



**Waunakee  
Rotary  
Club**

**May 15, 2008  
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Sarah Justus came to the Waunakee Rotary Club meeting May 8 to talk about American Transmission Company and its plans to build transmission lines in the Waunakee area.

Sarah is the manager of location relations for ATC. It's her job to inform the public what ATC does and let the public know how to voice input.

ATC was established by the state legislature six years ago because of a worry that not enough investment had been made in electrical transmission infrastructure. ATC provides that infrastructure between electrical generators and local utilities throughout the eastern two-thirds of Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. ATC headquarters is in Pewaukee.

ATC owns 9,000 miles of line and the company continually monitors the transmission to ensure reliability.

In Dane County, 70 percent of electricity comes from someplace else – nuclear plants in Illinois or the water generator in Portage. Because of rapid growth in Dane County, ATC saw the need to make more electrical connections. In the Waunakee community, ATC saw a need to run a connection between the Vienna substation and the MGE substation in Westport.

This controversial idea was the topic of three years of meetings with the public and local officials. During that time, a number of conflicting opinions were voiced: to keep the lines away from houses while keeping the lines out of farm fields, for example. ATC also had to consider the potential environmental impact.

The Wisconsin Public Service Commission approved the route for

the connection, and construction is to begin this summer, with completion slated by the end of the year. The lines will be on a weathered steel pole that looks similar to wood. Sarah said the idea was to provide a finish to the poles that would help them fit into the rural area. The poles will be 75-80 feet tall.

People often wonder why ATC doesn't bury the lines. Sarah said lines are buried when there is no room for poles and a safety clearance. Burying is expensive, and it creates problems in line maintenance and heat dissipation. Presence of the lines have can have a short-term impact on nearby property values, but that impact diminishes after three years, she said. Owners of property where the lines are installed are paid for the easements.

**Other items:**

- Service Club Olympics is coming up in July, and Lynne Spielman tried to get a feel for how much interest there was among Rotarians.

- Phil Willems extended thanks to the crew that showed up to trim at the Rotary Plaza.

- Phil also said the village parks committee is ecstatic about the plan for the Rotary Walk.

- Dan Statz has met with representatives of 15 other Rotary Clubs about ways to advance the goal of the incoming RI president: reducing child mortality. The area clubs are considering working together on an international project with that goal in mind. More locally, Dean Foundation will work with Rotary to make sure that kids' car seats are installed properly.

- Jeremiah Gollon is trying to organize a trip to a Brewer baseball

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game June 15. This trip would be open to Rotarians, their families, their friends and their business associates.

Guests: Laura Vogel, guest of Rich Harris; Mike Nelson, guest of Bill Erickson.

Visiting Rotarians: Stan Kruger, Lexington, Va., Sunrise.

Birthdays: None.

Anniversaries: May 17, Leonard and Becky Allen

Prayers: May 15, Pat Durden; May 22, Msgr. Kramer; May 29; Susan Vergeront; June 5, Leonard Allen.

Programs: May 15, Genna Eaton, Neighborhood Connection; May 22, JB Van Hollen, Attorney General; May 29, Randy Sproule, Polio Plus Challenge; June 5, Club Assembly.

Greeters: May 15, Kim Wilde and Phil Willems; May 22, Rich Wipperfurth and Henry Zander; May 29, Peggy Acker-Farber and Leonard Allen.

**Make up  
meetings online**

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