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# 120 kids complete anti-drug program

**By Gail Perry**  
In a special ceremony Thursday for successfully completing the Madison Police Department's Blue Ribbon Partnership summer program.

Most of the children who took part in the seven-week program were residents of the Vera Court neighborhood or lived on the city's south side.

At a midmorning graduation event at Mendota School, 4802 School Rd., at least 16 children from the Vera Court neighborhood were awarded completion certificates. At an afternoon session, children living on the south side were given their graduation certificates during a reception at the South Madison Neighborhood Center.

In addition to the certificates, children received blue T-shirts that identified them as participants in the summer program. The children also had a chance to see their pictures taken with Police Chief David Cooper during the graduation ceremony.

Cooper congratulated the children for completing the summer program. He said it's important to know good safety habits and to know how to make the right safety choices.

Delicia Jones, 9, from Milwaukee, proudly showed her certificate to her parents. She said the summer program was really nice.

Some of the children in the program I already know, but also made new friends," she said.

Jones said she learned how to say no to gangs and drugs from being in the program. "If someone offers me drugs, or wants me to join a gang, I will tell them no and run away from them," she said.

Johnny Clay, 11, said he learned "how to keep my temper and to just say no to drugs and gangs."

He said he liked the fact that instructors took the children to different places. "I felt that they understood me," he said.

The program was funded under the city's federal "Wood and Lee" grant money. The Blue Ribbon Partnership seeks to give children an alternative to their normal summer activities.



Madison police officer Mike Enter takes a Polaroid picture of Ashley Moncrief, 6, and Chief David Cooper.

Madison police officer Mike Enter takes a Polaroid picture of Ashley Moncrief, 6, and Chief David Cooper during the graduation from the Blue Ribbon Partnership summer program.

# Fitchburg to vote on cat controls

**By Thomas B. Fitchburg**  
FITCHBURG — A proposed cat control ordinance that would allow Fitchburg police to control lower cats could increase the county's feline euthanasia rate.

In a proposal to the City Council, Fitchburg animal control officer Dan Saboff said he has seen growing problems with cats running loose in the city, barking and digging, and killing and eating small animals.

The proposal has been assigned to the city's Public Safety and Human Services Committee and will be discussed before the City Council for a vote on Tuesday.

These animals will attack baby birds in the nest, as well as kill young rabbits and squirrels," Saboff said. "It's important that Fitchburg police be trained to distinguish between domestic and feral felines before picking them up and bringing them to a wild cat."

She added that while Madison has a similar ordinance, Fitchburg could be more difficult to enforce because the city is roughly 60 percent rural and it becomes more difficult to identify a wild cat.

"That would also be tough for us because rural cat owners don't get worried about their missing cats for days sometimes," Paul Long said. "That means we have to keep them longer and that adds to our stress level."

"We have our no-kill policy right now," said Human Society Director Mary Paul Long. "If strictly enforced, this would certainly add to our stress level and our load and our euthanasia rate would go up."

Currently, the society kills an average of 2,000 stray or unwanted cats each year. Most of those are feral, or not suitable for adoption. Paul Long said Saboff's proposal could also set off sparks among Fitchburg cat owners, many of whom allow their cats to roam freely outside.

"If this proposal is adopted it will be similar to ordinances in cities which are not under human supervision and those stray cats will then be transported to the Dane County Humane Society for proper care," Saboff wrote.

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# FOOTLOOSE

## After 50 years of neglect, Starkweather to get its due

**By Mike Ivey**  
The little east-side working class street has been neglected, almost largely neglected over the past half century.

Menasha, Black Earth Creek has become the glimmer stream of Dane County, as trout fishermen and environmentalists have fought to keep it clean.

Black Earth Creek even made the cover of this spring's *Life* magazine, which isn't like making the cover of *Life* magazine probably as much publicity as any stream could hope for.

But this fall Starkweather will finally get the badly needed attention.

A joint project between the city of Madison and the Department of Natural Resources is aimed at cleaning up Starkweather Creek downstream from Milwaukee Street to its mouth at Lake Monona at Oberlin Park.

The cleanup — which includes dredging and removal of contaminated bottom sediment, stream bank improvements and landscaping — is a pilot project by the DNR.

"It was a first to find out what it takes to rehabilitate a contaminated urban waterway," said DNR project manager Bill Fitzpatrick. "Success here can hopefully be applied elsewhere to help other Wisconsin communities restore polluted waterways."

Dredging of the creek will begin in mid-October and should take about a month, said Mike Dalrymple of the city Engineering Department. Fall is the best time to do the work because water levels are low and the banks are dry enough to support the heavy machinery.

"This the kids will be in school and won't be standing around watching," Dalrymple said.

Originally scheduled for last year, the project hasn't come off without a hitch. There were delays while the city looked for an appropriate place to dump some 1,000 cubic yards of polluted bottom sediment. That's enough to cover a football field 30 feet deep.

Since the sediment contains high levels of mercury, lead, zinc, oil and grease, it will be hauled to the ground near the Biederfeld landfill.

"It's an isolated spot so there shouldn't be any problems," Dalrymple said. Monitoring wells already in place at Biederfeld should help determine whether any pollutants are leaching into the groundwater.

Also, residents living along Starkweather Creek have been concerned about all the new city plans to spend \$80,000 landscaping along the creek, planting new trees and bushes.

"That is something the neighborhood can help with," Dalrymple said. That would include donations or help with tree planting. There are also plans for improved hiking and biking trails along the creek.

It's hoped the project will immediately improve water quality in the stream and eventually to Lake Monona. Mercury contamination of the lake's large walleyes, which are under a consumption ban, has been traced in part to contaminated creek sediment.

Fishing could also improve in Starkweather Creek itself, which is now known mostly for its large carp and bottom feeders.

"The fishery could be greatly improved if habitat were restored and favorable oxygen levels maintained year-round," Fitzpatrick said. Starkweather Creek has a long and dismal

history of human abuse. Before and during World War II, household wastewater was dumped into the west branch of the Biederfeld Creek.

This practice was stopped after the war, but the Clear Water Co. bought the plant for industrial wastewater pretreatment and discharged processed water.

The high levels of mercury, zinc and lead now found in the creek's bottom are likely from those past discharges as well as from stormwater and other runoff.

Could there come a day when canoeists and anglers flock to Starkweather Creek? Perhaps not.

"If the project is successful, water here will likely be fished elsewhere in the state," Wagon Creek (called Murphy Creek by city officials), could certainly use some attention.

Wagon Creek (called Murphy Creek by city officials), could certainly use some attention.

That north-side stream is full of tires and old shopping carts and who knows what else litters the surface.

**Green Team pollution:** McDonald's has pulled an environmental booby-trap by advertising that its Chicago basketball cups are recyclable.

City recycling guru George Treckmann realized the error on a recent loop stop. He says the plastic cups featuring Michael and Magi are not made of recyclable plastic.

"I pulled up the McDonald's chain of command and got them to pull the ads," he said.

To eliminate any confusion about what plastics are recyclable and what aren't, Treckmann said it's probably best to ignore the triangle symbols on the bottom of the cup and judge a bottle by what comes in it.

For the record, all plastic soda and milk bottles are OK. So are detergent and other laundry products. You can also recycle used windshield wiper fluid bottles.

The forget about the rest of the plastics. That would include cottage cheese containers, ice cream cartons and cooking oil bottles.

Treckmann also said the city is still struggling to find markets for all the stuff it collects from Madison's concerned citizens.

One solution, Treckmann said, would be to buy recycled plastic and crushed glass instead of gravel for road beds. Crushed glass could be used as a road substrate in asphalt.

Business could also use recycled glass for drainage fields around homes.

"If we could get the highway and construction people to start using recycled glass, we wouldn't have a problem getting rid of it," Treckmann said.

**Kidly about:** The last year to enter a new generation of gas users is to get the kids started early.

So a company out of Denver is marketing a "Quadrant" rifle to help youngsters learn to handle a weapon.

Accurate and hitting moving targets consistently and accurately without aiming or sighting continues to create a shooting dilemma each year for thousands of young shooters," the company says.

Being a target hasn't been a problem in cities like Chicago, where more than 250 teenagers and children were killed by gunfire last year.

The Quadrant literature says, "It's exciting to see shooters shoot and explode Air-Master targets and even more fun to learn how to shoot.

"Annex Oakley Rifle."

Perhaps the company will soon come out with a video for urban handgun use so kids can learn to shoot accurately in city grounds and school parking lots.

# Man faces 10 charges in wife beating

**The Capital Times**  
A Madison man who allegedly threatened and beat his wife was charged with 10 criminal charges Thursday.

Marcus Burruss, 28, of 9 Merrill Crest Dr., was charged with battery, false imprisonment, criminal trespass, four counts of felony bail jumping, and three counts of misdemeanor bail jumping.

Burruss, who remains in jail on \$1700 cash bail, has pending charges of battery and strangling a female document in Dane County Circuit Court.

According to a criminal complaint, police were called to the woman's apartment at 2115 Alford Drive shortly after 7 a.m. Tuesday after Burruss allegedly pulled from his car a firearm to kill her.

Police were called back to the scene about 10:15 p.m. and found the woman unconscious outside the building. Witnesses told police Burruss had hit her several times, after she had tried to keep him away from the couple's 6-year-old child.

Burruss then allegedly kicked her after he knocked her to the ground, then got in his car and drove away, the complaint states.

The woman was treated at a local hospital and then returned home.

However, at 4:05 a.m. police were called back after Burruss allegedly broke into the apartment through a window, held the woman with a sharp object stuck in her back, and ordered her to tell neighbors outside her window that she was OK.

Burruss then allegedly ordered her to give him money and her rings, but she refused and was able to escape and jump out a window, which he again held with the point inside the window.

Burruss was then arrested.

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