organizations are invited to get involved by sponsoring the event or taking part with a nature-based activity or service. For more information, [contact](#) the Madison planning team by May 1, 2024.



- **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.



- **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!
- [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](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 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:** Check the hours before loading your car. Drop-off site information is available at www.cityofmadison.com/DropOffSites.



Trash and Recycling

www.cityofmadison.com/DropOffSites

Trash & recycling calendar is available at www.cityofmadison.com/CollectionSchedule.

- [Streets Division Drop-off Sites Hours Expand Starting April 1, 2024](#): Starting on Monday, April 1 the Streets Division drop-off sites at 402 South Point Road and 4602 Sycamore Avenue will begin their expanded summer hours. Also, on Monday, the special drop-off site at 121 East Olin Avenue will open at 3:00pm.
- **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.



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

If the person you're talking to doesn't appear to be listening, be patient. It may simply be that he has a small piece of fluff in his ear.

-- Winnie the Pooh