

# VNA Good Neighbor Digest



04-22-2024

Vilas Neighborhood News

VNA News

**Saturday April 27**

**Crazy Legs at 10:00am**

This year there will be less traffic and parking disruption in the neighborhood with the finish line moved to the Kohl Center, however expect road closures and traffic disruptions around campus on Saturday morning.

**Camp Randall Invite Regatta.** This event features youth rowing teams from around the Midwest competing in a regatta on Lake Wingra. The event will take place in Vilas Park. .

*Doug Carlson (President)*



*Tag Evers blog (edited)*

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

## **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>

## **Events**

**April 23**

[Events | City of Madison, WI](#)

### [HASfit - Gentle Exercise](#)

- City of Madison - Madison Senior Center  
330 W Mifflin St.

### [Downtown Veteran Social](#)

- City of Madison - Madison Senior Center  
330 W Mifflin St



## **Find City Announcements**

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



## *City News*

For further details check:

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

**Hundreds help paint State Street; Pedestrian Mall Experiment to launch May 8**



Image credit: Ian DeGraff

The City of Madison is one step closer to getting people to #FlockToState for the start of this summer's Pedestrian Mall Experiment thanks to the hard work of hundreds of volunteers this past weekend.

More than 600 people from across the Madison area signed up to help paint State Street on Sunday, April 21, adding vibrant colors in the form of murals, stencils and polka dots across the 400 to 600 blocks of State Street.



## **Monona Terrace Announces Concerts on the Rooftop Season**

Monona Terrace is excited to announce its free summer [Concerts on the Rooftop](#) lineup! The public is invited to enjoy great music and gorgeous views of Lake Monona and downtown Madison starting in June.

The rooftop and Lake Vista Café open at 5:30 p.m. with Concerts from 7- 9 p.m. Free tickets are available at [mononaterrace.com/concerts](https://mononaterrace.com/concerts)



**New State Street Night Vending Program hours begin**

People visiting downtown Madison during the nighttime hours will have more opportunities to get a bite to eat from local vendors starting this week.

Beginning Wednesday, April 17, the City's new State Street Night Vending Program gets underway.

The City of Madison Common Council voted on March 5 to allow street vendors to operate on the 700 block of State Street, also known as Library Mall, on Wednesdays through Saturdays from 8pm - 2:30am. Under the previous Late Night Vending Program, vendors were allowed to operate from 9pm - 4am on Thursdays through Saturdays.

In addition to the new days and hours, the number of vendors is being increased from three to five, and vendors will be consolidated at Library Mall, instead of being spread throughout the State Street area as they have been in the past.



## **Slow down Campaign**

Slowing down save lives!

Thanks to our sponsors American Family Insurance and AAA Wisconsin, Safe Communities is able to provide slow down yard signs to neighborhoods (both formal associations and informal groups of neighbors), law enforcement agencies, and individuals, free of charge.

It is a campaign to make our streets safer by posting “slow down” yard signs, stepping up speed enforcement, staffing speed boards, and organizing other neighborhood and community activities to reduce speeding. Slow Down Yard Signs are available year-round at participating law enforcement agencies, American Family Insurance agents and AAA Wisconsin locations.

Effective campaigns have been held for several years throughout the Madison and Dane County area. You can take action in your neighborhood by following some of the simple ideas and suggestions offered below, and downloading the related documents to learn more about organizing a Slow Down

Campaign, how to effectively place signs, notify neighbors and the media, and more!

Signs available at <https://safercommunity.net/slow-down-campaign/>

### **Coffee With A Cop- April 30**

The Monthly '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*

Spring yard waste collection began last week (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/>.

*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) 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)

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

*Andre Lorde*