

April 2022 Update

Regarding the theme "Curated Community Information Hub":

After several discussions, there is support for both a personal approach and digital approach to make information about Madison resources and events more accessible to more Madison residents.

The personal approach would establish a volunteer group of "Madison Hosts". A Madison Host volunteer would be available to meet with new or current residents to exchange Madison stories and share information that will help the resident connect to Madison quickly and feel welcome. This community service project is just starting to be designed and we would appreciate input from the public or interested organizations.

The digital approach we believe involves finding an efficient way to link well established Madison information websites to a number of Facebook groups that engage different community groups. Efficiency and control are driving this discussion. We are in the process of coordinating a meeting between one of the website owners and the administrator of one of the larger Facebook groups that will hopefully define a workable solution.

Regarding the theme "Making Madison a More Vibrant Community for All":

The community relations meeting between the Madison Police and members of Madison's

Hispanic community that was referenced in our March update is in the process of being scheduled. The plan is to hold this meeting following a Spanish Mass at St. Vincent's.

In May, we intend to bring together a group to discuss formalizing an outreach group that could provide on-going support to Hispanic students and adults. We are working with Superintendent of Schools Mark Schwarz on this effort.

Regarding the theme "Expanding Mental Health Services":

In our March update, we referenced the rollout of a new program for Seniors called WISE, or Wellness Initiative for Senior Education. <u>The flyer</u> describes the program. At the end of the inaugural Grow Better meeting the participants agreed that we needed to own efforts that address identified needs. The first class in the six-class series is scheduled for April 22nd and registrations are needed keep the schedule. Anyone interested is invited to contact Sarah Jacob, the program coordinator, whose contact information is in the flyer.