

Jim Ferolie photo

## All part of the plan

Comprehensive Planning Committee member Mike Schmidt (middle) discusses elements of the city's comprehensive plan, which is in the midst of a two-year process, during an open house Monday at the Verona Senior Center. The open house is part of the public element of the plan, which includes sending chapters to specific groups and government entities likely to be interested in it. Almost 100 people showed up, and many filled out surveys indicating their feelings on such items as downtown, the Main-at-Verona intersection, farmland preservation and growth beyond the current city limits.

## Suspicious-vehicle call leads to felony charge

A caller concerned about someone doing drugs in a car last month led to felony charges for operating a vehicle without consent.

Dewayne C. McCaa, 18, of Madison, was arrested Sept. 14 for operating a car reported as stolen and a misdemeanor

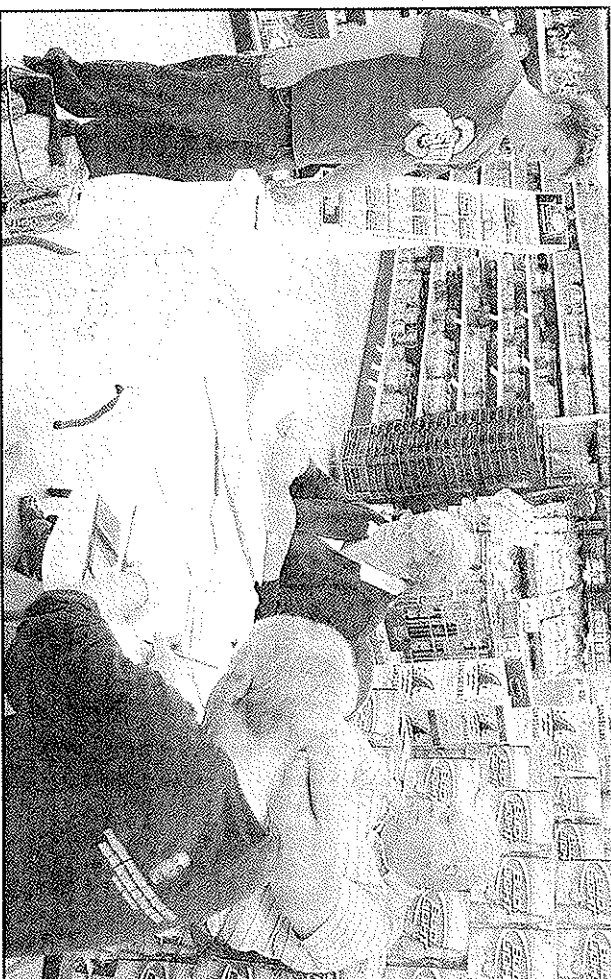
charge of possession of marijuana. A 16-year-old male passenger was released.

After the caller reported the suspicious behavior on the 400 block of Lucille Street, a Verona police officer verified the observations and approached the car with-

out incident, police said.

After finding a baggie of marijuana, the car's license plate came back as stolen. McCaa told police he had paid \$80 to use the car.

A week later, McCaa was arrested for allegedly ransacking cars in Madison.



Jim Ferolie photo

## Getting out the vote, part 1

Volunteers Margaret and Tim Spatola help a pair of area residents register to vote. The voter registration drive, which has had stations at Miller and Sons and the library, is a countywide effort to ease the burden of Election Day registration, when one of the highest turnouts in history is expected for the presidential race. Left, Eric Jones of Verona; and right, Jacob Bemis of Madison.

## Cell phones, iPods top VAHS theft list

By Seth Jovaag  
Unified Newspaper Group

Twenty-two iPods and 14 cell phones were the most commonly stolen items last year at Verona Area High School, according to the school's October newsletter.

Principal Pam Hammen said in the newsletter that 65 items totaling more than \$9,000 were reported stolen to the police-school liaison officer at VAHS in 2007-08.

The thefts also included three graphing calculators,

two digital cameras, two pairs of glasses, a laptop computer, six wallets or purses, seven items of "clothing/jewelry/shoes" and eight "miscellaneous items," Hammen reported. Hammen said theft at VAHS "is not new, it is ongoing," and that most of the thefts occur in locker rooms.

The school is trying to reduce theft by cracking down on loitering, stiffening consequences for thieves, adding hall monitors and commons supervisors, encouraging staff to lock unattended rooms and installing locks in the locker room that are activated on the teacher leaves, she said. Hammen also encouraged parents to tell their student not to bring large sum of cash to school or expensive electronic devices.

"I simply don't want any of our students to be upset at school and unable to focus on learning," she wrote in the newsletter. "I also know that these items are costly, and many cannot afford to replace them once stolen."

**WISH!**  
**PAOLI CHEESE**  
Open 10-6 every day

**ALL CITY**  
A Home Improvement Company  
HOME REMODELING

Family owned since 1934  
**KELENY**  
TOP SOIL