

By the people,  
For the people

Dane County Supervisor, District 27  
Fitchburg Alder, District 1 Seat 1

## Busy times in Fitchburg!

This has been and will be an eventful time in areas I represent, particularly related to the Verona Road Project. A new map and additional info about that on the back page.

We've had a lot of neighborhood and park planning being done, and at least 3 areas where we're looking at industrial development. And we've had many, many ground-breaking's and ribbon-cuttings.

We have a new interchange off Hwy 14 and land being readied for mixed-use development there, and we have exciting potential for new growth and improvement in all areas of the city. But we also have a lot of challenges we need to address as well.



### The High Cost of Ignoring Poverty

However you look at it, poverty is expensive for our communities. You pay though the front end by providing things such as housing, education, and health care. And you pay through the back end with police services, courts and jails. To say nothing of the sense of security we'd all like to enjoy. What can we do to change these facts? More on those issues on the second page inside.



The Dane County Sheriff's Office Tactical Response Team stands at the ready near Fire Station 2 in Fitchburg.



### Neighborhoods

When it comes down to it, vibrant neighborhoods are the key to good communities. When we grow, and connect, good neighborhoods, we impact people's lives in ways that can not be accomplished through any other method.

More on why I feel it's essential to do a better job in neighborhoods, is in my perspective notes inside.



### The Work of County Government

Whether your interest is safety and crime, roads, land use, parks and environment, or quality of life, the work of our county government is incredibly varied.

For an outline of the basics, based on the standing committees of the County Board see page 3 inside.



### Honoring our own

Every year, on Earth Day, environmental cleanup's are organized around a number of our wetland areas.



This year, we were pleased to be able to dedicate a rain garden at the Apache

Pond to a resident of the Belmar neighborhood, David Martin (third from the left), for his long time efforts in the Dunn's Marsh area.



### Arrowhead Redevelopment Plan

Now that design approval of avenues 'A' and 'B' have been awarded, we'll start hearing more about infill development planning for the 260+ acres that comprise the land near Verona Road and McKee Road.

Once we have public roads through the area, parcels can become available for development. My goal is to attract 300-500 full time jobs to the area as a result.

More about that inside as well.



### New Voting Machines



Fitchburg will be using new voting machines starting in 2014 thanks to a cost sharing agreement with Dane County that saves the city half the cost of the new machines.

Dorothy Krause



## From my perspective:

I like to invest my time in the community, listening and absorbing information, talking to people and learning all I need to know to be able to make the best decisions for our society, then sharing what I've learned with others.

People that I meet doing that work get to know me quite well. And the vast majority appreciate what I do, even if it doesn't favor them directly. So, I'll be walking this newsletter around to homes myself, hoping to catch people for a brief visit.

### The High Cost of Ignoring Poverty

Perhaps my biggest concern, as I've grown into this "job" is the cost of the people all around us living in or near poverty. During the recession, as jobs were eliminated, families no longer had enough to meet their most basic needs. Many people even lost their homes.

As homes were foreclosed, those homeowners became renters. Housing got scarce, rents started rising to meet demand, and even less people could afford an apartment.

So we have families doubling up, staying with families or friends, or, in numbers that I am ashamed of, end up living in a car. And stress related issues become a huge, and expensive, factor for all of us.

Then we have the even harder to solve issue of institutional poverty, where generations have come to depend on taxpayer support. And we have increasing problems with crime and drugs in our communities as sources of income.

Roll all that together and you get perhaps the great dilemma of our time...the question of how to solve the seeming unsolvable. We all know much of the answer:

### We Need More Jobs!

Given that jobs are largely created either by the private sector or using government funding, we need to turn to them for more jobs.

But, the private sector cuts expenses however they can, including by eliminating jobs. And taxpayers want to cut government spending. And so, again, the problem seems unsolvable.

One of the answers would be by being intentional about seeking out and providing incentives to businesses that can provide living wage jobs to low income families.

As a start, if we can find at least 300-500 \$12-15 dollar an hour jobs in the Arrowhead Development at the corner of Verona Road and Hwy PD, it would go a long, long way toward helping many of the residents of that area become less dependant on taxpayer support.

Madison College has been approached in discussions with the Fitchburg Economic Development Department about locating a campus building in the Arrowhead Development for job readiness training for area residents and other folks needing industrial education. I would support that.

### Building a Sense of Pride

Sadly, our society sets many people up to fail. If you grew up in a family that didn't provide encouragement to become a productive person, how do you learn that? If you've never owned a house, or a car, or even had a checkbook to balance, how do you learn how to take care of those things?

The goal should be to help people develop pride. Pride of place and ownership, pride of self and family, pride of community and pride of society.

The hard question is how to help grow that pride, in spite of all the issues that people are up against. Pride does not come from being given things, other than opportunities, so the question becomes, "What kind of opportunities can we offer to help our neighbors?"

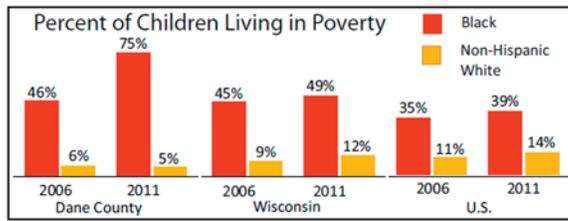
### How Can You Contribute?

Everyone in our community should have an opportunity to become a productive member of our society. We know we need jobs and education, but we also need caring people to invest in the community by sharing their knowledge.

Even things as small as tutoring a parent on the material in the books their children bring home from school, so they can help with their children's education, would go a long way in helping to build pride in a community.

So, the question I'd like to ask you to consider is how might you be able to help someone in the community, with more than a financial donation. There is a huge range of ways that various non-profits would be able to use your talents to help improve our society. Look in your heart for potential.

Paid for by Dorothy Krause.  
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From a 2013 study at <http://racetoequity.net/>  
A project of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families

*As a society, we need to be willing to look at people who are struggling to meet their basic needs.*



I am delighted to be able to serve on the following committees:

On the Dane County Board of Supervisors:

- Health and Human Needs Committee
- Poverty Commission
- Specialized Transportation Commission
- Long Term Support Committee
- Land Conservation Committee
- Airport Commission
- Dane County Development Corporation Board of Directors

On the Fitchburg Common Council:

- Public Safety and Human Services
- Board of Public Works

# Quick County Government Primer

County services promote health, welfare, and safety for all Dane County Residents. Services are provided in the areas of general government, public safety, courts, highways and transportation, health and human services, recreation and education, conservation, and economic development.

All areas of county government are supervised by one of the seven standing committees which include:

## Public Protection & Judiciary Committee

Acts as the supervisory committee for the corporation counsel, family court commissioner, family court counseling service, public safety communications center, the juvenile court program, emergency management department and on all matters pertaining to telecommunications and emergency medical services; acts as the policy oversight committee for the commission on sensitive crimes, Dane County Local Emergency Planning Committee, offices of sheriff, medical examiner, district attorney and clerk of courts, and the Dane County court system; concerns itself with enforcement of Dane County ordinances.



## Health & Human Needs Committee

Monitors, coordinates and advises the county board on all aspects of human service policy and delivery in Dane County, and: acts as the supervisory committee for the offices of the Dane County Youth Commission, the commission on aging, the veterans service office and the human services department; acts as the policy oversight committee for the Dane County Housing Authority; and acts as the policy oversight committee for the specialized transportation commission.



## Environment, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

Supervisory committee for extension, land conservation, and the lakes & watershed commission. Act as the policy oversight committee for the Dane County Parks Commission, and the Dane County Humane Society. Advises the county board on all matters relating to agriculture and the conservation of natural and environmental resources. Provides policy direction and guides implementation of the Dane County Land Use and Transportation Plan. Cooperates with the Dane County Board of Health, the Dane County Regional Plan Commission, the Wisconsin Department of Commerce and the Department of Natural Resources on all matters relating to water resources and pollution control, as appropriate.



## Public Works & Transportation Committee

Act as the supervisory committee for the department of public works, highway and transportation, the Dane County Parking Ramp, the facilities management division, and the Alliant Energy Center of Dane County. Act as the policy oversight committee for the Dane County Regional Airport Commission, the solid waste and recycling commission, the Dane County Zoo

Commission, the Dane County Regional Plan Commission (with respect to transportation matters) and all rail transit commissions to which the county is a party.



## Zoning & Land Regulation

The zoning & land regulation committee has the duty and responsibility to: Act as the supervisory committee for the planning and development department, including survey, zoning, tax description and plat review functions. Act as the policy oversight committee for register of deeds, the Dane County Board of Adjustment and the Dane County Regional Planning Commission (with respect to land use matters), and zoning and land use regulations activities for lakes management. Fulfill the zoning and subdivision control powers and duties enumerated in chapters 10, 74, 75 and 76, D.C. Ords. Advise the county board on all matters relating to zoning, land use and land regulation. Report to the county board regarding all proposed cemetery maps and plats.



## Personnel & Finance Committee

Has the duty and responsibility to: consider and make recommendations to the county board on matters relating to county finances including the annual county budget. Acts as the supervisory committee for the department of administration, and as the policy oversight committee for the offices of the county clerk, county treasurer, the Dane County Library Board, the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, affirmative action commission and the civil service commission; concerns itself with wages, benefits, hours and conditions of employment for all county employees; concerns itself with matters relating to banks, bonds, the collection of delinquent taxes and the sale of tax-deeded properties.



## Executive Committee

Acts as the principal policy body of the County Board, and has oversight of the county board office and staff, and also functions as the County Board's legislative committee, establishing county positions on state and federal legislative issues. The committee also: acts as the principal policy arm of the county board during the formulation of the county's annual budget; reviews and makes recommendations to the public protection and judiciary committee for proposed changes to county board; oversees program reviews and audits conducted by county board staff or contractors, and review the results thereof; and reviews and makes recommendations on those county executive appointments which are subject to county board confirmation. Where appropriate, the committee may hold hearings on such appointments.



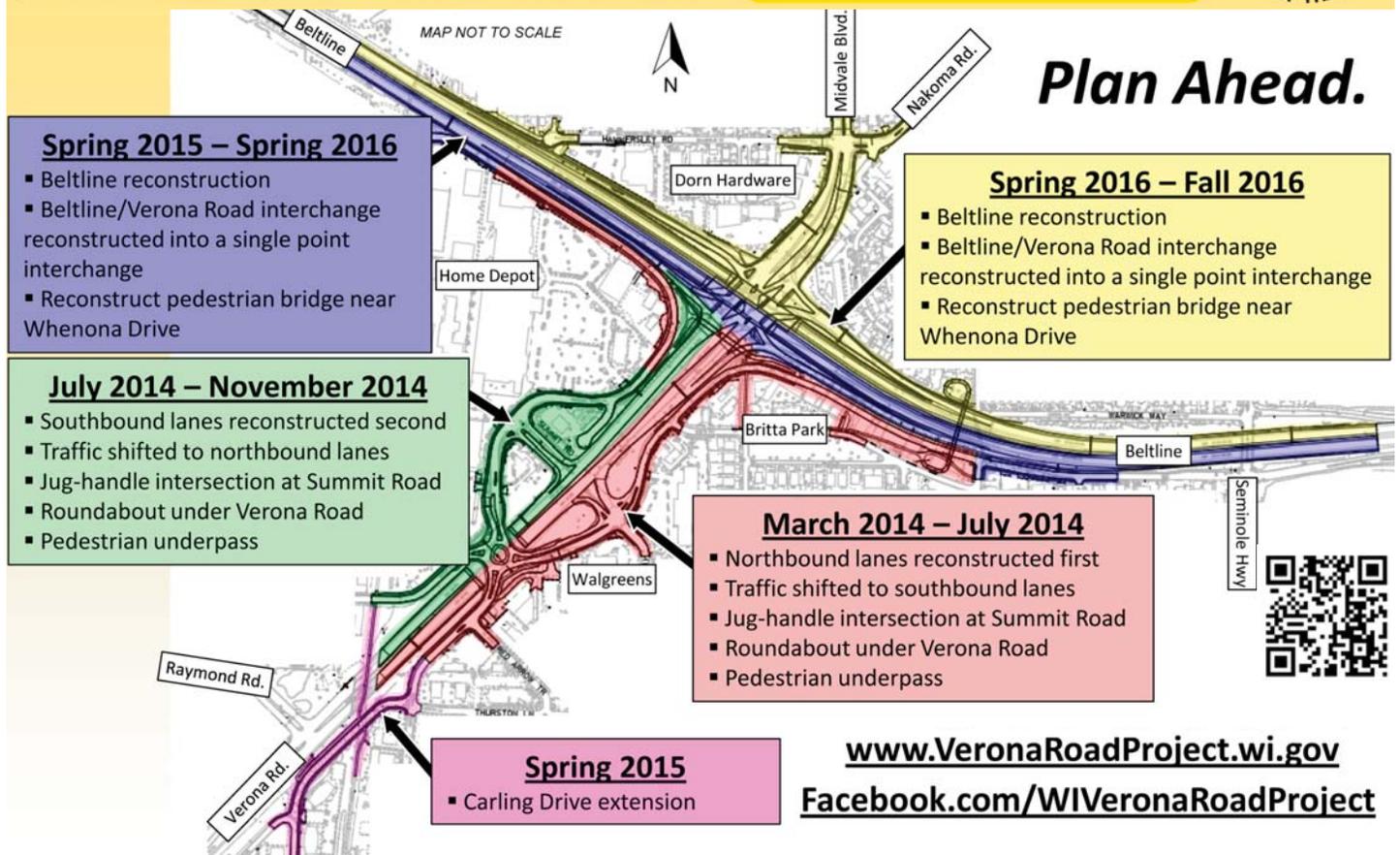
See <http://www.countyofdane.com/committees/> for a complete list of 100+ county committees in which you have an opportunity to participate.

# Construction events

**Beltline:** Whitney Way to Seminole Highway  
**Verona Road:** Raymond Road to Nakoma Road



## Plan Ahead.



[www.VeronaRoadProject.wi.gov](http://www.VeronaRoadProject.wi.gov)  
[Facebook.com/WIVeronaRoadProject](https://www.facebook.com/WIVeronaRoadProject)

## Verona Road Project

With the summer construction season and preparation for the Verona Road project nearly over this year, here is what we can look forward to in the future:

Next year, Verona Road will be reconstructed in two stages, between the beltline and Raymond Road, beginning in March.

First, the northbound half will be constructed, with all traffic on the southbound side, with 2 lanes in each direction. Then, traffic will be shifted to the new northbound lanes while the southbound side is constructed.

Computerized drive time signs will be erected in a number of locations to keep people informed of travel conditions on an up to the minute basis.

Improvements to outlying anticipated alternate routes as well the addition of sound walls along the beltline will continue next year.

The bike/ped bridge over McKee road is scheduled for completion by Memorial Day and the Cannonball path will be paved by the end of July next year. Having the bridge will make biking safer and less concerning all around for both bikers and drivers.

After that will be two years of working on the beltline itself, including replacement of the bridges over Verona Road and replacing the bike/ped bridge between Verona Road and Seminole Highway.

In 2017 work on Verona Road at Williamsburg Way as well as HWY PD/McKee Road will begin.

**Completed this year:**

- Replacing the Seminole Highway bridge and improving eastbound Seminole on-ramp
- Widening southbound Verona Road, to prepare to take traffic next year.
- Adding temporary local access under Verona Road at bike path
- Installing stop lights on Seminole Highway at both Sentinel Pass and Yuma/Nakoma
- Improvements on Seminole at Lacy, and Hwy M
- Significant storm-water improvements in many areas.

## For more information:

1. Complete information available on the Verona Road Project website
2. Follow frequent updates on the Facebook page
3. Scan the QR code box above with your smartphone.



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