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# E-Xtra

What's New & Noteworthy from RSVP

January 2016

The mission of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Dane County is to make a positive impact in the community by recruiting volunteers 55 and older to help deliver priority services to people of all ages, providing Dane County with a valuable resource.

## Happenings

### Drivers Needed!

### Bus Buddy Tours Kick Off Third Season

### MLK Day of Service

## Drivers Needed!



RSVP VOLUNTEER DRIVERS are needed to drive eligible seniors, veterans, and veterans' family members in communities across Dane County and deliver meals in rural Dane County. These services allow seniors to maintain their independence. The demand for rides is increasing along with Dane County's growing 65+ population, so RSVP needs more drivers, especially in the Winter months when a number of regular drivers escape to warmer climates. Come volunteer -- your neighbors need

you! Contact Mary Schmelzer, Drivers Services Volunteer Coordinator, at 608 310-7280, or [mschmelzer@rsvpdane.org](mailto:mschmelzer@rsvpdane.org).

## Bus Buddy Tours Kick off Third Season



The Bus Buddy Tours Program with funding from Dane County Human Services and AAA offers seniors the opportunity to ride along with other participants on the bus to designated locations. The program is designed to teach seniors, age 60 and over, how to navigate the Madison Metro Bus System, while experiencing a fun social group outing. In April, Bus Buddies Tours will kick off its 3rd season offering six fun filled trips to local points of interest. Each participant will receive a goody bag including a 10 ride bus pass and Madison Metro Bus Ride Guide.

2016 Bus Buddy Tour Schedule:

- **April 7** - 1:00 pm Madison Memorial High School Planetarium

## Trivia

Groundhogs prefer to eat wild grasses, leaves, berries. They will also occasionally eat nuts, insects, grubs, snails, other small animals and ears(!) as the Mayor of Sun Prairie experienced on Groundhog Day 2015. [farmersalamanac.com](http://farmersalamanac.com) January 2011- AP Photo/The Star, Christopher Mertes



## Things To Know

**The RSVP office is open Monday-Friday 8am-4pm. We generally follow the Madison School District for weather related closings. If you plan to visit the office and the weather is questionable, please call ahead (608) 238-7787 to be sure we are open. Thanks!**

**Walgreens Senior Day Events:**  
**February 2, 11:00-3:00:**  
**108 Cottage Grove Road**  
**7810 Mineral Point Road**  
**(weather permitting)**

**March 1, 11:00-1:00:**  
**3700 University Avenue**  
**5702 Raymond Road**

**March 1, 1:00-3:00:**  
**3710 East Washington Ave.**

**\*Save The Date\***

- **May 11** - 11:00am Madison Senior Center lunch & Overture tour
- **June 8** -1:00 pm UW Centennial Gardens tour & Babcock Hall Ice Cream
- **July 13**-11:00am Farmers Market off the Square & Monona Terrace tour
- **August 11**-10:30 am Geology Museum tour & a snack at Union South
- **September 30**- RSVP Annual Triad Conference-times TBD

In celebration of National Volunteer Week, RSVP will host an **Open House, Thursday, April 14 from 11:00am-2:00pm**. Please stop by for refreshments and bring a friend who wants to learn about volunteering through RSVP!

If you are interested in participating in any of the 2016 Bus Buddy trips, or would like more information, please contact Diana Jost by email: [djost@rsvpdane.org](mailto:djost@rsvpdane.org) or phone 441-1393

The RSVP Bus Buddy Individual Program offers seniors an opportunity for help and companionship from experienced volunteers to utilize the bus system. The program opens the opportunity for seniors to take the Madison Metro wherever they like seven days a week. RSVP will match you with an experienced Bus Buddy Coordinator to accompany and teach you the Madison Metro Bus System. If you would like individual training to ride the bus, or are interested in becoming a Bus Buddy Coordinator, please contact Jan Karst at 441-7891 or [Jkarst@rsvpdane.org](mailto:Jkarst@rsvpdane.org)

**Upcoming Triad Events:**

**West Madison Triad**  
**February 24, 2016, 10:30,**  
**Gangs-What is Happening**  
**in Our Neighborhoods?**  
**Meadowood Neighborhood**  
**Center, 5750 Raymond**  
**Road**

**Verona Triad**  
**February 11, 2016, 12:30,**  
**Do Not Resuscitate, Cindi**  
**Diedrich, Fitch-Rona EMS,**  
**Jasmine Hudnall, UW**  
**Health**

**March 3, 2016, 10:30, Self**  
**Defense Tips for Seniors,**  
**Charles Dean, HGWA Rang**  
**Do**

**Cottage Grove Triad**  
**February 23, 10:00, Scams**  
**and Frauds: How to Protect**  
**Yourself, Police Chief**  
**Dan Layber, Taylor Ridge**  
**Apts.**

**March 22, 2016, 10:00 Eye**  
**Care: What is New? , Dr.**  
**David Nelson, Cottage**  
**Grove Eye Clinic, Taylor**  
**ridge Senior Housing**

## MLK Day of Service - Thank You!



January 29th marks the end of our food and personal care item drive for Porchlight's Hospitality House. RSVP has collected donations throughout the month in honor of the MLK Day of Service. The generosity of our volunteers far exceeded our expectations and we are pleased with the variety of food and personal care items that

were donated. Porchlight will visit the office Tuesday, February 2 to collect the items for distribution to community members. Many thanks to everyone who contributed!



Group Projects is working hard to meet demands for cold weather items but is running short of yarn. If you would be willing to donate a couple skeins of the same color, you'd be helping volunteers make prayer shawls, lap afghans, scarves and mittens that are in demand right now. Our volunteers use three or four ply acrylic yarn, which can be purchased for under \$5 per skein, less than that if you find a good sale! Two skeins of the same color ensure they have yarn to complete their items. You can drop the yarn off at the RSVP office, 517 N. Segoe Rd., Suite 300, attention Mary Schmelzer. Call Mary if you have any questions 608-310-7280 or email at [mschmelzer@rsvpdane.org](mailto:mschmelzer@rsvpdane.org)

Find out more at [www.rsvpdane.org/triad.html](http://www.rsvpdane.org/triad.html) and [www.triadofwisconsin.org](http://www.triadofwisconsin.org) For further information, contact Mary Stamstad, at 608-441-7897, or [mstamstad@rsvpdane.org](mailto:mstamstad@rsvpdane.org).

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**Volunteer Now!**

*It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little - do what you can!*  
 Author: Sydney Smith

**Foster Grandparent Program Volunteers Needed!**

RSVP's Foster Grandparent Program is seeking volunteers to support children in Madison Head Start Centers and elementary schools. This program requires Foster Grandparents to offer 1:1 tutoring and attention to students who need extra support in literacy and social/emotional development a minimum of 15 hours per week. Eligible volunteers receive a stipend and transportation reimbursement.

**Contact Denise, at (608) 441-7894 or email, [djames@rsvpdane.org](mailto:djames@rsvpdane.org)** to learn more about this unique opportunity.

**Community Connections:**

**New Opportunity! LEEPS Program:** The Aging and Disability Resource Center is seeking volunteers for the Language Enriched Exercise Plus Socialization (LEEPS) Program. The program pairs an individual with memory loss and a volunteer for doctor-approved exercise and social activities. Volunteers are the key component of the LEEPS program. For more information on LEEPS, please call (608)240-7400.

**FRIENDS OF MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY** has a used bookstore in the Central Library on Mifflin St. Volunteers are needed to work in the bookstore helping customers, shelving books, and helping with book sales.

**MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT CENTRAL DISTRICT** would like volunteers to help in the Burglary Crime Department making follow up calls to victims to record information. Work in an office with two Detectives. Training provided. Good phone manner and simple computer skills needed.

**ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL** needs volunteers who would enjoy delivering Mail and Flowers and deliver the morning Beverage Cart to visitors in waiting areas. Volunteers also print out and deliver E-cards to patients and need simple computer skills and the ability to walk distances in the hospital. **EAST MADISON/MONONA COALITION OF AGING (EMMCA)** needs volunteers for their Adult Day Center. Play games, share your hobbies, and converse with adults with dementia. They also need help at their Nutrition Site serving meals, socializing with seniors as they eat, and help cleaning up.

**CALL FOR ACTION** works with WISC Channel 3 TV. Consumers can call in for help with mediation and intervention with involving Consumer and small business fraud, identity theft, internet and online scams, telephone and Marketing schemes. Volunteers are needed to answer calls from consumers and investigate cases. Volunteers are provided complete training and preparation to serve as mediators. A one year commitment is required and one day a week for a few hours. You can help people fight back against frauds, scams, and deceptive business practices! There is a current need for a volunteer on Mondays from 10am to 2pm.

**If you are interested in these opportunities, call Jan, at (608) 441-7891, or email to: [jkarst@rsvpdane.org](mailto:jkarst@rsvpdane.org)**

**Intergenerational Programs:**

Attention all volunteers: Immediate Volunteer Needs for Dane County Schools

**Madison Memorial High School History Project:** Volunteers are invited to participate in the annual Oral History Project with students at Memorial High School. The project will be in May this year.

Volunteers participate in small group interviews/discussions with the students on what their life was like during WW2, depression era. Teachers at Memorial High School each year are thrilled to have RSVP volunteers be a part of this project. "The students learn so much more from talking with the volunteers than they would in a history book." The students compile a written documentation of the oral history. A copy is given to all volunteers participating in this great project.

**DeForest Bio Link Project:** This is an opportunity to be a part of student learning at DeForest Area Middle School. 5-7 Volunteers are needed as guest speakers at the Middle School. The focus of this project is to teach students about resilience, facing challenges in life and perseverance. Students will visit with and interview volunteers about their life experiences, families, traditions, influential people in their life, obstacles they may have overcome, historic events, career paths, and accomplishments. Students then complete a project on what they have learned. The volunteers are invited to return to the school for a lunch and to view all of the student's class presentations. The Bio-Link Project will be held in late April.

**Lowell Elementary School** needs volunteers to help with reading, math, or general classroom help.

**Nuestro Mundo**-needs volunteers to help with reading. Also needed are volunteers that are Spanish speakers!

**Sun Prairie Northside Elementary** needs volunteers to help with reading, writing or math. Volunteers are needed in the mornings any day of the week.

**Mt. Zion Academic Learning Center** is looking for tutors/mentors for afterschool program. Volunteers are needed Mondays from 1:30-5, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45-5:00 pm. Volunteers will help improve academic performance, promote positive behavior and help promote a strong desire for learning. Volunteers will work 1:1 with students and help with reading or math, help with homework, computer lab, and have fun playing board games.

**Waunakee Middle School** is looking for volunteers to help students with reading and math during the school day or in the afterschool homework club.

**Toki and Sherman Middle Schools** need volunteers to help with reading and or math. **Leopold Elementary** needs volunteers to help with special projects this spring:

March 1 African American History Celebration

April 12 Math/Science nights

They also need volunteers to help any day after school with Homework club 4:15-5:00pm.

**Volunteers needed for the Computer Buddy Program:**

Would you enjoy reading and writing e-mail to an elementary student during the school year? RSVP volunteers are matched with a student and correspond in a pen pal fashion weekly via electronic transmission. The program does not involve a big time commitment, usually about 30 minutes a week. This year the Computer Buddy Program will include students in classrooms in **DeForest, Oregon, Madison and Marshall elementary schools.**

Starting in February, The Computer Buddy Program will be a partner with the Madison **Neighborhood House**. Neighborhood House is the oldest community center in Madison and is turning 100. Volunteer buddies will be matched with students in their afterschool program. This is an exciting new addition to the Computer Buddy Program and will be a great experience for both the volunteer and the student.

**If you are interested in any of these great volunteer opportunities, please contact Diana Jost: [djost@rsvpdane.org](mailto:djost@rsvpdane.org) or call (608) 441-1393.**

**RSVP VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS - WHERE VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

RSVP of Dane County, 517 N. Segoe Road Suite 300, Madison, WI 53705

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