

The Vilas Neighborhood Association's purposes are enhancement of the neighborhood's residential character and attributes, and the promotion of camaraderie among the neighborhood's residents.  
(Article 2, Neighborhood Association by laws)

# VILASink

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## President's Message by Christopher Kelly, VNA President

The Vilas Park master planning process is now underway. The City of Madison Parks Department, together with its consulting partners, is developing a new long-term plan for the park over the coming months. By later next year, the goal is to have a new vision for renewing this neighborhood treasure and community destination. The final plan has been described as more of a vision – it will not specifically commit the City to any changes but will act as a guiding document as changes occur in the coming years. The Park Board, and in cases of funding, the City Council, will make decisions about moving forward with specific components of the final plan.

Vilas Park is designated by the City as a “community park”, its highest-level designation. This means that the park is a destination for residents across the city. To gather their input, the planning team is reaching out to park users directly, and conducting observational studies of park usage, to determine how this plan can benefit all who enjoy it.

So, how will Vilas be involved in the development of this plan?

The Vilas Neighborhood Association was invited to name representatives to a “Resident Resource Group”, or RRG. This group is a “...diverse, non-technical community resource group convened by

Madison Parks to act as a touchpoint during the master planning process... Input from the RRG will complement input from other public engagement sources, including public meetings, focus groups, and event tabling.” This group will meet four times between October 2019 and August 2020. The VNA’s representatives to this group are neighbors Wendy Fearnside and Julia Kerr. The VNA will hear updates from them at future VNA meetings. Please join us.

From an individual perspective, here’s what you can do: Attend community input meetings, take an online survey, submit a comment card, subscribe to project updates on the web site ([www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/vilas-henry-park-master-plan](http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/vilas-henry-park-master-plan)) or email your ideas to: [VilasMasterPlan@cityofmadison.com](mailto:VilasMasterPlan@cityofmadison.com). I would encourage you to visit the web site and provide your email address to receive periodic updates from the planning team.

Vilas Park is a unique treasure, and an important aspect of the uniqueness of our neighborhood. Please lend your thoughts and ideas!

Christopher Kelly  
VNA President



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**Submission information for articles and advertising**

Vilas, Ink, with its circulation of 700 plus, is published quarterly for all residents of the Vilas Neighborhood. We welcome submissions, in particular letters, discussions of local issues, or services that might be of neighborhood interest.

**Deadline for next issue is November 22, 2019.** Please contact Pat for advertising availability. E-mail: pschecke@yahoo.com. Standard ad cost is \$25 per issue or \$100 annually. The \*standard ad size is 2 1/4" x 3". We offer a \*double ad size when space permits at 3" x 4 1/2" at \$50 per issue or \$200 annually. (\*Ad size subject to change)

# Keep Streets Leaf-free this Fall to Reduce Flooding and Protect our Waters

As the leaves begin to fall, Vilas is asking residents to help keep streets leaf-free before the rain to prevent clogged storm drains and nutrient rich "leaf tea" from washing into our waters. When it rains, stormwater not only carries leaves and debris into storm drains which can lead to street flooding, but also flows through leaves in streets creating a "leaf tea" that is rich in dissolved phosphorus. This "leaf tea" travels through storm sewers and other drainage systems, making its way to Lake Wingra, Wingra Creek and other bodies of water downstream. Too much phosphorus can fuel toxic algae blooms that are harmful to people out enjoying the water and the animals living there. In the fall, keeping leaf litter off of streets before it rains can keep our storm drains clear and reduce the amount of phosphorus in urban stormwater by 80% compared to no leaf removal! Join us in keeping streets leaf-free this fall! Before the rain... 1. Safely remove leaves from the street in front of your home and nearby storm drains. 2. Rake leaves to the terrace, but NOT IN THE STREET. To learn more, visit: [www.ripple-effects.com](http://www.ripple-effects.com).

## Leaf Collection Pilot Coming This Fall

The City of Madison Streets Division, with the help of Friends of Lake Wingra, will launch a pilot program in the Vilas and Greenbush neighborhoods to evaluate a new leaf & yard waste collection method.

In the pilot areas, leaf & yard waste collection will occur every-other-week on the same date and times as the street's parking restrictions.

With this method, collection should be faster, and the follow-up street sweeping should be more effective since there should be no cars blocking the collection crews. Plus, residents will know exactly when collection will occur, so planning yard work will be easier. Ultimately, this should result in fewer leaves on our streets – and that means less phosphorus in our lakes.

In the pilot area, the first collection will be October 7 and the final pickup will be November 21.

In order for the pilot to be a success, we need your help. Please follow the posted parking rules and have the yard waste placed to the curb on the correct day. Also, avoid placing refuse and recycling carts in the street during collection and sweeping times. The carts are obstructions for the sweepers just like parked cars.

Additional information will be mailed to residents in the pilot area. However, if you're itching for extra details now or have any additional questions about the pilot program, please call the west side Streets Division office at 608-266-4681 or email at [streets@cityofmadison.com](mailto:streets@cityofmadison.com). Information about the pilot will also be available on the Streets Division's website, [www.cityofmadison.com/yardwaste](http://www.cityofmadison.com/yardwaste). You are also welcome to reach out to Friends of Lake Wingra at [info@lakewingra.org](mailto:info@lakewingra.org).

## A message from Alder Tag Evers

Greetings!

I often get asked how it is going these first few months. My answer is that it's going great, that I'm learning the ropes. Yes, there are lots of meetings and a tremendous amount of work, but I very much enjoy being your Alder.

The Education Committee will hold its first meeting on September 11. It's been frustrating, this delay, which was due in part to Supt. Jen Cheatham's departure as well as Board President Mary Burke's decision to step down. There's much to do, and I'm determined to see this committee become an effective body, with the City and County working collaboratively with MMSD to take on the opportunity gap in our schools.

Regarding the grocery store on South Park, we are making progress. Four development teams submitted proposals. You may read up on the proposals by logging on to: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/economicdevelopment/truman-olson-rfp/2773/>.

I've been encouraged by the progress to date. I'm very hopeful we'll be able to come up with creative solutions, resulting in a grocery store that serves the needs of South Madison residents for years to come.

I'm pleased to announce we've created a District 13 Neighborhood Alliance for the purpose of improving communication among district neighborhoods. Neighborhood reps, including Dana Scheckel for Vilas, have been identified and are working on a kick-off event, the first annual Good Neighbor Gathering to be held on September 28 at Brittingham Park from 3pm to 8pm.

September 28 is National Good Neighbor Day, and we hope to make this an annual event that someday will rival the great festivals of Madison's east side. We will have a DJ and a live band, Madison's own Kinfolk, as well as fun and engaging activities for all ages. Please come out and meet your neighbors!

Lastly, regarding Edgewood, it would not be prudent for me to comment on an ongoing lawsuit. I find it unfortunate that it has come to this, as I'm a firm believer that negotiation is preferred to litigation. I continue to encourage all sides to treat each other with respect. Together, let's look to the core values Edgewood holds dear -- Truth, Compassion, Justice, Community, and Partnership -- finding guidance in those values to inform a meaningful and robust public process.

That's all for now. Sign up for regular updates at [cityofmadison.com/council/district13](http://cityofmadison.com/council/district13). Thank you! ♦



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# If Children Designed Vilas Park

by Casey Hanson, Friends of Lake Wingra

On a hot and sunny May morning 80 third-grade Lincoln Elementary students poured out of yellow school buses eager to learn through outdoor play and exploration. Thanks to a Go Outside grant for the Wisconsin Natural Resource Foundation, Friends of Lake Wingra led a Vilas Park children's design workshop to empower them to share their ideas in public planning. We shared all of their creative and outside-the-box ideas as part of the public input for the City of Madison Vilas Parks Master Planning process.

After a short tour of the park and eager to explore at their own free will, students broke out in mini-groups. Using a large picture frame, they documented what they liked and didn't like. Popular likes included open space and the lake. Popular dislikes included litter and algae blooms. After their "site analysis," students used legos, paper and crayons, chalk, and arts and crafts to express their vision. Integrating play near water and in nature emerged as a recurring theme. Because a picture is worth a thousand words, see a few examples of Vilas through their eyes.

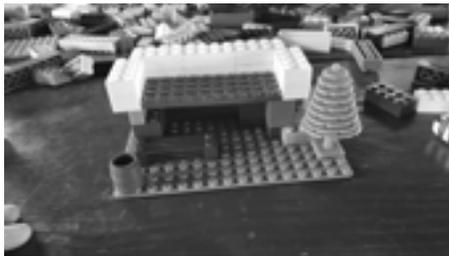
A huge thank you to the Habitat for Humanity of Dane County for hosting a lego build station and to the City of Madison Parks department for co-leading some of the site tours!



*Students expressed adverse reactions to the road and traffic through the park.*



*This creation represents a healthy lake with aquatic plants and fish.*



*Nature-based play is still en vogue. Many students wanted to see more treehouses throughout the parks.*



*Students request more trees, a water slide and a zip line between trees near the lake. ♦*

## Shared Solar for Your Home or Business

MGE's Shared Solar program is expanding! State regulators approved in June MGE's plans to build a 5-megawatt (MW) solar array at the Middleton Municipal Airport in the City of Middleton. The expansion of the program is another step toward our goal of net-zero carbon electricity by the year 2050.

### How it Works

Seventy percent of the large solar array at Middleton's Morey Field will serve the Shared Solar program. It will deliver energy to our community grid. MGE residential and business electric customers reserve a portion of the energy produced by the array by subscribing to this voluntary program.

### How to Join

Shared Solar is easy and affordable. Participants can purchase up to half of their annual electricity use through the program.

Visit [mge.com/sharedsolar](http://mge.com/sharedsolar) to access frequently asked questions and to sign up. The popular community solar program already has a waiting list of customers interested in locally generated clean energy with minimal upfront cost. Participation is available on a first-come, first-served basis, so sign up today!

Construction of the array is expected to begin this summer. We expect it to be operational this fall. MGE's first Shared Solar installation is on the roof of Middleton's Municipal Operations Center. The program sold out quickly in 2016. We're looking forward to welcoming more customers!

### Shared Energy Goals

The remaining 30% of the array will deliver clean energy to the City of Middleton and the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District under MGE's Renewable Energy Rider. Under the program, MGE partners with a large energy user to tailor a renewable energy solution to meet the customer's energy needs. ♦

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## Monroe Street Merchants Update

by Laura Strickland

It has been a great summer on Monroe Street. Thank you to everyone who continue to support our businesses - we love our neighbors! As summer wraps up and we look towards the fall, Monroe Street has a busy line up of events!

Do you follow Monroe Street Madison on Facebook and Instagram? It is one of the best ways to stay up to date on all of our specials and events. We love to hear from you! Please tag us (@monroestreetmadison) in your Monroe Street adventures and use #monroestreetmadison.

For individual business events, check out the interactive events calendar on our website [www.monroestreetmadison.com](http://www.monroestreetmadison.com) and printed events calendar in the entryway of Trader Joe's. There you will find the events and specials going on at your favorite Monroe Street Merchants! ♦

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### 2019 MONROE STREET EVENTS

- Monroe Street Festival:** September 14
- Trick or Treat on Monroe Street:** October 27
- Small Business Saturday:** November 30
- Holiday Glow on Monroe:** December 7



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## Upcoming Events at Monroe Street Library

Your neighborhood library is open Monday – Wednesday 10 - 8, Friday 10 – 6, and Saturday 9 – 5. We're closed Thursday and Sunday. (608) 266-6390.

All are invited to our informal monthly book discussions. We will have limited copies of the book available. We will do our best to get you a copy (audiobook if you prefer) if we run out.

No need to register for library programs unless otherwise noted.

The library is always happy to receive donations of gently used books, DVDs and CDs for our Friends book sales. We are unable to accept magazines, videocassettes, encyclopedias.

**Preschool Storytimes** every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 24 through Dec. 17. Ages 3 - 5. Stories, play, and songs. Groups and sibs welcome.

**Storytime for the Very Young** every Tuesday at 11:30 Sept. 24 through Dec. 17. Ages 0 - 36 months. Stories, songs, rhymes. One child per adult, please.

Sat., Sept. 14, 9:30 - 4:00. The Monroe Street Library League will hold its **annual fall book sale**. We welcome your donations of gently used books, CDs and DVDs all year long.

Sept 18, Wed., 6:30 p.m. **Book**

**discussion: *All You Can Ever Know: a memoir by Nicole Chung***. Chung was placed for adoption by her Korean parents and raised by a white family in a small Oregon town. She was told her biological parents had made the ultimate sacrifice in the hope of giving her a better life, that forever feeling slightly out of place was her fate as a transracial adoptee. But Nicole grew up facing prejudice her adoptive family couldn't see, and wondered if the story she'd been told was the whole truth. Here Chung tells of her search for the people who gave her up, and chronicles the repercussions of unearthing painful family secrets.

Sat., Sept. 28, 10 a.m. **A Very Bubblor Saturday**. Explore hands-on artistic and creative tools for building, creating, and playing, with a different focus each month. Kids under age 7, please bring an adult helper.

Sat., Oct. 5, 10 a.m. **A Very Bubblor Saturday**. Explore hands-on artistic and creative tools for building, creating, and playing, with a different focus each month. Kids under age 7, please bring an adult helper.

Wed. Oct. 30 **Book discussion: *The Poison Squad by Deborah Blum***. Join the discussion of UW-Madison's 2019 Go Big Read selection, the dramatic true story of the fight for food safety at

the turn of the 20th century. Detailing the complex interchanges of industry, media, and government regulation, the book offers a prescient perspective on the enormous social and political challenges we face today.

Sat., Nov. 2, 10 a.m. **A Very Bubblor Saturday**. Explore hands-on artistic and creative tools for building, creating, and playing, with a different focus each month. Kids under age 7, please bring an adult helper.

Wed., Nov. 20 **Book discussion: *Educated by Tara Westover***. Westover was 17 the first time she entered a classroom. Born to Idaho survivalists, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills" bag. No one ensured the children received an education, and no one intervened when Tara's brother became violent. Tara began to educate herself, learning enough math and grammar to attend Brigham Young University. Her quest for knowledge would transform her. "This story, remarkable as it is, might be merely another entry in the subgenera of extreme American life, were it not for the uncommon perceptiveness of the person telling it. Westover examines her childhood with unsparing clarity, and, more startlingly, with curiosity and love, even for those who have seriously failed or wronged her." — The New Yorker ♦

### VilasNA on Yahoo! Groups

This is an online discussion group for residents of the Vilas neighborhood. Share ideas for improving the neighborhood, ask questions or express concerns. Tell others if there are important meetings or events coming up. The postings are not moderated, but

approval is needed to join.

To join VilasNA, go to <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/VilasNA/info>. If you already have a Yahoo! user account, then enter your information and it should allow you to submit a request for membership. If you do not have a

Yahoo! account, then click "Create New Account" and provide the required information.

If you or a neighbor have trouble with the sign-up process, email the moderators at "vilasna-owner@yahoogroups.com" and request assistance. ♦

## Home History Workshop

Have you ever wondered about the history of your home? When was it built? Who lived there previously? How did assessments change, and with what repairs and building permits? A workshop will be conducted by expert Ann Waidelich and others in the field to describe how you can go about conducting the research to answer some of those questions. The workshop will be held at the Sequoia Library on Saturday, October 19 from 1:30- 3:30. Bring your laptop and any information you have done already. Mark your calendars, and we'll see you there! ♦

### Protecting Public Health by Protecting the Planet

*From: Rep. Chris Taylor*

Whether it is the safeguarding of our beautiful public lands or the preservation of our countless fresh water resources, environmental conservation has been one of my top priorities as your legislator.

I have introduced several proposals so far this session to reduce pollution and protect public health. First, I am one of the lead authors of legislation that would allow local municipalities to regulate single-use plastics, such as plastic bags, bottles, and straws. Currently, state law prohibits local regulation. According to the Alliance for the Great Lakes, about 22 million pounds of plastic annually flow into the Great Lakes. Styrofoam products are one of the leading contributors to this pollution and take over 500 years to decompose, which is why I proposed a bill to ban these products statewide. The chemicals found in Styrofoam and plastics leach into our air and water, contaminating our food, wildlife, and plants. By reducing our state's dependence on polystyrene foam and plastic products, we can improve public health, while protecting the environment.

There's also dangerous pollution we can't see, such as pesticides. Currently, much like single-use plastics, municipalities are unable to regulate the use of pesticides. Pesticides don't stay where they are sprayed. They travel

through our air and water, and have a harmful impact on pets, children, and pregnant women. Additionally, the overuse of pesticides are causing the extinction of several insect species. While these insects may be small, they have a huge impact on our ecosystem. My bill would allow local communities to regulate pesticides as they see fit.

Finally, as every Madison neighborhood has learned, PFAS, chemicals found in products like water-resistant clothing, food packaging, and firefighting foams, are pervasive and travel quickly through our groundwater. These chemicals can lead to increased risk of cancers and other health problems. While the EPA has a lifetime health advisory level for PFAS of 70 parts per trillion, I recently introduced legislation that would authorize the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Department of Natural Resources to work together to establish more rigorous standards, monitoring requirements, and response actions for these harmful chemicals.

These are just a few of the many policies I am working on this legislative session that would protect and enhance the health of our environment, and the health of our communities. As always, it is an honor to represent you in the Wisconsin State Assembly. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any legislative questions or concerns. ♦

### Dane County Stands With Planned Parenthood

*From: Dane County Executive Joe Parisi*

From routine checkups to questions we have about our overall health, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin serves Dane County residents through a number of steps in our healthcare journeys. The services this organization provides our friends and family—like STD tests and cancer screenings—can be lifesaving, and it plays a key part in maintaining the overall health and wellness of our community.

Growing dissonance in our nation's

political landscape has placed the many resources provided to our loved ones by Planned Parenthood under attack in recent years. It is because of this harmful rhetoric and significant cuts to funding at the federal level that I want to make the following very clear: Dane County stands with Planned Parenthood.

With approximately 60,000 patients who rely on Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin each year, Dane County understands the importance of supporting our state's largest reproductive healthcare provider. We've invested more than \$600,000 in Planned Parenthood services and programming since I first became County Executive in 2011. A quarter of those funds were allocated in 2019 alone.

Thanks to Dane County's financial support, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin is able to provide individualized education in areas of anatomy, physiology, sexuality, birth control methods, and decision-making. Our funding also helps cover the costs of providing physical exams, administering labs, and compiling health history so the proper evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, or referral can be given.

In addition to providing patient care, Dane County funds have been used to advance Planned Parenthood's outreach and education efforts. The organization was able to provide 915 sexual education programs and trainings for nearly 18,000 participants across Wisconsin in the past year—an achievement made possible in part by county funds. Our involvement has also enabled Planned Parenthood to pursue human trafficking prevention curriculum right here in Dane County.

For over 80 years, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin has played a vital role in serving the needs of our community. Dane County stands with Planned Parenthood because we recognize the value of investing in the health and wellbeing of our residents. ♦

## Toilet Rebate Program hits 1 billion gallons of water saved

*A cornerstone of Madison's water conservation initiative reaches a major milestone – one flush at a time.*

There's nothing all that exciting about a toilet. But 17,126 toilets? That's another story.

In 2009, Madison Water Utility began offering customers \$100 rebates to replace old, water-wasting toilets with high-efficiency EPA WaterSense models. Since then, thousands of Madison home and business owners have taken advantage of the Toilet Rebate Program, replacing more than 17,000 old toilets and saving an estimated 1,088,847,183 gallons of water.

"That is a big number," says Madison Water Utility customer service supervisor Marie Van Aartsen, who oversees the program. "We're excited to save such a large amount of such a precious resource."

Van Aartsen says old toilets are notorious water wasters. That vintage 1950s pink toilet sitting in the downstairs half bath? It likely uses 5 gallons of treated drinking water with every flush.

"That was just the norm. You really didn't think about it," Van Aartsen says. "But we want people to think about it. The Toilet Rebate Program has a dual function – besides saving water, it's also a way for us to get the conservation message out."

It's not just homeowners the utility is trying to reach. Old water-wasting toilets can be seen in businesses, restaurants and bars across Madison. That's

why Madison Water Utility recently expanded its rebate program to include all buildings – from schools to apartments to restaurants and shopping centers. The Toilet Rebate Program's \$100 bill credits are first-come, first-served until funding is exhausted. Non-residential customers can apply for up to twenty \$100 bill credits per address.

"If you haven't replaced a toilet, definitely look at our program," says Van Aartsen, noting that the Toilet Rebate Program has saved participants \$5.7 million in water and sewer costs over the last decade. She also points out that replacing old toilets is about more than conserving water.

"It's not just the water, but the energy it takes to get the water out of the ground and pumped out to all the homes and businesses in our community. It's a second resource that we're also saving," she says.

The program has saved about 2.2 million kilowatt hours of electricity so far, equivalent to the amount of electricity needed to power 276 Madison homes for a year.

Madison Water Utility customers can find more information about the program at [MadisonWater.org](http://MadisonWater.org) or by calling (608) 266-4651. ♦



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## MadiSUN Solar Program

MadiSUN is a program sponsored by the City of Madison to make going solar easy and affordable. This is the last year to take advantage of a full 30% Federal Tax Credit, which makes 2019 a great time to explore solar!

Since 2016, the MadiSUN Solar Program has helped homeowners across the area install solar-electric systems on their homes. Over 100 households have “gone solar” thanks to the program’s simplicity, reduced price, and customer service.

MadiSUN also offers incentives for business, nonprofits, and affordable housing providers. Check out [madisunsolar.com](http://madisunsolar.com) to learn more about how to go solar with us!

-The MadiSUN Team ♦

## A message from Mayor Rhodes-Conway

Establishing the city budget is an incredibly rewarding yet challenging task. In this era of declining federal support, stagnant state aid and limited local control, projected spending for current services exceeds allowable revenue growth. In other words, we have more expenses than income.

The estimated shortfall for 2020 is \$9.5 million. With challenges come opportunities to innovate, collaborate and identify efficiencies. As you know, my priorities are affordable housing, rapid transit, addressing climate change impacts and a focus on racial equity. I have asked city department heads and staff to be creative in developing budget requests - to do the best we can with limited resources but also work to prioritize their budgets in those areas as well.

Madison has always been a creative and innovative city through the bold ideas of our small entrepreneurs and cooperatives, to our world-class creative sector, we have sought out new approaches to our challenges. Our city government is no different – we have been at the forefront of innovation in neighborhood services, sustainability and culture. City staff are working hard to provide a stellar level of service to our residents and visitors. And they continue to do more with less.

Since my election in April, I have been meeting with hundreds of residents and not just community leaders. I talk to people who come to have coffee with me around the city, residents who attend community events, City employees, as well as others. I know you all love this city as much as I do. I look forward to continuing to listen, but also doing the hard work necessary to develop a spending plan that continues to provide great services while focusing on areas of mutual concern, like transit, affordable housing, racial equity and a sustainable environment.

Satya Rhodes-Conway  
Mayor ♦

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**Mystery To Me**  
1863 Monroe Street  
608-283-9332  
mysterytomebooks.com

*Pilates on Harrison*  
Quality Pilates in Your Neighborhood



710 Harrison Street  
pilatesonharrison.com  
608.709.1775

 **Renew & Join for 2019!** Annual Membership runs from January 1 - December 31 - - - - -

**VNA Membership Form** Membership dues are \$20/household or \$10/individuals.

- I wish to renew my VNA membership (It is not necessary to fill out the form unless there are changes)
- I / we would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the VNA
- Add my name as a new VNA member (Please fill out the following)

**Names** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Children's name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home email address(es)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Year moved into VNA area** \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made out to Vilas Neighborhood Association and mailed to Pat Scheckel  
1915 Jefferson Street, Madison, WI 53711



*enjoy the local color.*

**HOTELRED.COM**

608.819.8228

1501 Monroe Street,  
Madison, WI



### Get a clear picture of your energy use

- See how your energy use compares to other nearby homes.
- See whether you've used more energy compared to last year.

Visit [mge.com/compare](http://mge.com/compare) and sign in to My Account for details.

Have questions?  
Call our Home Energy Line at 252-7117.



your community energy company

G83085 5/11/2018

**Vilas Neighborhood  
Association**  
Pat Schekel  
1915 Jefferson Street  
Madison, WI 53711

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