

If you go

What: Comprehensive

Plan open house

When: 6:30-8 p.m.

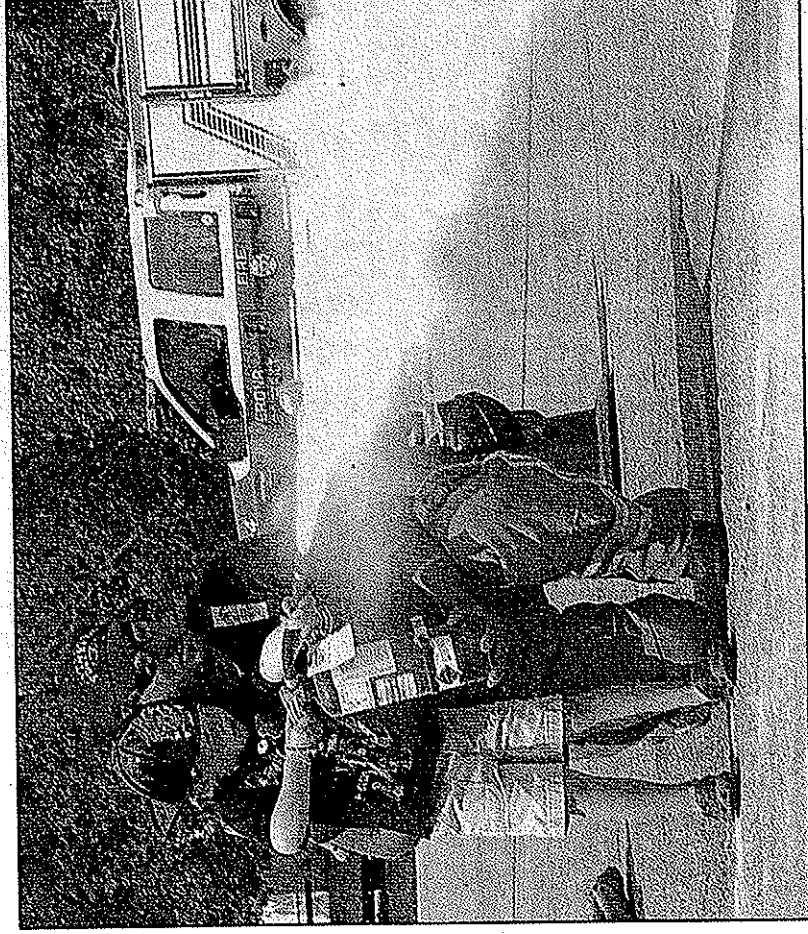
Monday

Where: Verona Senior Center

Why: Help the city make long-range plans for downtown, traffic, farmland preservation and other issues

Info: Call Bruce Sylvester at 848-9941

Fire Department Open House



Jim Feroie photos

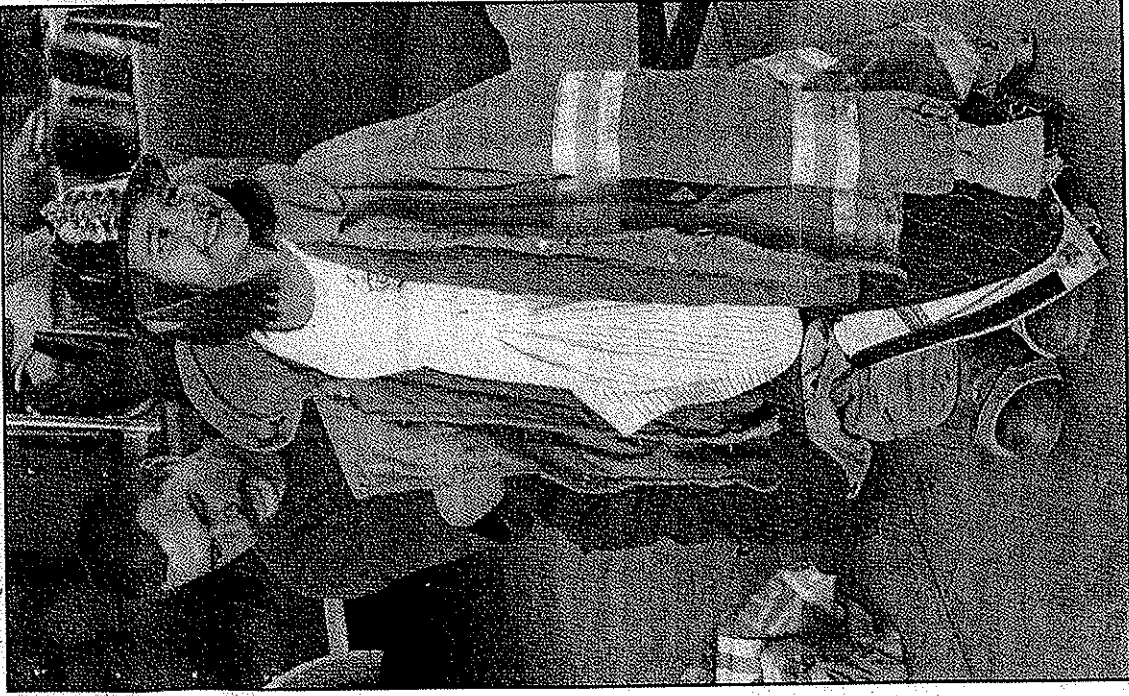
Firefighters for a day

Kids from all over Verona got to dress up and act like firefighters Saturday and learn all about fire prevention with several educational and fun activities at the Verona Fire Department's open house.

Firefighters offered rides on a new fire truck, let kids sit in an antique one and got kids involved in such activities as putting out a real fire with an extinguisher (above, with Paul Schultz), aiming a hose at a spot on a fake house and running through a decontamination tent.

A larger-than-normal turnout of about 700 helped raise \$11,000 (through a bake sale and raffle) and trigger a \$4,000 matching grant for cancer-stricken firefighter Keith Peterson.

Left, Greg Ziegelbauer helps Savannah Borroughs put on a fire suit.



Help see future of downtown

CPC open house seeks opinions on long-range plans

By Jim Feroie
Verona Press editor

The first draft of the city's comprehensive plan is almost finished, and the committee putting it together will spend much of the next year trying to incorporate public suggestions and comments into the final product.

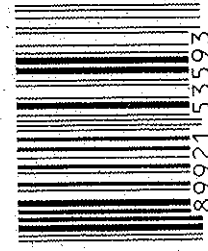
And while the committee has sent copies of its various chapters to all sorts of people, ranging from area farmers, Realtors and child care providers to neighboring governments and large employers, it's still lacking a big response from the public at large.

That's the purpose of Monday's open house.

The event runs from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Verona Senior Center, 108 Paoli St. It will use the same casual format as the April 21 open house, which gathered opinions from a disappointingly small group of curious Veronans about transportation, housing and some other issues.

This time the focus is heavy on the city's downtown, though all sorts of opinions on future growth, including shopping centers, housing, industrial development and traffic, are also being sought. Any planning-related suggestions are fair game, but the committee will encourage discussion of some specific issues with a

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By Jim Feroie
Verona Press ed

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ing FEMA flood maps

property owners affected by the new maps, and the city's Plan Commission is holding a public hearing on the maps Oct. 6 at City Hall.

After the hearing, the city will have the option to officially adopt the new maps and ordinances that regulate land uses and development within the flood plain. That would allow the city to continue to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, which enables any property within the city, either in or outside of a flood plain, to obtain flood insurance through FEMA.

If the city adopts the maps, properties within a flood plain can be required by mortgage lenders to take flood insurance. If it does not, property owners in the city will not be allowed to purchase FEMA flood insurance, as was the case in Baraboo before this summer's flooding.

The city encourages owners of all properties that are in or adjacent to existing flood plains to check the

maps and see if they are affected by these changes. Some properties that have not been in a flood plain have been added, and other properties might have a larger portion within the flood plain. A few parcels will be removed when the maps become effective.

Maps are available at www.co.dane.wi.us/planning/floodplain. To find the proposed maps for Verona, click on the Visual Map of Dane County and go to parcel numbers 0556 (west side), 0557 (east side), 0393 (northwest) or 0394 (northeast). The files are large and might take a long time to load.

Hard copies of the new maps and affected properties are available at City Hall. For information, call Bruce Sylvester at 848-9941 or email bruce.sylvester@ci.verona.wi.us.

Questions can also be directed to FEMA's "Map Assistance Center," (877) 336-2627 or individual mortgage lenders.

COUNCIL

Continued from page 1

workload, he was taken off Plan Commission, along with Ald. Scott Manley.

Linder, who served on the Plan Commission before he was appointed to fill the seat vacated by newly elected Mayor Jon Hochhammer in 2006, will take one of those spots.

The other will go to Jeremy Charles, an Epic employee and Verona Area High School graduate who has been serving on the city's Comprehensive Planning Committee since December.

The moves will also require a little shuffling of the Common Council's regular committees. Manley will join the Finance committee, Solowicz will serve on the Public Safety and Welfare committee (and keep his spot on the Fitch-Rona EMS Commission). Mike Long was chosen for a vacant seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

COMP PLAN

set of maps.

One will show various options at the downtown intersection of Main and Verona; another presents options for how the downtown could expand and accommodate parking; and another will show future streets outside the city with an eye on alleviating traffic problems on County Highway M.

City planning director Bruce Sylvester said he might also produce a future land use map, which will suggest much of the city's future growth in industrial parks and residential subdivisions to the southwest of the current city.

He and the committee will be looking for any input on planning city residents want to give, but the hot topics of the past few months include:

- Should the city continue to focus efforts on growing the downtown, and how so?
- How should the city deal with traffic, including downtown and alternatives to M?
- How important is farmland preservation to the city?
- How does the city balance vehicular and pedestrian traffic, both downtown and in other areas?
- Should the city continue to require a mix of single-family and multifamily housing?

The city's Plan Commission and Common Council have made it clear in recent months that they are delaying many growth and development decisions, such as shopping centers and downtown improvements, until the comprehensive plan helps provide direction from the citizenry at large. Though the plan will need approval of both of those bodies before it is official, they are hoping the public weighs in enough to help mold the final product into a true community plan.

The April 21 open house was sparsely attended and addressed topics such as housing, economic development and transportation. Subsequent chapters have been about agricultural and natural resources, utilities, intergovernmental cooperation and land use. And Sylvester said he'd be happy

See the plan

How to get the city's draft plan for downtown.

Web

Visit ci.verona.wi.us, then click on "Comprehensive Planning Information"

Paper

Get a copy at City Hall or the Verona Public Library

Meeting

Come to the open house at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Verona Senior Center

Call

Call planning director Bruce Sylvester at 848-9941

to revisit issues that were up for discussion in April.

"There's two things on (the) transportation (plan) that I want to make sure everybody has the opportunity to see," he said. "That's the downtown intersection and the future street system plan for areas outside of the city."

Sylvester will also be looking for input on policy issues like the city's residential phasing plan, which caps housing growth to accommodate the Verona Area School District. But philosophical questions will likely have more impact on both the comprehensive plan and the implements it.

For example, at Monday's Comprehensive Planning Committee meeting, some residents of Shuman Street spoke out not only on their predictable objections to the "paired one-ways" transportation option that would put a commercial corridor on their street, they also made the point that the downtown is essentially the city's affordable housing district. With that in mind, is the city's push over the past two decades to expand the downtown misplaced?

Sylvester said all opinions will be considered, and all members of the public are welcome, but ultimately it must be a plan that's in the best interests of the city and its residents and reflect their desires, not necessarily those of the community at large.

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roggary at Felly's

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Seals also had several outstanding warrants and was taken to Dane County Jail and remained there as of early this week, half-mile from Schaffer said.

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