



Waunakee Rotary Club

March 4, 2010
Vol. 43 No. 28

Susan Hedrick, Waunakee Public Library director, called that facility “the fast food restaurant of libraries,” noting that the while service is good, it lacks many amenities provided by other libraries.

Susan was invited to the Feb. 25 Waunakee Rotary Club meeting to discuss the village’s need for a larger library space.

She began by illustrating the space constraints there that few see. The library’s 14 employees work in an 8- by-11-foot space. The office also holds an IT (information technology) closet, along with a storage area for staff to store personal belongings while at work.

The Waunakee library shelves are full, Susan said, and the librarians are approaching the point where to add a new book, an existing book must be discarded.

The shelves are also stacked 6 feet high, and books are stored on the bottom shelf, making them difficult for many to reach or to even read the titles. Senior citizens also must bend down to the floor to pick out some titles, she said.

Susan said the Waunakee Public Library is a member of the South Central Library System and needs to stay in compliance with its standards. Among those libraries, Waunakee’s shelving situation is unusual, Susan said.

Overall, the library has little room for displays of any kind. The children’s play area is tiny, and books there are stacked 6 foot high, too, making them difficult for children to reach. Because the shelves are full, other items are stored above them.

The youth services office is in the back corner of the downstairs children’s area, away from the busiest part.

The small storage area is over-

flowing with decorations, crafts and other equipment the library has. The only local history collection for the entire Waunakee community is housed in two file cabinets.

Susan said the middle school and high school students flood the library in the afternoons, but the space offers only 11 chairs.

“Teens in this town don’t have a lot of options for where they can go and be constructive,” she said.

Susan provided a PowerPoint presentation comparing Waunakee’s library to Verona’s, DeForest’s and Sun Prairie’s.

The other communities’ facilities are spacious and functional. They offer adult seating areas, computer labs, archive rooms for local histories, and meeting spaces. Verona’s library has a reading castle for children.

With a computer lab at the library, the staff could offer classes for community members to learn programs, Susan said. Also, students enrolled in online colleges courses are often required to take their exams under supervision, such as in a library.

“We can give an exam and supervise, but we can’t guarantee that it will be quiet,” Susan said, adding that the library currently has only three adult seating areas.

The Waunakee library was built in 1985. It is currently 11,950 square feet. Three years ago, an architectural planning firm was hired to provide a space needs assessment for a new library. That study recommended a new library should be more than 30,000 square feet.

In other news:

- About 420 people attended the Waunakee Community Foundation’s Hypnotist Show.

- The Whitetails Unlimited event

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Calendar of Events:

- May 17, Jachin Jordan Golf Outing a Bishop’s Bay*

was well attended.

- The Super Raffle is coming up March 3. All tickets to that must be sold in order for it to work.

Guests: Kim Kalepp, guest of Mike Ableidinger; Troy Salisbury, guest of Shelley Moffatt.

Visiting Rotarians: None.

Birthdays: None.

Anniversaries: None.

Prayers: March 4, Susan Vergeront; March 11, Leonard Allen; March 18, Pat Durden.

Programs: March 4, Club Assembly; March 11, Steve Hiniker, Dane County RTA; March 18, Becky Ohan and Darin Stewart, classification talks; March 25, Barbara Schultze, OccuPaws.

Greeters: March 4, Jim Meyer and Danny Miller; March 11, Shelley Moffatt and Richard Murphy; March 18, Dan Muxfeld and Ed Niebuhr; March 25, Linda Olson and Danny Paul.

Make up meetings online

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