



**Waunakee
Rotary
Club**

**March 18, 2010
Vol. 43 No. 30**

As Dane County's demographics change, housing and transportation choices will change as well.

Steve Steve of 1,000 Friends of Wisconsin, an appointee to the Dane County Regional Transit Authority (RTA), discussed how he sees the future of regional transit.

In the 1950s, 55 percent of Dane County's population was married with children, and the average household had more than three members. Senior citizens accounted for 300,000 of the county's population, Steve said.

By 2030, another million senior citizens will be counted and only 25 percent of households will comprise families with children. At that point, the average household size will be 2.3 people.

With the increase in those over 65 and smaller families, the trend will be toward smaller homes and people living near where they work or desiring transit, Steve said.

Steve noted that the current state transportation budget is \$4 billion per year, and taxpayers fund 40 percent the road portion of it.

Currently, the state is at a crisis point with transportation funding, Steve said. Funding from the gas tax is decreasing due to more efficient cars. That's led to talk of toll roads. At the current pace, the state will have to decide whether to provide either less funding for roads or increase taxes. The future of transit is also bleak under the current funding

system, and the choices are similar: either cut back or increase the fares.

That's why a proposal to create regional transit authorities gained approval from the state Legislature, Steve noted.

The RTA recently met for the first time, and so far, one thing is clear: the members intend to move ahead only with a transportation plan that has been approved in a referendum, Steve said. The RTA has the authority to levy up to a half cent sales tax, but Steve said initially, the tax could be less.

"The way to go about justifying the increase would be to come up with a plan showing how we want to spend the money," Steve said.

Currently, RTA members are gathering public input about what the communities within the Dane County RTA boundary want. Steve said although he served on the Transport 2020 committee, he has not made up his mind about rail.

"We need to take a look at what the demands of the community are," Steve said.

In other news:

•Phil and Char Brereton of the Lodi Rotary Club said that club's smelt fry is set for March 24 and April 14 at the Northern Edge. It is one of that club's major fundraisers.

•A 10 a.m. time has been set for the Easter Egg Hunt on March 27.

Guests: Todd Herbrand, guest

OFFICERS

TOM REIS, PRESIDENT • BRENT ZIEGLER, PRESIDENT ELECT
PHIL WILLEMS, CLUB SECRETARY
BOB PULVERMACHER, RECORDING SECRETARY • AL DASSOW, TREASURER

DIRECTORS

ELLEN SCHAAF • JOHN CULLEN • LINDA OLSON

Calendar of Events:

- May 17, Jachin Jordan Golf Outing a Bishop's Bay
- March 27, Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m

of Brent Ziegler; Scott Sanford, guest of Drew Lawrence; Roxanne Johnson, guest of Harriet Statz.

Visiting Rotarians: Phil and Char Brereton, Lodi.

Birthdays: None.

Anniversaries: None.

Prayers: March 18, Pat Durden; March 25, Susan Vergeront; April 1, Leonard Allen.

Programs: March 18, Randy Guttenberg, Waunakee school district referendum; Becky Ohan and Darin Stewart, classification talks; March 25, Barbara Schultze, OccuPaws;

Greeters: March 18, Dan Muxfeld and Ed Niebuhr; March 25, Linda Olson and Danny Paul; April 1, Ken Pesik and Bob Pulvermacher.

**Make up
meetings online**

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is www.rotaryclubone.org. Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.