

Town of Madison

November 2003

# Reporter



## State Approves Cooperative Plan

Last November, the City of Madison, City of Fitchburg and the Town of Madison entered into a Boundary Agreement that established long-term boundaries and eliminated decades of annexation battles. The final step in this accord was the drafting of the state-required Cooperative Plan. On October 10, 2003 the Department of Administration gave its formal approval of the Plan.

The Department said the agreement and plan has "made Wisconsin history" and represents a "willingness to engage in effective and collaborative problem-solving." They added that it was "innovative" and "clearly a team effort on the part of all three communities," and that it will serve as "a useful guide for other jurisdictions with a history of complicated intergovernmental interactions." Highlights of the agree-

ment and plan are:

- The Town will remain a town for twenty years, and except as noted below, the Town will remain intact during this period.
- Three early annexations are permitted: Arboretum lands owned by the UW (not resident homes); the Genesis property on the West Beltline and the Mortenson Investment Group office park.
- Up to three additional annexations are permitted if they are part of a Tax Incremental District or Redevelopment Plan.
- The Town's financial health is protected by revenue sharing payments from these early annexations.
- At the end of twenty years, there will be an orderly transition, with some lands going to Madison and

some to Fitchburg.

- Town employees gain job security in the form of continued employment or severance benefits.
  - The agreement provides a mechanism for joint land use decision making among the three communities.
- We believe the agreement and plan creates an environment where issues and problems can be resolved free of annexation politics. It replaces costly and wasteful confrontation with cooperation and will facilitate further agreements for services among the three municipalities.

Copies of the agreement, plan and the state's approval are available at the town hall. Call the Town Business Office at 210-7260 during normal business hours for more information.

**Jim Campbell**  
Town Chairman