



VILLAGE OF MAPLE BLUFF

neighborhood news

March 2026



Calendar of Events

March 2026

- 10 Building Board, 5:15pm
- 10 Village Board, 7:30pm
- 25 Fire/EMS Committee, 4:30pm
- 26 Public Works Committee, 4:30pm
- 26 Municipal Court, 5:00pm

April 2026

- 7 Spring Elections, 7:00am - 8:00pm
- 14 Building Board, 5:15pm
- 14 Village Board, 7:30pm
- 23 Municipal Court, 5:00pm
- 25 Arbor Day & Bird City Celebration, 9:00am

Village Board

President Kevin O'Driscoll

kodriscoll@villageofmaplebluff.com

Trustee Jim Schuler

jschuler@villageofmaplebluff.com

Trustee Kristine Jaeger

kjaeger@villageofmaplebluff.com

Trustee Mike Wittenwyler

mwittenwyler@villageofmaplebluff.com

Trustee Greg Engle

gengle@villageofmaplebluff.com

Trustee Lillian Bickers

lbickers@villageofmaplebluff.com

Trustee Laura Peck

lpeck@villageofmaplebluff.com

Trash/Recycling

MARCH '26							APRIL '26							MAY '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
														31						

Village Board President Message

By Kevin O'Driscoll

In the upcoming Village election, three Trustee positions are open, with five candidates. Special thanks to Trustee Mike Wittenwyler who is retiring from his duties to focus on his home renovation and active law practice.

Two current Trustees, Kristine Jaeger and Greg Engle are running for re-election.

- Kristine Jaeger continues to lead the Building Board among other Trustee duties.
- Greg Engle has brought new energy to our meetings with his focus on transparency and inclusiveness, like posting our Village Trustee meetings on YouTube.

We have three new candidates for Trustee:

- Eric McLeod, current committee member and past Village President;
- Mitch Cooper, a long-time resident looking to serve
- Scott Robinson, current committee member and volunteer finance analyst.

I look forward to serving alongside whomever fills the three available seats.

PLEASE VOTE ON APRIL 7. FILE YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT IF OUT OF TOWN.

Village Board Trustee Candidates



KRISTINE JAEGER

What aspects of life should the Village prioritize in preserving, and where do you believe change is needed?

Maple Bluff is special for a reason, and protecting that character starts with preserving the fundamentals

residents value most: safety, neighborliness, beautiful residential surroundings, and a standard of services that is simply unmatched. People choose Maple Bluff because it offers a rare balance, thoughtfully engaged residents, and a genuine sense of community where people are invested in more than just their own homes.

A paramount part of the Village's success is the longstanding relationship between the Village and the Maple Bluff Country Club. The Club is not only a historic institution, but also a social and economic anchor that enhances property values, fosters community connection, and contributes to the Village's identity and prestige. Protecting and nurturing this relationship is vital. Continued collaboration ensures the Club and the Village grow together in a way that reinforces shared interests, community traditions, and the overall lifestyle residents cherish. We both thrive with support from one another.

One of our greatest strengths is volunteerism. From community events to public safety support and board service, resident involvement is key. That spirit of engagement is part of our identity, and it deserves to be cultivated and celebrated. We could use more volunteers, it is cornerstone of the history of Maple Bluff.

Where change is warranted is in proactive stewardship. We must remain forward looking in maintaining infrastructure, managing finances responsibly, and planning for future needs, especially with the numerous projects that have emerged just outside the Village. Thoughtful, proactive board response will ensure the Village remains strong for the next generation. We all want to maintain this wonderful place we call home.

How should the Village respond to development and growth pressures along its borders?

Growth around Maple Bluff is inevitable, but we can choose how it will impact the Village. We must be deliberate, strategic, and unwavering on issues that could erode our quality of life.

This means advocating for responsible development, or reacting appropriately to things we can not change. High density projects or poorly planned commercial expansion adjacent to residential areas risk increasing traffic, noise, crime, and strain on Village infrastructure. We need to keep our goals and decisions consistent with the founding ideas that Maple Bluff started with and that have helped form it into the idyllic place we call home.

Maple Bluff should have a strong voice, one that firmly prioritizes preservation of property values and the peaceful residential atmosphere our residents deserve.

What is your perspective on the Village maintaining its independent services?

Our independent services are a cornerstone of what makes Maple Bluff exceptional. They allow us to deliver a level of responsiveness, professionalism, and accountability that would be difficult to replicate under a consolidated model.

Local control ensures that decisions are made by people who understand the Village, its needs, expectations, and the standards residents expect. Our police, fire, and public works teams are not stretched across multiple municipalities. They are dedicated to serving this community with precision and pride. Independence is not just about governance, it is about safeguarding everyone's safety, reliability, and the high touch service residents rely on daily.

What is your top priority if elected?

My top priority is straightforward, safeguarding Maple Bluff's quality of life today and well into the future.

Public safety sits at the heart of that mission. Equally important is maintaining our infrastructure, green spaces, and public assets to the highest standard.

I am also deeply committed to fiscal stewardship, managing taxpayer dollars with discipline while planning responsibly for long term needs.

Finally, I want to continue fostering the culture of engagement that defines this Village. Encouraging volunteerism, civic participation, and neighborly connection will keep Maple Bluff not just well run, but deeply rooted in community.

Protecting what we and our predecessors have built, and doing so with care, foresight, and respect for residents, will guide every decision I make. Thank you, in advance, for your vote.

Village Board Trustee Candidates (continued)



GREG ENGLE

It has been a privilege to serve the community for the past two years on the Village Board. Despite coming in with 22 years of public safety experience in state government and 14 years living in the Bluff, I still found I had a lot to learn about the way the Village works, but I am

proud of what we have accomplished as a board this term.

During my first six months as a trustee, our focus was on passing a referendum to provide the revenue required to maintain services. While a budget increase was necessary, I advocated keeping it to a minimum. I also pushed for gathering as much public input as we could through a survey and public hearings. That feedback helped guide us to a referendum that was 40% lower than the \$1.3 million increase that had originally been proposed.

Since the referendum, my focus has been on increasing transparency and opportunities for public input, ensuring we maintain fiscal responsibility, and initiating a strategic planning process to help guide the Village Board. Given our revenue constraints, a strategic plan is critical to help us continue to make sound decisions that reflect the values and priorities of the community.

In the past year, with the help of our excellent Village staff, we have started posting agenda packets and recordings for all board and committee meetings, so that residents can easily participate or just learn what we are up to. We've also created a more transparent and consistent process for confirming committee appointments. On the Fire and EMS Committee we developed a new, fiscally sound EMS billing policy that will improve our ability to collect for that service. And I am pleased that our strategic planning process kicked off last fall and is in full swing.

What aspects of life should the Village prioritize in preserving, and where do you believe change is needed?

From the results of the strategic planning survey, it is clear that residents view Maple Bluff as a safe, beautiful, and friendly community with high quality services. I agree. Our top priority should be to preserve those qualities, but we need to do it while keeping budget increases within the rate of inflation.

Safety is a good example. We have an exceptionally safe community with fire and police departments that are dedicated, well-trained, and well-equipped. Crime is down 34% and vehicle pursuits have decreased by 40% since last year. Kudos to our officers and our police chief for making this happen, and I particularly support the recent efforts by the chief to coordinate more with the Madison Police Department's North District. With that

kind of strategic approach, we can preserve our safe community without increasing taxes to add more officers. Additionally, any new technology we implement needs to balance safety with privacy and respect for civil liberties.

Infrastructure improvements are an area of change that we should focus on. We have opportunities to beautify and modernize our infrastructure and increase the safety of our community in several ways. One way is to implement the Village Gateway Plan, adding landscaping and street improvements to Sherman and Commercial Avenues near Lakewood Plaza to slow traffic and create a more attractive and pedestrian-friendly business corridor. Other infrastructure projects we should pursue are partnering with MG&E to improve electrical grid resilience by burying more power lines, and improvements to the marina, which is a major asset for the Village and a source of revenue.

How should the Village respond to development and growth pressures along its borders?

It is inevitable that more residential density is coming to Madison's north side. I believe the best way to manage this growth is to engage more with the City of Madison in the planning process. We need to be at the table to ensure our perspective is considered. Specifically, we need to work with Madison to ensure that they prioritize providing adequate resources for police and fire on the north side and that the impacts of increased traffic are addressed in their planning. We should also engage with northside community organizations and the business community. Done right, growth can have positive impacts on our businesses and help make the entire north side a more vibrant place to live.

What is your perspective on the Village maintaining its independent services?

We need to maintain the high quality of services provided by the Village, and I would only consider consolidating if it were proven that the service level could be maintained or improved at a significant cost savings, and there was a significant public demand for it.

It is healthy for the board to periodically study the issue, as our president proposed last fall. However, based upon survey feedback, I don't see making major changes to services as a likely priority for the Village in the near future.

What is your top priority if elected?

My top priority is completing and implementing the strategic plan that will guide the Village for the next 3-5 years. The final product will be based on extensive public input and deliberations by the board, and it will align near-term actions with the broader long-term issues we need to address while maintaining fiscal discipline. I believe it is achievable, but it will take difficult decisions and healthy debate. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to work with the president, the administration, and my fellow trustees to get this done.

Village Board Trustee Candidates (continued)



ERIC MCLEOD

Greetings! I'm very excited to be on the ballot for the office of Village Trustee this spring. Maple Bluff is a special place and, as residents, we are fortunate to have our own municipal government so we can keep it that way. Village residents are active and engaged in this community.

The Village is blessed with so many positive attributes, from the parks, the lake, the country club, top-notch municipal services, the overall scenic beauty, among many others, and the job of the Village Board is to preserve all of the things that have drawn us to Maple Bluff.

I previously served on the Village Board from 2000 to 2019. During six of those years—2009 to 2015—I served as Village President. My main priority when I was on the

Board previously was to maintain our own high quality municipal services—police and fire, public works, parks and rec, and administration. That remains my priority. There have been discussions in the Village from time to time about contracting out with another municipality for the provision of public safety services. Each time the issue has come up, we have made the right decision and kept our own services. Maple Bluff residents are better served and safer as a result.

In recent years, there have again been discussions about contracting out fire and EMS to the City of Madison and limiting our own public safety services. Doing so would be a grave mistake. We are safer and more secure in the Village with services located in the Village run by professional staff who are accountable directly to the Village Board and Village residents. As Trustee I will be a consistent vote for an independent Maple Bluff that maintains its own services.

I hope I can count on your support, and I would greatly appreciate your vote on April 7th.



MITCHEL COOPER

What aspects of life should the Village prioritize in preserving, and where do you believe change is needed?

I have lived in Maple Bluff for 25 years, and raised three daughters here. Our girls attended Camp Ya Gotta

Wanna, Arts and Athletics and participated in the neighborhood Girl Scouts troop, the swim team and basketball at the Village gym. Our family was formed by this community. Like most people who live here, we moved to Maple Bluff and enjoy life here because of the beauty, the easy access to parks, the safe and friendly community and neighbors who know and care for one another. All of these things are important to preserve, including a number of beautiful outdoor spaces that encourage neighbors to gather, enhancing a sense of community.

It's also essential to continue to maintain and beautify our boulevards and parks and events such as Bocce and the camps for kids at Fireman's Park and Beach Park. I think knowing and caring for one another is what truly makes a community welcoming and safe.

I also think we need to foster more involvement in Village decision making on important issues that affect the Village. I'm particularly concerned about increased electronic surveillance.

The Police Department has done an excellent job

protecting Village safety. Crime is down in the Madison area generally and in Maple Bluff. This continues a trend. I think we should be cautious about authorizing expenditures for extra layers of security that have not proven to make us safer. Further, the Flock surveillance cameras located around the Bluff come with a cost to our privacy. A number of recent local news articles have highlighted the data-sharing that happens both wittingly and unwittingly between Flock subscribers and federal agencies such as ICE. I trust our Village safety officers with using any technology responsibly, but despite their wish not to share private information about people, a number of other nearby communities such as Verona - and national news articles - have identified holes in the company's promise not to give residents' private information to other agencies.

How should the Village respond to development and growth pressures along its borders?

More congestion along the Sherman Ave. corridor and a surge in new rental units near our neighborhood are beginning to put pressure on local streets, services and parks. We need to consider enhanced traffic safety measures, including potential hardscape that would both beautify the area and reduce speeding. At the same time the Village could see the recent growth as an opportunity to promote the development of new businesses that residents would like to see nearby - Ancora and Lolas are terrific additions to the commercial zone on Sherman Ave., along with the Black Saddle bike shop, Bear & Bottle and Patricias. Continued development that creates walkable retail and entertainment businesses that serve the Village is a potential upside. I am interested in being involved in planning discussions for positive commercial development in our area.

What is your perspective on the Village maintaining its independent services?

The Village having its own emergency services is a source of pride for many of us and the fantastic curbside pickup of garbage, recycling and yard waste is unparalleled in the surrounding communities. But I also understand that we have to be realistic in looking at the budget and potential cost savings by outsourcing and weigh that against emergency response times and other advantages of retaining these services. I'm open to all perspectives and don't know now if these factors militate in favor of retaining or outsourcing particular services, and I will keep an open mind as we explore this issue in the coming year.

What is your top priority if elected?

My top priority if elected is to make sure that our meetings are not contaminated by national partisan political feelings, to maintain civil discourse, open minds and a sense of neighborliness. All our residents have the same goals of managing a responsible budget, keeping us from shocking property tax hikes and maintaining high-quality services. I hope to promote greater Village awareness of some of our top issues and increased participation in meetings from our community members. On the whole the Village is a lovely place and people moved here and remain here not because they want to change it but to enjoy the features that it has now. My goal is to preserve this quality of life.



SCOTT A. ROBINSON

Hello neighbors – my name is Scott Robinson. My wife, Amy, and I have lived in the Village since 2019. Amy grew up in Maple Bluff, and her family's connection to the Village goes back to the 1920s. Her grandfather served as the second Village Clerk, and her

father, Bill Chatterton, devoted many years of service to the Village, including two decades as Village Attorney, eight years as Village President, and the first Fire and EMS Commissioner. Maple Bluff has always felt like home for our family, and even while raising our children elsewhere, Amy and I returned often for vacations and time together. I hope to continue that tradition of service and give back to the community that has given us so much. We are year-round residents.

I am a retired Navy Captain. My career focused on operations at sea and included tours as captain of a destroyer and a cruiser. Off ship, my work was in budgeting, contracting, and strategic planning. My experience leading high-performing teams and managing complex challenges would serve the Village well. I currently serve on the Public Works Committee and the Fire and EMS Committee, and I also provide support to the Strategic Planning Committee. Over the past year, I have regularly attended Village Board meetings and established relationships with Village staff.

I am running for the Village Board because I care deeply about what makes Maple Bluff special. Our Village is park-like, close-knit, and small-town in character. We share a commitment to looking out for one another. Residents value both community and independence. We expect, and have, a Village government that is responsive, thoughtful, and focused on local priorities. A Village Board must ensure this character continues.

Safety is the core element of our quality of life. Our police and fire departments are the front line in protecting

residents and preserving the Village's character. As the East Side continues to grow—bringing increased traffic and activity to North Sherman Avenue and other Village streets—it is important that we remain welcoming while ensuring our police and fire departments have the support they need to respond effectively. Our police force protects our lives, property, and civil rights, and I believe in a robust, well-equipped, and fully supported force.

I strongly believe in Maple Bluff's independence. Our Village has long benefited from Village staff leaders who know the community, understand its needs, and respond quickly in emergencies. I am strongly opposed to recurring proposals to transfer our Fire Department to the City of Madison. Presented as a cost-saving measure, it masks the true cost – a loss of autonomy. The same faulty thinking could lead to the transfer of our police, Public Works, and other operations. A decision to transfer any Village functions to Madison would weaken the local connection that residents value and rely on, and increase response times for emergencies, ambulance services, and routine operations. Preserving our independence means protecting not just our services but also the identity, voice, and self-determination of our Village. For one example, just think about the quality of snow removal service by our Public Works team, compared with what you see on the secondary streets in Madison.

Stewardship of Village resources is another way we care for our community. Maple Bluff has a strong tradition of responsible financial management, which allows us to provide high-quality services while respecting residents' tax dollars. In the early 1990's, I was responsible for the Navy's \$2 billion annual ship operating budget. I am using those skills in my volunteer work, assisting with the presentation of the Village's operating budget and long-term financial modeling, which reflects my commitment to careful, forward-looking decisions that support both current residents and future generations.

I believe in the future of Maple Bluff and in the strength of the community we share. I would be honored to earn your vote this April.

Engagement and Planning

By Tanner A. Nystrom

As we move into March, several important Village matters are unfolding at once – the Spring election, the Strategic Planning process, and continued coordination as the area around us evolves. Each of these deserves attention, but all of them share a common thread: maintaining steady, thoughtful governance in a changing environment.

The Spring Election on April 7 will include five candidates seeking three Trustee seats, which reflects a high level of engagement in the Village. Civic participation is healthy for our community. I encourage all residents to review the candidate materials included in this newsletter and to participate in the election process. Maple Bluff has always benefited when discussions remain respectful and focused on the long-term well-being of the Village.

At the same time, we are nearing an important milestone in our Strategic Planning effort. The Board's retreat at the end of February is intended to clarify a Village Mission, Vision, and set of Values, along with a limited number of priority areas to guide work over the next several years. This process builds on survey feedback and community conversations from the past year. The goal is not to create a document that sits on a shelf, but to ensure that future decisions – operational, financial, and policy-related – are aligned with clearly articulated community priorities. In a structurally constrained fiscal environment, focus and clarity matter.

Development pressures along our borders are no longer theoretical. With projects such as Huxley Yards beginning occupancy, we are seeing the continued growth of Madison's north side. While these developments fall outside our jurisdiction, they influence traffic patterns, shared spaces, and emergency response dynamics. Over the past several months, I have met not only with Madison Police leadership, but also with Dane County and other regional law enforcement partners to ensure that lines of communication are strong and that we remain fully integrated within the broader public safety network. In high-priority emergent situations, our officers may be the closest available resource to stabilize a scene under mutual aid until additional units arrive. That is a normal part of regional cooperation, and preparation and coordination are essential to doing it well.

As part of our broader public safety posture, we have extended the evaluation period for the live-feed camera trial. The purpose of doing so is to ensure that we fully assess both operational effectiveness and resident concerns before making any recommendation. Communities across Dane County are examining similar technology,

and while each municipality must make independent decisions, there is value when agencies can responsibly share information with one another to prevent crime and support investigations. I have spoken with Chiefs who view these tools as highly effective, and I have also heard the apprehensions that naturally accompany heightened public scrutiny. I would not recommend any tool that I believed compromised the rights of our residents or visitors. At the same time, we must evaluate tools that may help preserve our longstanding record of safety and low victimization.



Finally, we are beginning to feel the strain of a leadership gap within our Fire and EMS Department. Since our former Fire Chief's departure last July, Interim Chief Jeff Drager has assumed those additional responsibilities while continuing in his Assistant Chief role. Jeff has handled this extended assignment with professionalism and steadiness, and the department continues to meet expectations. However, interim arrangements are not designed to be permanent. Sustained organizational strength requires stable, long-term leadership and clear direction. As we complete the Strategic Planning work and assess community priorities, we will be evaluating the appropriate path forward to ensure that the department remains well positioned for the future. Stability and readiness in emergency services remain foundational to the quality-of-life residents expect.

Maple Bluff has always succeeded by remaining measured, collaborative, and focused on the long horizon. I remain grateful for the professionalism of our staff and the engagement of our residents as we navigate a busy and consequential season.

Sincerely, Tanner A. Nystrom



Maple Bluff Fire Rescue

By Jeff Drager, Assistant Fire Chief

Response Information

In January our average response time for emergency incidents in the village was 4 minutes and 35 seconds. This time span is from the initial alarm to the first unit arriving on scene to both fire and EMS incidents.

Personnel

Our department has scheduled interviews for 3 paid-on-call personnel. All these applicants already have fire and EMS certifications. We have also taken on an additional duty officer that comes to us with over 20 years of experience in the fire service.

Training

In January and February our personnel spent a significant amount of time training in an acquired structure within the village. This opportunity allowed our personnel to perform search and rescue, ventilation, hose movement, and forcible entry.

Over the course of the next couple of months, our personnel will be preparing to renew their EMS licenses. Every 3 years our personnel must complete training in specific categories established by the state. This training includes topics of airway management, trauma, cardiac emergencies, and operations.

Public Outreach

On Wednesday March 18th, UW Health Kids will be conducting another car seat check and installation. The event our department hosted in 2025 was completely booked and the demand was high. Please see the attached information and schedule your appointment early as we anticipate it to fill fast.

DID YOU KNOW...

Car crashes are a primary cause of injury and death of kids ages 0 – 14!
& 4 out of 5 car seats are not used correctly?

Is your child's car seat safe?
Schedule a **FREE CAR SEAT CHECK** by a
Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician!

**Car seats available for income qualifying families*



APPOINTMENT REQUIRED

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

2:40 pm – 6:00 pm

**Maple Bluff Fire Station
18 Oxford Pl, Madison WI 53704**



UWHealthKids

**SAFE
K:IDS**
MADISON AREA

Schedule now:
email safekids@uwhealth.org
or Text (608) 333-6087

4TH ANNUAL MAPLE BLUFF

SPRINKMAN REAL ESTATE



EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 21st | 10am
at Johnson Park

All ages ensured a chance for goodies with our staggered start times. While the kids hunt for eggs, enjoy Greenbush Bakery donuts and a complimentary coffee courtesy of Ancora Cafe!

Sponsored by Sprinkman Real Estate.

CALL ONE OF OUR EXPERTS TO TURN YOUR REAL ESTATE GOALS INTO REALITY!



Shelly Sprinkman
(608) 220.1453



Trey Sprinkman
(608) 354.4000



Lori Murphy
(608) 347.2281



Kristine Jaeger
(608) 217.1919



VIEW ALL
MAPLE BLUFF
LISTINGS

Department of Public Works

By Tom Schroeder

With March arriving, be on guard! I believe that the saying of "March Madness" was first used for the unpredicted weather patterns that exist in Wisconsin in the month of March. That's the way I heard it. We have had a mix of weather thus far this season and would fully expect that we will see a replay of all the high points and low points for March, as we say farewell to winter and welcome a new spring.

With the teasingly warm spell around Valentines Day, we were able to perform some leaf and brush collection. While the cool to cold weather that is expected this time of year has returned, we have less than a month to say spring is here.

Our new garbage truck should be deployed by this time. This truck has more capacity and the suspension to carry the larger load. I expect that we will now be able to collect the village refuse with one trip to the transfer station under maximum weight. To avoid being overweight we often made two trips to the transfer station.

In 2006 we repurposed the retired 1996 garbage truck and turned it into a leaf hauler truck. The project turned out well, so well that we got 20 additional years of service from that vehicle, and its still answering the bell. We currently have plans to repurpose our 2006 garbage truck into a leaf hauler. Can we get another 20 years out of this truck? Time will tell.

As we ease into spring like weather and start to clean up the yards and gardens please keep materials separate, do not co-mingle unlike materials. Place yard waste on the terrace and not in the street. To give our operators the space needed to not place materials around trees; utility poles; mailboxes; fences and parked cars; equipment etc. Failure to follow the guidelines will delay or prevent collection.

There will be house take downs and new houses built. There will be the swarm of contractors seemingly everywhere. There will be tree maintenance and tree removals. There will be road maintenance. It will be a busy time during our growing season...for its also construction season.

Have a great Spring!



BOAT HOIST FOR SALE



- **ShoreStation Boat Hoist**
- 4,000 lb capacity • 9 ft wide
- Solar-powered lift • Includes canopy

Currently located at **Maple Bluff Marina**

Call **Ellis Waller :**
608-575-5755

Village of Maple Bluff Presents:

The 22nd annual

Bocce 2026

Benefit for the Parks and Recreation Dept.



Friday June 5th, 5pm

Bocce Tournament * Dinner * Drinks * Auction

Doors open 5pm

Auction: 5-9pm

Bar: 5-10pm

Bocce: 5:30-9:30pm

Sign up to volunteer here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B4BADAE2DAB9-58506995-2026#/>

Parks & Recreation

By: Mark Benishek, Director of Municipal Services & Recreation

As we welcome March and the first signs of spring, the Parks and Recreation Department is excited to share what's ahead for our community. With longer days on the horizon and warmer weather just around the corner, we're gearing up for spring programs, special events, and continued improvements to our parks and facilities. Whether you're registering for a new activity, enjoying a walk outdoors, or participating in a community event, we're grateful for the opportunity to help create spaces and experiences that bring people together. We look forward to an active and engaging month ahead!

2026 Event Calendar

- April 25: Arbor Day & Bird City Celebration, 9:00am
- June 5: Bocce Bash
- June 7: Graduate Party
- June 22 - Aug 3: Concerts in the Park (Mondays)
- June 21: Father's Day Parade
- July 4: Fest on the Fourth
- October 25: Halloween Parade
- November 29: Holiday Parade & Tree Lighting

2026 Key Fob & Pet License Renewal

If you need to purchase or renew your Key Fob membership or Pet License, please visit the links below or stop by the Village Center front desk during office business hours.

2026 renewals or first-time purchases are now open for both the **Key Fob Program** and **Pet Licenses**.

Purchase/Renew Your Key Fob

[CLICK HERE TO RENEW](#)

All non-renewed key fobs will be deactivated on February 27, 2026

Renew Your Pet License

[CLICK HERE FOR THE PET LICENSE](#)

If you have any questions, please contact the Village Office at: 608-230-7655



Key Fob Program

The Village Key Fob Program provides access to the Village Center Gym, Beach House, and Dailey Cabin. The program allows access to the Village Gym for Toddler Playtime, Pickleball Open Gym, and regular Open Gym time, and access to each facility's restrooms. Please check the facility calendar found on the Village's website to verify availability. If you have misplaced your fob, please notify the Village Center as soon as possible so that it can be deactivated to safeguard our facilities.

Open Gym

Here are a few reminders about Open Gym:

1. Access to Open Gym time is gained through participation in the Village's Key Fob Program.
2. Key fob members may bring up to 3 guests per use.
3. Key fob members that wish to bring more than 3 guests must reserve the gym online up to 48 hours in advance.
4. **No food or beverages are allowed inside the gym**
5. Put all equipment away and notify Village staff of any problems or broken equipment.
6. Hours: Monday - Sunday when the space is not scheduled. The gym will close daily at 9:00pm. To check on availability, visit the Village's website. If there are no programs or rentals, the gym is available for Open Play.



Toddler Open Gym

Time: 8:00am - 11:00am, Weekdays

Location: Village Center Gym

Fee: Must be members of the key fob program
Toddler Open Gym is designated for Village toddlers to burn off some energy inside the gym. Open gym provides age-appropriate toys. All toddlers must always be accompanied by an adult. Program participants must be members of the Village's key fob program. In the event Madison Schools, Public or Private, are closed, Toddler Open Gym will be reduced to 8:00am - 10:00am.

Pickleball Open Gym

Time: 11:00am - 1:00pm, Weekdays

Location: Village Center Gym

Fee: Must be members of the key fob program
Open Pickleball Play returns in November. The Village has a limited supply of paddles and pickleballs. This is a drop-in program available to Key Fob Program participants at no additional charge. Non-key fob members are required to pay a drop-in fee. In the event that Madison Schools, Public or Private, are closed, Pickleball will be canceled for the day.

Youth Programs

Enrichment

Music Together - Mixed-Age

Time: 9 - 9:45am or 10-10:45am or 4-4:45pm

Dates: Tuesday, 3/24 - 6/2

Cost: \$185

Location: Dailey Cabin

Each class is an active music making experience designed to teach the way young children learn through play with the ones they love! In this mixed-age class, each child participates at his or her own level through singing, moving, chanting, listening, watching, and exploring musical instruments. Classes offer a variety of engaging and developmentally appropriate activities for adults and children, providing new ways to play musically at home. Families will receive a beautifully illustrated songbook, a CD with the songs, and a code to access the music online for each session.

Music Together Rhythm Kids

Dates: Tuesday, 3/24 - 6/2

Time: 5-5:45pm

Cost: \$185

Location: Dailey Cabin

Music Together Rhythm Kids (ages four to seven) Students learn to create, choreograph, and conduct as they play - and play with! - a variety of musical instruments: West African djembe drums, percussion instruments, and the most important instruments of all, their voices and their bodies. As your big kid learns to think and create like a musician, they'll also build musical connections to the global community. Look to musictogetherwithsus.com for more information. Adult participation in class is encouraged but not required.

Sports

Junior Basketball

Dates & Time: Tuesdays, 3/17 - 5/5, 4:15 - 5:15pm

Fee & Grades: \$87.00, K-3rd

Location: VH Gym

Join this fast-paced, inclusive (everyone plays) class. YEL's Teach It, Practice It, Play It® approach teaches players new skills each class, practices those skills in kid-friendly games, and then encourages students to use those skills in introductory basketball games. Emphasis is placed on basic skills development of dribbling, shooting, passing, sportsmanship, and teamwork. Sign up soon...the shot-clock is running down!



Track & Field Decathlon

Time: 4:15 - 5:15pm

Dates: Thursday, 4/16 - 5/21

Fee: \$87.00

Location: VH Gym

Grades: 1st - 4th

Fast-paced and inclusive (everyone participates). YEL's Teach It, Practice It, Play It® approach teaches players new skills each class practices those skills and then use them in safe track and field events (javelin, discus, shot put, long jump, relay race and more). SAFETY is our first rule. We use foam padded javelins and safety hurdles, as well as lightweight safety shot put and discus materials. Get set...GO! Sign up today!

YEL! Youth Pickleball

Dates & Time: Friday, 4/3 - 5/8 or 5/15 - 6/19, 4:15 - 5:15pm

Fee & Grades: \$87.00, 3rd - 8th

Location: VH Gym (Session 1); Beach Park Tennis Courts (Session 2)

Join this fast-paced, inclusive (everyone plays!) class designed to introduce students to one of the fastest-growing sports in the country. YEL's Teach It, Practice It, Play It® approach helps players learn new pickleball skills each class, practice those skills through fun, age-appropriate activities, and then apply them in introductory pickleball games. Emphasis is placed on basic skill development including serving, paddle control, rallying, scoring, sportsmanship, and teamwork. Pickleball is easy to learn, fun to play, and perfect for students of all experience levels—no prior knowledge needed!

YEL! Junior Soccer

Dates & Time: Monday, 4/6 - 5/11, 4:15 - 5:15pm

Fee & Grades: \$87.00, K - 3rd

Location: Johnson Park Field

Get outside and get kickin' with our fast-paced, inclusive (everyone plays) Junior Soccer course! YEL's Teach It, Practice It, Play It® approach teaches players new skills each class, practices those skills in kid-friendly games, and then encourages students to use those skills in introductory soccer games. SAFETY & SPORTSMANSHIP are emphasized! We focus on the fundamentals of dribbling, passing, trapping, and shooting.

Camp-Ya-Gotta-Wanna

Time: 1:00-4:00pm

Dates: Tues-Thurs, 6/18 - 8/6

Fee: \$650

Location: Dailey Cabin (Fireman's Park)

Ages: 3-7

CYGW is an 8-week summer afternoon camp for young children. The camp meets at Firemen's Park (Dailey Cabin) on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 1:00-4:00 PM. Camp runs from June 16 through August 6. Enrollment is open to Maple Bluff residents ages 3-7. Children must be 3 years old by January 1, 2026, and must be able to use the restroom independently. Snack costs are now included in the camp registration fee. Children must meet both the age and restroom-independence requirements to be eligible for enrollment.

Arts & Athletics Camp

Time: 2:15 - 4:15pm

Date: Mon-Fri, 6/15 - 8/14

Fee: \$465

Location: Beach House (Beach Park)

Ages: 7-12 years old

The Village's Arts & Athletics Program meets at Beach Park, Monday through Friday from 2:15pm - 4:15pm. This summer program provides a fun, safe environment where participants can participate in arts, crafts, games, swimming, sports and other exciting activities. Enrollment is open to all Maple Bluff resident children between the ages of 7 - 12 (entering 2nd through 6th grade).



Adult Programs

NEW - GYROKINESIS

Time: 9:30-10:30am

Dates: Thursdays

Session 2: March 19 - May 21

Fee: \$90 per session

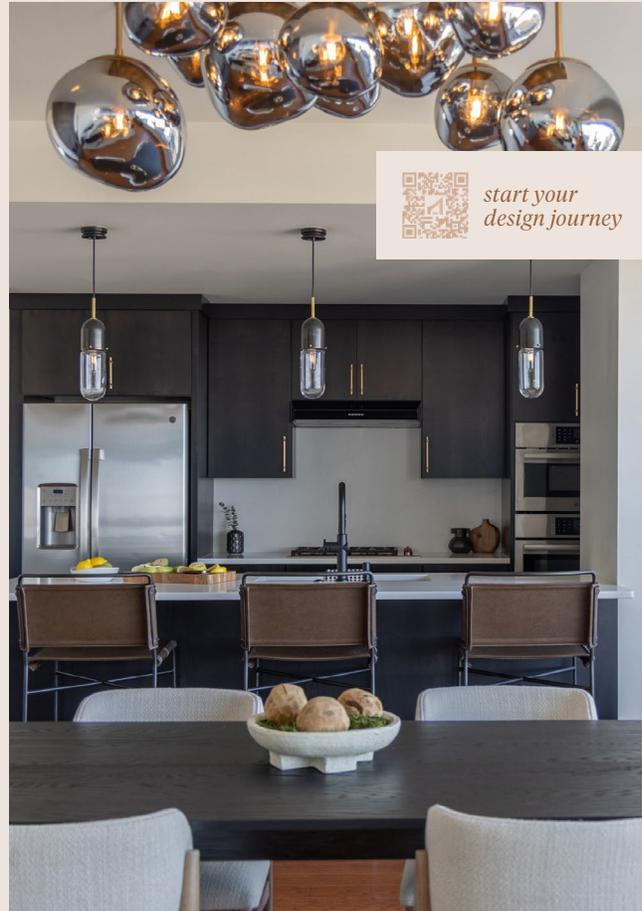
Location: Dailey Cabin

About the class: Gyrokinesis classes focus on whole-body movements for functional use and breathwork to address the whole human system and restore balance. By taking this class, individuals will learn how to decompress all their joints while performing the exercises so that the body can expand and increase the range of motion in a safe and healthy manner. Gyrokinesis is performed on chairs, mats, or standing. Gyrokinesis is designed for any age or ability and allows each student to move within their comfort range.

Instructor: Lillian Wilner

Gyrokinesis benefits:

- Stimulates the nervous system
- Increased range of motion
- Improved functional strength & flexibility
- Improved spinal & joint health
- Improved balance & posture



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