

Hello Rutland Neighbors,



- Many of you are familiar with the trails along the Badfish Creek, one of our best resources. The Badfish is a popular waterway for paddlers, and the creek and trails are used often for hunting, fishing and hiking. The trails have been recently mowed by **Jim Post**, a member of **Friends of the Badfish Creek Watershed** (<https://www.facebook.com/BadfishCreekWatershed>), and are now walkable after becoming quite overgrown over the summer. If

you're not familiar with the trails, there are trailheads with parking at Old Stone Road just east of Lake Kegonsa Road, and Old Stage Road just west of Danks Road.

It's advisable to check the hunting seasons at [DNR](#) before using the trails.

Thank you Jim Post!

- The **Broadband Task Force**, chaired by Joshua Cooper, has been hard at work to improve internet access in the Town. Joshua provides the following update:

“Dear residents,

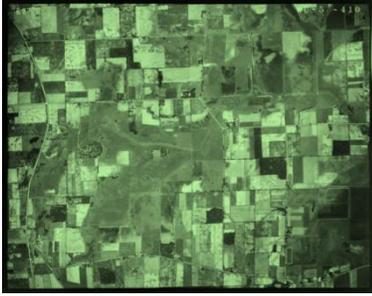
We are excited to provide some significant updates regarding broadband efforts in our town. Firstly, Dane County has introduced Jaron McCallum as our new Broadband Coordinator, who will play a pivotal role in liaising between us and the county's broadband initiatives. As per the draft report from AECOM, which will be finalized in the upcoming Dane County's Broadband Task Force meeting on September 7th, it has been understood that direct local applications for BEAD grants will not be possible. Instead, funding will flow through MadRep (a regional organization comprising multiple counties), then Dane County, and subsequently to our town. We are exploring the possibility of collaborating with service providers to present plans to the county for efficient broadband deployment.

Additionally, a Broadband Ordinance has been initiated, enabling our town to apply for state Broadband Forward certification. While this certification is distinct from BEAD funding, it sends a clear message to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) that our town is poised and ready for their services. Further, soon the Dane County Broadband Task Force will release maps showcasing current broadband speeds in our region. When available, we'll need to review and provide feedback on these, ensuring that the Dane County Broadband Task Force has accurate data for informed decision-making.

Thank you for your patience and support as we continue to work diligently towards improved broadband access for all residents. - Joshua Cooper”

And thanks to Joshua and the rest of the task force for their efforts.





- **The Comprehensive Plan Task Forces** has begun the process of updating the Plan in consultation with the Capitol Area Regional Planning Commission. As we work on collecting data and graphics, we are interested in **including some historical photos of the area** to show how it's changed over the years. If you or your family have old photos of early farms – especially aerial photos – we'd love to be able to include these. More instructions on how to send them will accompany a community survey, which will help collect more information about Rutland residents' wishes, concerns, and opinions.

- As we continue to experience hot and dry weather, please watch for the new **Burning Ordinance** to be posted on the Town website.

Help spread the word by asking a few of your neighbors to sign up for this newsletter at <https://town.rutland.wi.us/subscribe-to-updates/>, to help us all stay well-informed and involved. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the Chair.

Thank you.

Kent Knutson, Chair, Town of Rutland.
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Office hours at the Town Hall, Mondays and Tuesdays 6:30 – 9am for drop-in and Mondays 4 – 6:30pm **by appointment.**

