



## Here we go again

The wacky weather continued last week, with six more inches of fresh snow piling on to the mounds we already had on the ground, wind leaving a picturesque layer of frost in the trees and then a dense fog rolling in to keep people stuck at home on Saturday. Pictured here is Harriet Street on Wednesday morning, with Harriet Park's playground in the background. December's record snowfall ended up at more than 36 inches, well over last year's 27.7 inches, according to the National Weather Service. The average December snowfall in the Madison area is just over 10 inches.

Jim Ferolie photo

## Surveys coming in water bills, mail

By Jim Ferolie  
Verona Press editor

The last of three surveys for the city's comprehensive plan is being mailed to city residents this week, and asks for opinions about transportation, the growth of downtown and protecting natural and agricultural resources.

It will be included in fourth-quarter water bills and mailed to apartments. Answers will be used to help define the city's goals and, ultimately, policies as it works on the second phase of the plan.

The first two surveys were distributed last year and asked residents' opinions on housing, growth and economic development, among other things. More than 1,000 people responded to the first survey, but the second was less successful, in part, perhaps, because of its complexity.

Questions have been simplified in an effort to draw wider interest, but as a result, a few of them are less nuanced and perhaps could use some background.

For example, the opening question asks whether the city should seek to limit development outside its borders.

The city has already passed an ordinance with this in mind — enforcing what is known as extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) — but city leaders stated at the time that it was a temporary measure that would be re-evaluated when the comprehensive plan is finished. The current rule prevents any subdivisions within the city's ETJ, which covers the majority of the Town of Verona.

Another question discusses the stormwater utility district that will be studied this year.

Currently, the city's general fund — mostly coming from property taxes — pays for managing stormwater

runoff, which by state law must be controlled for temperature and pollution before being diverted to area rivers and lakes.

State laws are becoming significantly more strict in the next several years, and large expenses are expected as a result. But nonprofit organizations, such as churches, and schools do not pay property taxes, and some of the largest businesses with the biggest parking lots pay a smaller percentage in property taxes than homeowners do relative to the amount of runoff they produce. A stormwater utility would change the formula, but it would also result in a shift of a small amount of homeowners' bills away from tax-deductible property taxes and into a fee.

Another odd-sounding question is the one about wide streets.

Most new two-lane streets in Verona are required to be 36 feet wide, which is significantly wider than many in Madison (some are 28 feet) and wider than some of those in older neighborhoods (from the 1980s and before). Developers that wish to have thinner streets must maintain them privately.

The upside of wider roads, other than a more comfortable feeling while driving on them, is that they provide greater assurances that plows and emergency vehicles will be able to use them during the winter when streams), preservation of historic buildings (which can be demolished virtually at any time by whoever owns them).

The Comprehensive Plan Committee will hold a joint meeting with the Common

Center.

There are vehicles parked along one side. The negative side is that it uses more space, meaning more asphalt, more stormwater runoff and less room for homes. It also tends to encourage drivers to go faster.

An example of a street narrower than 36 feet is North Edge Trail, technically a private street. One that is wider is North Nine Mound Road.

The survey includes a few more questions about downtown, including whether the city should pay to create public parking (most of it currently is owned by businesses), if the city should promote dense condo-style development to increase pedestrian traffic and whether to improve traffic flow on Main Street at the expense of parking.

The question is do we want to create a more urban city center, with more housing units and more businesses?" city planning director Bruce Sylvester explained.

Other questions include one on water usage limits (difficult to enforce but a nod to diminishing groundwater resources), the use of salt in the winter (safer for travel but hard on natural lakes and streams), preservation of historic buildings (which can be demolished virtually at any time by whoever owns them).

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## Police report

Information taken from Verona Police Department reports. Verona residents except as indicated.

**Oct. 23**  
**11 p.m.** A man was found crawling on Paoli Street with his pants and underwear down after a caller reported seeing him and said the man could barely move. He was arrested on probation violation and taken to the Dane County Jail.

**Oct. 24**  
**11 p.m.** A 23-year-old man was cited for disorderly conduct, obstruction and bail jumping after he was confronted by his mother over his use of drugs. He tried to run and was pepper sprayed, then taken by EMS to a hospital and then the Dane County Jail. The assisting officer drove over the home's lawn to help quickly and damaged the grass.

**Oct. 26**  
**12:30 a.m.** A 21-year-old woman from Madison was cited for disorderly conduct after being told to leave Wildcat Lanes and then kicking the door.

**2 a.m.** A 51-year-old man was arrested for battery-domestic and disorderly conduct domestic on the 300 block of Williams after hitting his 43-year-old female roommate. He was taken to the Dane County Jail.

**Oct. 27**  
**10 a.m.** A 15-year-old boy from Fitchburg was cited for disorderly conduct and battery to a school official after he got in a fight with a 17-year-old girl who lives in the same apartment complex and then hit the VAHS principal. The girl was cited for disorderly conduct.

**Oct. 30**  
**Noon** A 55-year-old man and 46-year-old woman were both cited for battery after both went to the police department to report a fight in their apartment on the 400 block of East Verona Avenue.

**10:30 p.m.** A 29-year-old man was cited for public intoxication after he was found incapacitated on the sidewalk outside Cahoots and blew a .27. He was taken to detox.

**11 p.m.** A 24-year-old man was cited for two counts of disorderly conduct-domestic after an incident on the 200 block of Industrial.

**Oct. 31**  
**8:30 a.m.** A spool of copper wire was reported stolen sometime earlier in the week from the K Building at Epic.

**Nov. 2**  
**1 a.m.** Police responded to a fight at Monte's. One fled and two others were taken to a motel in Madison.

**1 p.m.** A caller reported an injured deer with an arrow in its side on Bruce Street. Unable to locate.

**8 p.m.** A 42-year-old man was cited for disorderly conduct-domestic after his ex-girlfriend said he wouldn't leave the house, where their three kids and friends were and he threw a phone book at her. He blew a .38 and was taken to detox.

**12:30 p.m.** A 43-year-old man from Belleville was cited for DWI/1st after a caller reported he was all over the road on County PB. He was taken to Meriter for a blood draw and released to a responsible party.

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