

The Village of Oregon is developing a strategic plan...and doing it in a very special way.

Since January, a special subgroup appointed by the Village Board has been working to design a citizen-driven strategic planning process. The new 17member Village of Oregon's Outreach and Planning group's job is to 'take the pulse' of the community through a series of public input events and activities during the next 9 months by identifying a handful of critical issues the Village should address during the next several years, as well as strategies for addressing them.

Of the 17 Group members, three represent the Village Board, three represent Village departments, and the rest are citizens-at-large from the Village. The planning process is being facilitated by Bill Rizzo, Community Development Educator from the Dane County UW-Extension Office.

The Group plans to submit to the Village Board by the end of October a strategic plan, along with a slate of recommendations for implementing the plan.

According to Steve Staton, Oregon Village President, the planning process represents a new approach for the Village. "This is a unique opportunity for the greater Oregon community to share ideas and have a voice in the community's future."

Among the information gathering activities planned by the Group are up to three public gatherings, the first of which is planned for March 11 and 17 from 7:00 – 8:00 PM at the Oregon Middle School Cafeteria. All community members are encouraged to attend. The Village will provide childcare services for parents with young children. Requests for child care should be directed to Mike Gracz, Village administrator, at the phone number and/or email listed below. A third meeting will be held at the Oregon Senior Center on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> (details to follow).

Similar gatherings will be held during the coming months to gather additional feedback and share with the community what the Group learns. Additional input gathering activities the Group will use include focus groups organized around various areas of community interest, targeted interviews, and a community survey.

The planning group is especially concerned that community residents know how their work is progressing, and is developing a number of tools for sharing their progress such as an electronic Newsletter, a special 'planning update' page on the Village's website, and dedicated "Planning Information Centers" at the Village Hall and Oregon Public Library where planning updates will be available.

For more information, contact Village Administrator Mike Gracz at 835-3118, [MGracz@vil.oregon.wi.us](mailto:MGracz@vil.oregon.wi.us), or visit the village website [www.oregonwi.com](http://www.oregonwi.com).