

# VNA Good Neighbor Digest



04-16-2024

## Vilas Neighborhood News

### VNA News

Stadium Take-Out, 1517 Monroe St., is applying for a liquor license. A public meeting will be held on Friday morning 4/19 at 9:00am at their location to discuss the details and Q&A. They are tentatively scheduled to go before ALRC on May 15. I'll distribute the application and any details once they are available.

Please join us on Friday morning if you have interest or any concerns.

*Doug Carlson (President)*



*Tag Evers blog (edited)*

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

## Meetings & Events

Spring yard waste collection begins this week.

The first set-out date for some neighborhoods starts Sunday, April 14.

All neighborhoods will receive two curbside pickup opportunities of yard waste this spring. <https://www.cityofmadison.com/news/2024-04-10/2024-spring-yard-waste-collection-begins-soon>

Learn more about what constitutes "yard waste" and how to prepare it for pick-up here <https://www.cityofmadison.com/streets/yardWaste/leaf/>.

## Boards, Commissions, and Committee Meetings

All meetings and their details can be found at the Meeting Schedule page. <https://www.cityofmadison.com/city-hall/committees/meeting-schedule>

**The Common Council meeting;** Tuesday, April 16, in hybrid format at 6:30 p.m. The in-person portion will take place in Room 215 of the Madison Municipal Building at 215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Agenda items include welcoming Lord Mayor Talib Ahmed Bensouda and delegation from Madison Sister City Kanifing, the Gambia, the election of Council President and Vice President, removing owner-occupancy requirements for accessory dwelling units, and a resolution affirming unwavering support for survivors of domestic violence and abuse. <https://www.cityofmadison.com/city-hall/committees/common-council/2024-04-16>

**Board of Public Works:** Wednesday, April 17, in virtual format at 4:30 p.m. Agenda items include authorizing the Board of Public Works to advertise and receive bids for 2024 playground improvements, awarding a public works contract for the Warner Park Dog Park Lot Resurfacing project in District 12, and authorizing the Board of Public Works to advertise and receive bids for 20 is Plenty.

## Announcements & News Releases

**New EPA PFAS Regulations:** On April 10th, 2024, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized regulations for PFAS in drinking water.

Mayor Rhodes-Conway Joins Bloomberg Philanthropies' Youth Action Fund to Activate Young People in Driving Climate Solutions: Madison is one of 101 cities that will receive funding and technical assistance to spur a groundswell of youth-driven climate action.

Help Our Community Understand "Forever Chemicals": Public Health Madison & Dane County is now accepting applications from local organizations interested in helping connect with people in their community about PFAS (per and polyfluoroalkyl substances) or "forever chemicals".

## **Events**

**Learn to Fall Safely, Wednesday, April 17:** SAFELY Learn to fall safely and to get back up without injury. Falls are a leading cause of death for older adults in Wisconsin. We will use thick "crash mats" for practicing. Classes are progressive. Attending all 4 classes recommended. Scholarships available.

**MSCR & Madison Parks Hiring Fair, Wednesday, April 17:** Madison Parks and MSCR are hiring seasonal staff in aquatics, golf, maintenance, conservation and more! Attend the Hiring Fair at Parks Lakeside Offices and apply and interview onsite! Make this a summer to remember!

**Meditation At Monona Terrace, Thursday, April 18** (This event occurs on multiple dates): Mindfulness Meditation will be led by Sarah Moore M.D., a mind-body practitioner, therapist, and physician. Sarah has been practicing meditation for more than 20+ years and teaching meditation to groups and individuals for the past 15 years.

**Mad City Ultras, Saturday, April 20:** U.S. National Championship 100-Kilometer Road race (10 laps around Lake Wingra) and 50-Kilometer Road race (5 laps around Lake Wingra); and non-competitive relay races of 100-kilometers and 50-kilometers.

**Bird & Nature Adventures | Starkweather Creek Area, Saturday, April 20:** Outings in the Starkweather Creek area vary each month - be sure to check the starting location. Adventures typically at 10:00am on the 3rd Saturday of the month, year-round, and frequently start at the Goodman Community Center,

unless noted otherwise. Outings include nature walks, canoe/kayak adventures, bicycling tours, and more No registration is required. Pets are not allowed.

**Earth Day Challenge 2024, Saturday, April 20:** Join this community-wide volunteer effort to help make a difference. Accept the Earth Day Challenge with Madison Parks!

For More Information Email: [Parks Volunteer Coordinator](#)

- [Advanced Registration Required](#)

Seeking 900 volunteers at 60+ parks, located throughout the city to assist with trash pickup, raking, weeding, and removing sticks. We 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.

**Bird & Nature Adventures** | Warner Park, Sunday, April 21: Walks at Warner Park held on the 3rd Sunday of every month are co-sponsored by Madison Bird City FUN partners Wild Warner and Madison Audubon. Meet at the colorful Warner Park shelter by the lagoon. Parking is available nearby. No registration is required. No pets are allowed.

Tag



*City News*

For further details check:

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

Presentation on the **Bus Rapid Transit System** by the Department of Transportation and Metro Transit

**Thursday, April 18** via Zoom, Westside Community Connections will feature the Department of Transportation and Metro Transit. Tom Lynch, Director of Transportation, and Shanae Meacham, Outreach Specialist of Metro Transit, will present on the cost of BRT, which will include a timeline for when BRT will be in operation. They will also update residents on vehicle and stop accessibility.



## First Futsal Mini-Pitch

Join City leaders, partners and friends as we officially open the courts with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 4pm on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at Penn Park. Forward Madison FC will have players at the event for autographs and a kick-around play session.



## Volunteer to help paint State Street ahead of Pedestrian Mall Experiment

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 Kamuth, 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.

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](#)



## Coffee With A Cop- April 30

The onthly 'Coffee with a Cop', will be at **the Pinney Public Library in Community Room B (516 Cottage Grove Rd. Madison, WI 53716)**. Coffee will be provided for those who join

us! For this event and future Coffee with a Cop events we will be continuing our efforts of adjusting when we hold our event to allow for more flexibility across the community. My hope is by adjusting the time for our Coffee with a Cop event we can fit more individual's schedules. Our next coffee day is scheduled on **Tuesday, April 30th from 11:00am-12:00pm. Please feel free to stop in at any time to participate.** I am excited to speak with everyone and to get to know some community members. Parking is available in the rear of the library. As usual, we are excited about this opportunity and ask that you spread the word to anyone who might be interested in this community event. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at [LDeLoach@cityofmadison.com](mailto:LDeLoach@cityofmadison.com).



*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.

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](mailto: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.

*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.



## **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](http://www.cityofmadison.com/Forestry) or call the Urban Forestry office at 608-266-4816.



### *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.



- **[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: \[homeloans@cityofmadison.com\]\(mailto:homeloans@cityofmadison.com\)](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 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

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



### **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).

- [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](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).



**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](mailto:district13@cityofmadison.com)

The greatest mistake you can make in life is to continually be afraid you will make one. *Elbert Hubbard*