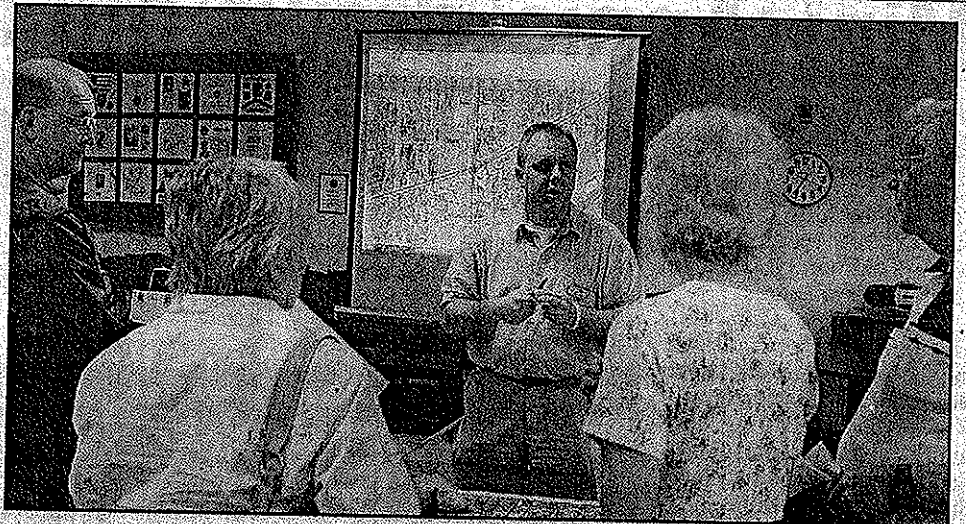




Jim Ferolle photo

y from the Angel's Wish pet adoption center isn't looking for a new home. The bus, which is in the midst of a five-city U.S. tour taking it to look like the Kimberly-Clark brand's Cottonelle Comfort Haven, and is called the Cottonelle Comfort Haven. It happened to be in the area on errands, not at a hotel.



Jim Ferolle photo

Looking into the future

EarthTech traffic engineer Jess Billmeyer discusses transportation options with attendees to the Comprehensive Plan Committee's open house Monday night at the Verona Senior Center. Behind him is a computer display of the current traffic patterns at Main Street and Verona Avenue, and on the table are three long-term possibilities for alleviating the intersection's current grade of F - installing a large roundabout, widening each road to five lanes or diverting southbound traffic to Shuman Street. About a dozen people stopped by each of the four tables - Housing, Economic Development, Transportation and Utilities and Community Facilities - to discuss those topics with committee members or staff.

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Leadership Academy hopes to serve military families

When it comes to serving the community, this year's Badger Area Leadership Academy (BALA) class sees the big picture.

It stretches more than 7,000 miles.

For their community service project, freshmen from Verona and Oregon high schools will honor the sacrifices of area military personnel and their families through what they are calling The TROOP (Teens Reaching Out to Overseas Personnel) Project.

The project has two components:

A day of fun for military families May 3 at Harriet Park in Verona.

Coordinating and collecting donations of "care package" items for area military personnel who are serving overseas.

At the May 3 event, BALA students and adult mentors will host a picnic featuring games, arts and crafts



BALA students will be busy in the coming weeks soliciting financial and in-kind donations to help make the "fun day" a reality. They will also seek donations of snack-food items that travel well, such as hard candy, gum, crunchy granola bars, chips and crackers in crush-proof packaging, and beef jerky.

All around Verona and Oregon, donation boxes featuring The TROOP Project logo will be set up to allow local residents to donate items. Also, in certain stores collection jars featuring the logo will be set up for cash contributions.

"It's really impressive how these young men and women from the two communities have come together to

BALA student from Verona. "We have a big job ahead of us, but the sacrifices we're making, and that we're asking the community to make, are nothing compared to what soldiers and their families go through," said Johnson.

Quenna Flores, another BALA student from Verona, said people in Verona and Oregon have helped with past BALA projects.

"I think it's a great way for an entire community to say thank you to those who are serving our country," she said.

BALA is a leadership-development program for high school freshmen in which participants work with adult mentors and guest speakers to think creatively, resist peer pressure, set goals, and make good group decisions. It was founded in 2004 by Dave and Sue Dahlin of Verona based on a similar

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EARTH
MONTH**

Alliance for the Great Lakes, Essentials have teamed up for a fundraiser. Celebrate, show your support, and enter you could win products, services, and a local artist.