

Hello Rutland Friends and Neighbors:



Over the past 2 years I have been working hard to get more people involved with the town's activities, decision-making, and resident concerns. Many volunteers have stepped up to participate and broaden the discussion about town issues. As 2024 draws to a close I would like to thank them and highlight their successes. Together we have accomplished many things that benefit all of us, and I'd like to invite you to be part of this process in 2025.

Here are some of the highlights:

Joshua Cooper has led our efforts to improve broadband access. Although the Town is not currently selected to receive funding, the Broadband Task Force is continuing to apply for the next round of upcoming grants. **Josh and Derek Nedveck** have a couple of suggestions in the meantime:

Four Lakes Broadband: Offers speeds of 30 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload, but some report lower speeds.

Starlink: Provides around 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload (higher speeds of 180 Mbps download have been seen as well). Reliable, but clear sky view needed for installation.

Verizon Business 5G/LTE: 5g that offers 100mbps or 200mbps, requiring a business account setup.

THANK YOU JOSH AND DEREK.

Supervisor Nancy Nedveck has led the effort to spruce up historic Graves Cemetery.

Todd Hanson, our Patrolmen **Chester Ace** and **Dave Mikkelson** and I have spent a lot of time over the past couple

of months removing dirt piles, trimming trees, hauling trash, and seeding grass for next spring. We can now see the graves in the southwest corner and the sign will be touched up. Drive by after dusk and you'll see our cemetery sparking with small solar lights to brighten the winter. There is still more to do - would you like to help?



The Friends of the Badfish Creek Watershed have turned a piece of unused property into a beautiful new canoe landing on County A just west of Gallagher Lane. This small parcel of land, acquired by Rutland last spring in a collaboration with Madison Metropolitan Sewerage and FBCW, sits along the creek, a popular

destination for paddlers drawn to its steadily flowing waters and natural beauty. The newly-christened **Paddle Badfish Creek CTH A Canoe Landing** enhances the area's appeal for outdoor enthusiasts while preserving its ecological integrity and moving creek access away from the CTH A right-of-way. Volunteers included **Ralph Erickson, Andy and Casey Hoernemann, Kathy and Henri Dutilly, Lynne and Bob Diebel, Paul Garrison, Gail Simpson, Doug Read, Jim Post, and Ken Baun**. This was accomplished at no cost to the Town, and donations were generously provided by:

Stoughton Area Community Foundation

Off Road Trails grant

Thrivent

Agrecol - Native Plants

K&D Stone - Gravel Donation

Oregon Nature Alliance - Native Plants

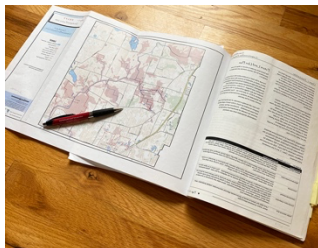
Tangeman Tree Care



Please check out the transformation of this wonderful new public space.

For the past 18 months the Comprehensive Plan Task Force (Bill Boerigter, Josh Cooper, Jim Huycke, Derek Nedveck, Nancy Nedveck, Bonnie Larson, Gail Simpson, Peter Vanderveer, Chair Knutson) has been meeting with Caitlin Shanahan and Sean Higgins of the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission, as well as Majid Allen of Dane County Zoning. Thanks also to Bruce Sime for helping to identify prime farmland and areas of potential growth.

Majid has shared his expertise in leading us through land use topics, Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) and insight on the CUP process. He has shared with us what other townships have done and discussed which areas of our comprehensive plan need clarification. **Please watch the Town website for upcoming open house or town meetings.**



Thanks to Chris and Kathy Ziemba for their ongoing work restoring and maintaining our historic Rutland Center Church at 4528 Rome Corners Road. The Church is available for rentals: See the Town website under the “Community” tab.

The Town has made some positive changes on behalf of road safety and preservation:

This past summer the Town Board worked with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to review their strict guidelines for setting speed limits on town roads. At the recommendation of the DOT the speed limit was reduced to 35mph on portions of Old Stage, Old Stone, all of Center Rd., Oak Lane and Biglow.



Please feel free to take a look at the **Speed Comparison** document, comparing August 2024 (posted speed was 45 MPH) to October 2024 (posted speed is 35 mph) on the Rutland website, under the “Roads” Tab ([ROADSTUDY](#)). Since lowering the speed limits the number of vehicles traveling over 46 mph has **decreased from 52% to 30%**. The number of vehicles traveling **under 45 mph has increased from 47% to 68%**. There are days when we have recorded more than 1,100 vehicles per day on Old Stage Road, and the speed board only records vehicles traveling in one direction.

This past summer we also participated in the WisDOT culvert inventory. We identified all of the culverts that measure 6 feet to 20 feet in width. The next step will be to check the condition of each culvert in the Town, getting pictures and a more detailed map to assist in planning as well as working with the DOT to address any current or potential culvert issues. Please use this link to view the culverts that are being checked ([CULVERTS](#)).

Class B Weight Limits: We need to protect our roads. As I have stated in a previous newsletter Rutland has spent more than \$2,000,000.00 for the past 5 years on road repair. I asked **James Huycke** of the Planning Commission to put together a document that people could view that discussed how to protect our roads. ([WEIGHTLIMITS](#)). After going through the data the Planning Commission suggested that we change a few of our roads to a Class B weight limit. The goal is to help reduce the traffic that cuts through the Town looking for a shortcut, especially semis that cut off on Old Stage Road and skip over to 138. As I have said earlier, some days THERE ARE OVER 1,100 VEHICLES TRAVELING IN ONE DIRECTION ON SOME OF OUR ROADS. On December 1 I saw a fully loaded semi of Christmas trees going down Old Stage Road from 14 to 138. If a semi is making a delivery to a resident in the town of Rutland, this does not affect them at all. Businesses are still able to do their normal pick up and deliveries in the Town. This also does not affect farmers hauling grain or manure for local deliveries. If any farmers have concerns I have a letter that the driver can carry that specifically says that the local farmer is exempt. Please email me and I will get you the document.

You will still see large sewage haulers from Madison Metro Sewage making deliveries to our local fields. They will not be traveling down 14 to Old Stage, to 138 to a farm on the east side. Those trucks will now be going through Stoughton and staying on the State and County roads to get to their destination to the east side of 138.

We have worked with the town of Dunkirk regarding the changes to our mutual roads: All of Old Stage, Old Stone, Bass Lake, and Danks Road. Also Biglow to catch the traffic using the roundabout off of 92 and 14. The board voted to put this in place starting December 1, 2024. I wanted to wait till most of the harvesting was done to help reduce some of the confusion.

You will still see the Spring weight limits placed on the roads due to the Spring thaw. Our patrolmen work with the DOT to make those determinations.

ATV/UTV Routes are now available in Rutland: After requests from ATV/UTV riders in and around the Town, the Board voted to permit these vehicles to use Town roads for recreational purposes. The guidelines for their use can be viewed under the Ordinances tab on the Town's website.

From the Collection Committee: "The Collection Center Staff and Committee thank you, the residents of the Town of Rutland, that used the Collection Center this past year. We especially thank you for being courteous and understanding of the improvements made at the Center this year.

An issue that faced the Collection Center this past year is the increased quantity of mattresses and box springs brought in. Unfortunately, this has led to an increased disposal cost for the Center. In order to address the increased cost to the Town, the Board voted to increase the fees to \$25.00 each for mattress and \$25.00 each for box spring starting January 1, 2025.

Another item we need to address is the illegal dumping along town roads of many different items in lieu of bringing them to the Center. This is illegal but if you notice such items please contact our town patrolmen to have them properly disposed of. The patrolmen can highlight the areas for observation and possible investigation for locating those responsible. It would also make it easier on the attendants at the Center in not having to make trusting judgments on accepting these items."

Thank you Supervisor Jim Dorn and Norm Arendt for your hard work.

The new Town Hall and Garage are underway! Drive by and see the progress.

The steel frame is up and siding and roofing are being applied this month. Thanks to a grant written by **Supervisor Mark Porter the Town was awarded \$300,000 in funding** towards the construction of our building. We hope to use some of the money to purchase the necessary furniture and audiovisual equipment so that staff and residents have a functional place to work, vote, and meet. We'll use the balance to pay down on the loan that we have. Thanks to all the residents who supported the effort to replace our worn building with a space we can all use and be proud of.



Happy New Year and I look forward to working with you in 2025.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the Chair.

Thank you.

Kent Knutson, Chair, Town of Rutland. chairknutson@town.rutland.wi.us