

Autumn 2021

Rutland Newsletter



Hello Rutland,

It has been a pleasure getting to know many Rutland area residents while serving on the Dane County Broadband Task Force. The task force was created through resolution [2020 RES-415](#) and outlines the work the task force will do over the course of the next year including: collect data, research and explore various funding mechanisms, partner with stakeholders to identify where broadband access is and is not, explore alternative solutions, and make recommendations to the County Board on the role of Dane County in facilitating the expansion of broadband services to residents. I have learned many valuable details about your personal internet challenges and struggles that will ultimately benefit in the overall understanding of the “rural divide” with internet access. The importance of *reliable* internet was surely exemplified during the pandemic. Our rural lifestyles (even though close to Madison) certainly have been profoundly affected throughout the pandemic resulting from unreliable internet services. Personally, I view internet as a utility – much like electricity – and will advocate that we ALL must have reasonably priced, reliable internet. If you haven’t yet shared your internet story and would like to, please give me a call. More information about the Dane County Broadband Task Force can be found here:

<https://board.countyofdane.com/initiatives/Broadband-TaskForce>.

I would like to highlight a wonderful, enriching resource that many Rutland residents may benefit from by visiting and getting to know better. I have become acquainted with The Oregon Area Senior Center, and its director, Rachel Brickner, in several ways. First, I have been a member of the Oregon Area Municipal Committee for about 3 years where neighboring municipalities collaborate and discuss senior needs. Secondly, I have participated in several activities and programs at the Oregon Area Senior Center myself. The center is a wonderful place to maintain health and fitness, as well as to enjoy a variety of enrichment classes. Consider subscribing to the *Rome Corners Reporter* for current information and updates. This can be accessed at: oasc1980@gmail.com. The Oregon Area Senior Center provides all case management, transportation needs and food distribution for the Town of Rutland. Plan on soon hearing more about the Oregon Area Senior Center as plans for a new facility may be in the future. The Oregon Area Senior Center is open from 8:30am – 3:00pm Monday-Friday. Their phone number is (608) 835-5801. Please refer to attached informational brochure.

Keep in mind that all seniors are welcome to attend classes and events at any senior center. Stoughton also offers a comprehensive newsletter describing social and recreational events. Their publication titled *Yahara Senior News* can be accessed online or is available at the Stoughton Area Senior Center. stoughtonseniorcenter.com

**All Rutland residents need to be advised of the upcoming 2022 assessment revaluation, which is required by law. We are holding a public information presentation on Tuesday, October 26th at 6:00PM at our town hall. This educational meeting will be presented by Rutland's assessor, Gardiner Appraisal Service LLC. There will be a question and answer session. I hope to see you at this important program! **

Sincerely,

Deana M. Zentner
Chairperson (608)575-3420