

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)

Spring 2019

VILAS ink

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President's Message

by Christopher Kelly, VNA President

Spring is no longer a distant hope as winter has slowly slipped away, and many things are happening that will make this an exciting year in Vilas. To keep everyone up to date, here are a few reminders of the main methods of neighborhood communication.

Our Vilas Neighborhood Association monthly meetings are generally held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7pm at HotelRED. The exceptions this year are March 19th, November 20th, and December 18th. The full meeting schedule is available on our web site. Neighbors are welcome to attend. The agenda for these meetings is posted to the Yahoo listserv at least two days prior, and the minutes are posted afterward to the Yahoo listserv and our web site at vilasneighborhood.com.

There are active listservs for Vilas on both Yahoo and Nextdoor. Both of these groups allow for neighbors to post messages and discuss topics. Please keep posts respectful. Follow along on these sites to participate in the online neighborhood discussions.

This Vilas Ink newsletter will undergo some changes this year. Pat Scheckel, a VNA council member and the VNA Treasurer, has taken on the task of publishing. This will conserve VNA funds and help to ensure more consistency in publishing dates. Many thanks to Pat! We are looking to help support his efforts with new sources of content. If

you are willing to help provide articles with information pertinent to our neighborhood or have any interest in advertising your business in the newsletter, please contact Pat at pschecke@yahoo.com.

Finally, if you think you might participate in a VNA social event this year, or attend meetings, or vote in the fall VNA elections, please remember that these are member-supported or members-only events. If you haven't already, please renew your membership for 2019 via the website.

I hope to see many of you at our neighborhood's annual summer block party, scheduled for June 15th on Jefferson Street. There's no better time than summer in Madison! ♦

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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 May 20, 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)

Q&A with Laila Borokhim of Joon

Q: Why Monroe Street?

LB: Something that seemed to be absent from Monroe street in recent years among all the coffee, chocolate, beer & pizza places was delicious middle-eastern food. So when the space at 1835 became available this past fall I felt it was kismet! After signing the lease in late November we used most of December to transform the space into a welcoming spot for those that love eating fresh, flavorful foods made with love and care.

Q: What can diners expect to see on the menu?

LB: Though our menu will change slightly with the seasons there are a few staple dishes that you can always expect to order. Fesenjoon—a walnut pomegranate chicken stew—is one of our most loved menu items. Even the pickiest of children will eat it! If you're looking for something a bit more approachable we make Persian Fried Chicken, or PFC, as we jokingly refer to it. Not only is it tender and juicy, but it's gluten-free (a happy accident).

And let's not forget about all the amazing lamb dishes. From the grilled shish kabob to the fit-for-a-king lamb platter we definitely know how to prepare this underused meat.

Q: Anything else you'd like people to know?

LB: Vegetarians and vegans will be delighted to know that half our menu is exactly what they are looking for. Joon is the place to come where everyone can find something that will fit their dietary needs. The beauty of Persian food is that it came about a long time ago when additives did not exist. Everything is fresh! Check us out if you enjoy eating flavorful foods in a comfortable atmosphere served by fun, friendly people.

Joon is located at 1835 Monroe Street and is open Wednesday-Friday from 12-9pm; Saturday 8am-9pm; and Sunday 8am-2pm.

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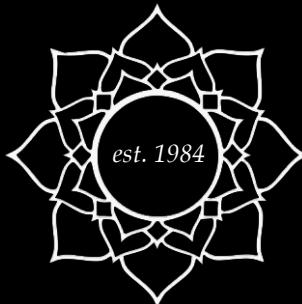
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A message from Mayor Soglin

I wanted to keep you updated on the city's launch of the transition toward a "greener" fleet. We have some impressive goals, and we have started the process.

Seven hybrid-electric vehicles were purchased for police and health, more than doubling the fuel efficiency of the cars they replaced. The newest fire ambulances are using anti-idling technology, reducing emissions and fuel use by up to 40 percent. This technology will allow paramedics to treat injuries and illnesses in the ambulance prior to hospital transport without idling the engine of the vehicle for the appropriate power.

The city's first-ever three plug-in electric cars entered service in 2018 with 25 more one the way. Madison will be the largest zero-emission fleet in Wisconsin. We are also awaiting our first electric buses for Madison Metro's fleet. All of the electric vehicles were possible because of collaboration with Madison Gas and Electric, and we want to continue that partnership in the future.

Over one million fewer pounds of CO₂ are being emitted in 2018 thanks to biodiesel for heavy equipment, with plans to double volume in 2019. Also in 2019, new GPS technology on public works vehicles such as plows and garbage trucks will reduce speeding and idling, while saving fuel. This technology can also contribute to more efficient routes.

Our Fleet Services is also examining hybrid-electric bucket trucks for Parks, and (compressed natural gas) trucks that would be fueled by Dane County's landfill methane. Finally in 2019 the city is expected to break ground on a brand new repair garage consolidating four public works facilities into one, reducing travel miles. The state of the art building will feature solar power.

City, county, state and federal governments must go to war on climate change, because we are in the midst of a crisis. It's gratifying to see that Madison is playing a part, and in many areas leading the way. Stay well! ♦

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County Board Seeks Additional Design Options for Jail Project

by Dane County Supervisor Chuck Erickson

At the last Dane County Board on Thursday, March 7th, the Board passed a resolution directing consultants Mead & Hunt to explore three additional design options for a jail that would still meet the goals of improving inmate and staff safety, while reducing the total number of beds in the facility.

The resolution for additional design and consulting services asks Mead & Hunt to consider alternate facility locations and configurations after engineers determined an earlier plan would be more expensive than anticipated.

The County Board in 2017 approved borrowing \$76 million to add four floors to the Public Safety Building at 115 W. Doty St. and consolidate the county's three jail facilities (the Ferris Center at the AEC, floors 6 and 7 of the City County Building, and the Public Safety Building) into the new renovated building on the Public Safety Building site. That plan called for 91 fewer total beds, face-to-face visitation spaces, and separate facilities for inmates suffering from mental illness in addition to closing the outdated jail cells on the 6th and 7th floors of the City-County Building.

But those plans were discarded when contractors found that Public Safety Building was not structurally sound enough to hold the additional weight as officials originally thought. Building a completely new facility next to the Public Safety Building was estimated to cost approximately \$150 million.

As a result, the County Board is asking Mead & Hunt to analyze three alternatives that include: renovating existing jail space on the 6th and 7th floors of the CCB; not consolidating the County's three jail sites into one facility; or building a completely new facility on land outside of downtown.

Mead & Hunt is being asked to identify not only capital costs of any new jail but costs of additional staffing, rehousing inmates during construction,

and transporting inmates for court appearances if a new jail is built outside the downtown.

After receiving those cost estimates, the County Board will review the plans and provide ample opportunities for community engagement. Ultimately, members of the Public Protection & Judiciary Committee and the Public Works & Transportation Committee will craft a resolution to direct the design work. The full Board will then vote and the County Executive will consider the resolution once it is approved.

Additionally, the County Board voted on the following:

- ✓ Passed an ordinance to provide for proper and safe storage, handling, and land application of manure to reduce the delivery of manure, other waste materials, fertilizers, and sediment to surface waters and groundwater. The ordinance grew out of the County Board's Healthy Farms Health Lakes Task Force and would bring Dane County into compliance with state performance standards and prohibitions for agriculture.
- ✓ Voted to appoint Shawn Tessmann as the next Director of the Department of Human Services. Tessmann would replace Lynn Green who is retiring after 46 years of public service.
- ✓ Purchased 25 acres from the William Graff and Evelyn M. Graff Revocable Living Trust in the Town of Burke. The parcel contains two ponds and approximately 1,650 feet of meandering stream bank frontage on Token Creek. The Graff parcel adjoins 54 acres to the east that were purchased by the County in 2017 and is consistent with the Token Creek County Park

and Natural Resource Area Master Plan.

- ✓ Purchased approximately .23 acres in the Town of Pleasant Springs for the Lower Yahara River Trail and Door Creek Wildlife Area. This parcel would provide an access point for the Trail and Wildlife Area, allowing the trail to bypass a designated wetland and connect directly to the road. A small parking area and a kiosk with trail and wildlife information would be planned for the parcel.

If you have questions about these or any other issues, please call or email: chuck@chuckerrickson.com, 608-212-8753. ♦

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Monroe Street Merchants Update

by Laura Strickland

From all of us on Monroe Street—thank you! With your continued support through the road construction project, Monroe Street is now open and livelier than ever. We are excited to welcome you back to our new street to explore and discover all we have to offer.

Did you know that we're home to nearly 100 locally-owned businesses, including many of Madison's exiting newcomers and consistent favorite places to dine, shop, and live. With more than two dozen merchants being voted *Best in Madison* by Madison Magazine and receiving Mad Faves honors by Isthmus readers, Monroe Street remains a must-visit and must-explore destination. ♦

2019 MONROE STREET EVENTS

Monroe Street Chocolate Walk: April 27

Strollin' Jazz: June 7

Jazz in the Park: June 15

Make Music Madison: June 21

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 am - 8 pm; Friday 10 am - 6 pm; and Saturday 9 am - 5 pm. We are closed Thursday and Sunday.

— APRIL —

Out of the Fire: the Banned Books Monologues

Monday, April 1, 6:30 pm

Forward Theater presents an evening of five monologues by Forward Theater artists on the subject of banned books, followed by a question-and-answer period. Register online at madisonpubliclibrary.org/calendar or call 266-6390.

Drop-in Storytimes at the Library Tuesdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

For ages 3-5 at 10:30 am; babies and toddlers 11:30 am. Groups and sibs welcome.

A Very Bubbler Saturday

Saturday, April 20, 10 am

Explore hands-on artistic and creative tools for building, creating and playing. Flex your brain muscles with new inventions, problems and puzzles. This month we will make puppets.

Book Discussion at the Library Wednesday, April 24, 6:30 pm

We'll discuss *The Trouble With Goats and Sheep* by Joanna Cannon. Part coming-of-age story, part mystery about a community in need of

absolution and two girls learning what it means to belong. New members are always welcome. Copies of the book will be at the library while supplies last.

— MAY —

Book sale sponsored by the Monroe Street Library League

Saturday, May 4, 9:30 am - 4 pm

Great bargains on gently used books, CDs and DVDs. Proceeds benefit the Monroe Street Library.

Drawing Insects

Saturday, May 4, 10 am

Jacki Whisenant is a scientific illustrator with a fondness for bats, beetles and other unsung ecological heroes and have some amazing body shapes and forms. We'll look at the differences between major insect groups and practice drawing them.

Book Discussion at the Library

Wednesday, May 29, 6:30 pm

We'll discuss *The Man Who Came Uptown* by George Pelecanos. This is a story about love of family, about stresses that can lure almost anyone into crime, and about how hard it can be for someone to make it on the outside. But mostly it's about the transformative powers of friendship and reading. New members are always welcome. Copies of the book will be at the library while supplies last.

— JUNE —

Summer Reading Program

Friday, June 1

Summer reading begins for kids, adults, and families.

Marbling with Shaving Cream

Monday, June 17, 10:30 am

Join Amy Mietzel from Bare Knuckle Arts to marble paper with shaving cream and watercolor paints. Then turn that paper into some positive inspiration bookmarks. For ages 5-12. Kids under age 7 will need an adult helper.

Family Music Time

**Tuesday, June 18 & 25,
10:30 and 11:15 am**

Join Eliza Tyksinski, certified Music Together instructor, for an interactive music experience for kids 5 and under.

Book Discussion at the Library

Wednesday, June 26, 6:30 pm

We'll discuss *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones. Newlyweds Celestial and Roy—the living embodiment of the New South—are settling into the routine of their life together when Roy is sent to prison for a crime he didn't commit. An insightful look into the lives of people who are bound and separated by forces beyond their control. New members are always welcome. Copies of the book will be at the library while supplies last. ♦

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. ♦

Green New Deal: Wisconsin's Call to Action

by John Imes

The Green New Deal resolution introduced in Congress calls for a massive U.S. mobilization over 10 years to achieve the goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions while creating millions of high-wage jobs and sustainable economic growth. Unfortunately, while the science and need for federal action on climate change are clear, we can't expect serious policy-making on the topic to come out of Washington until 2021, at the earliest.

Fortunately, it's a new day in Wisconsin and the state is well positioned to make headway on many of the goals and objectives as outlined in the Green New Deal. For example: A new report by the Center on Wisconsin Strategy shows how the state can move away from fossil fuels and meet a 100 percent renewable energy goal by using solar, wind, biomass, and energy efficiency while creating 162,000 clean energy jobs and bringing over \$14 billion in economic activity back in the state. State regulators need to step up and support smart grid technology upgrades to the transmission network to help meet clean energy goals.

Rethinking our transportation planning on the road to electrically-powered fleets and transit vehicles (particularly school buses) should be a priority to reduce health impacts from air pollutants and work towards the goal of zero emissions. Establishing an "electric vehicle highway" of fast-charging stations and increasing the availability of homegrown, clean biofuels will give Wisconsin a competitive advantage and benefit the state's Travel Green tourism designation. Another key to reducing transportation impacts is to make all of our cities, villages, and towns more walkable to foster better community health; create smarter, more affordable housing, and more vibrant Main Streets.

The state can also take the lead on green retrofits for state-owned buildings and leverage the permitting, approval and building codes to accelerate high-

performance building; energy and water efficiency; and environmental design that meet rigorous standards. Local communities can upgrade facilities and use Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing to fund energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation projects—all without the need for taxpayer assistance.

While more companies are embracing sustainability to meet customer demands, business as usual is slowing the transition to clean manufacturing and more sustainable commerce. The state can accelerate the emerging clean economy by engaging businesses across sectors using innovative Charter agreements. This little-known provision of Wisconsin's Green Tier law can establish higher levels of environmental performance to reduce carbon emissions and other impacts while providing companies with operational flexibility. The state can also target incentives including tax credits, loan guarantees, or preference on purchasing contracts to firms that achieve superior environmental results and institute high-road practices that protect workers.

Wisconsin can lead the world in regenerative agriculture practices to increase farmer's profits, rebuild soils, clean our waterways, and expand renewable energy. Whether its organic farming or other responsibly grown methods, Wisconsin farmers and food processors can harness innovation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve crop yields while reducing nutrient runoff into our drinking water. We can also empower more food entrepreneurship, particularly for women, immigrants, and people of color to help reduce social/economic disparities and provide well paying, accessible jobs in regional and local food production and urban agriculture.

Governor Evers' proposal to borrow \$70 million in his first state budget to address water quality and replace lead pipes is an important first step towards investing in cleaner infrastructure.

Other steps taken by Evers include: the decision to join the bipartisan U.S. Climate Alliance; the commitment to bring science positions back to the DNR; the restoration of protections for wetlands that help mitigate flooding and preserve critical habitat; and the reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund. These are all actions we can take now to build resilience and mitigate the effects of climate change.

The Green New Deal is a call to action. Wisconsin needs an economy that works for everyone, invests in innovative policies, and takes care of workers. By investing in clean energy, clean manufacturing, water stewardship, and regenerative agriculture while we "green" our infrastructure and electrify our transportation, we can address climate change and create a more resilient, vibrant and thriving Wisconsin. ♦

John Imes is Executive Director for Wisconsin Environmental Initiative in Madison.



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Turning Area Trash and Cow Manure into Renewable Fuel

A Project That's The First of its Kind in the Nation

by Dane County Executive Joe Parisi

A major construction project is currently taking place at Dane County's landfill that will significantly change how it operates. When completed, Dane County will be able to turn trash and cow manure into renewable fuel, while preserving our environment and natural resources.

Garbage at the landfill creates biogas as it breaks down, which contains about 50% methane. While methane is a harmful greenhouse gas pollutant, it also makes up about 98% of natural gas, which we can use as a renewable energy source. Due to changing energy markets, Dane County has chosen to harness this gas through a new method and enhance our environmental stewardship.

Beginning this summer, Dane County's new landfill biogas facility will convert our landfill's biogas into nearly pure methane gas, which will then be injected into the interstate transmission pipeline that runs underneath the landfill so it can be bought and used as renewable vehicle fuel. This conversion will eliminate thousands of tons of greenhouse gas emissions, a leading cause

to the extreme weather events triggered by climate change.

Our new facility will also have a biogas offloading station to allow biogas producers, like manure digesters, to inject their purified and compressed gas into the pipeline. Digesters reduce greenhouse gas emissions by collecting and destroying methane from cow manure that would otherwise be emitted into the atmosphere.

They also keep manure off the land, which reduces phosphorus on fields prone to runoff during heavy rain events that can get into waterways and cause algae blooms. Due to the increased revenue opportunities for local digesters, this offloading station is expected to spur the development of more digesters in our area and significantly increase Dane County's lakes clean-up efforts.

When complete, Dane County's landfill biogas project will be the first of its kind in the nation. We'll create renewable fuel to power thousands of vehicles across the region and country, while keeping our area lakes and air clean for future generations. ♦

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Neighborhood Rain Gardens Thrive

by Doug Carlson

In the summer of 2015, neighborhood rain gardens were added on city-owned land at the intersection of Adams, Mound, and Campbell Streets in conjunction with the Adams Street reconstruction. The terrace rain garden along Adams Street and the triangular-shaped garden in front of 1601 Adams were planted by the City and have been maintained by a handful of neighborhood volunteers.

The gardens have been thriving! They feature a variety of native plants, including several species cherished by Monarch butterflies and other pollinators. The garden soaks up thousands of gallons of stormwater and adds great beauty to this corner of our neighborhood. As you walk through the neighborhood, please take a minute to appreciate the plants sprouting this spring, the flowers blooming this summer, and the butterflies and insects enjoying the habitat.

Maintenance of these beautiful gardens is an ongoing effort from spring to fall, including raking, weeding, picking out trash, and cleaning the inlets. Additional volunteer help is needed to help maintain the gardens and retain all of their benefits to our neighborhood, our lakes, and the species that enjoy these plants. If you can spare some time to help, please contact Doug Carlson at dcarlson5dc@aim.com or at 256-1090 to help coordinate tasks. Thank you! ♦

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- 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)

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