



Waunakee Rotary Club

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Shawn Haney thinks the Dane County sheriff's election will be close but added that he has a chance of beating out his opponent, incumbent Dave Mahoney.

"Our goal for the next month is to go door to door in every city. I think it's going to be close, but we can win," Haney said.

Haney spoke to the Waunakee Rotary Club Sept. 23 and said he is running because he is concerned about public safety in Dane County.

In particular, he is interested in restoring the integrity and public trust of the sheriff's office, he added.

"Morale in the department is horribly low," Haney said.

That's because while sheriff's deputies have been denied requests for training, the sheriff has attended conventions in Florida and Washington, D.C., and received reimbursement for hotel costs, Haney said.

Haney said the standards for inmate electronic monitoring have also relaxed, and he called the current system "catch and release." At one time, a six-month sentence meant three months in jail and possibly three months on electronic monitoring. Those jail sentences have decreased, he said.

Also, the option of electronic monitoring was once offered only to non-violent offenders, which is not the case now, Haney said.

Haney said he disagrees with a recent study undertaken by Dane County that recommended reducing the size of the department from 72 deputies to 58. He noted that Dane County is 1,200 square miles, and currently four deputies are assigned to each area.

The study recommends assigning only five deputies to cover the entire

county after bar time, but Haney noted that one severe accident would occupy four of the five deputies.

Haney pointed out other ways to save money for the department. He previously served as the fleet manager and has recommended changes for many years. Currently, deputies assigned to the West Precinct on Old Sauk Road in the Middleton Town Hall are required to drive several miles to get gas from the state highway department, Haney said.

"The miles we put on just to fill up with gas is crazy," he said.

The jail could also save money by privatizing the food service rather than having meals prepared at the Badger Prairie Nursing Home, Haney added.

A study done in 1999 showed privatizing the service would save \$1 million per year, he said. But the change could cost food service workers their jobs. Those workers belong to AFSCM, a union that has supported County Executive Kathleen Falk. Haney said perhaps that explains why the 1999 study recommendations were never acted on.

But Haney said his budget would make it a priority to keep deputies on staff, even if that meant privatizing the food service for the jails.

Haney said it will be interesting to see the county executive's budget. He said if elected, he would fight for funding for the sheriff's office, unlike his opponent. Haney noted that he would remind Falk that he is an elected official, not one of her division heads.

Haney has been in law enforcement for many years, beginning as a part-time officer in Poynette. He joined the Dane County Sheriff's

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Calendar of Events:

- *Wauktoberfest, Sept. 25-26,
Endres Manufacturing grounds*

Office in 1986, and has worked in the jail, on patrol and has been the patrol sergeant. He also ran the field training program and was the fleet commander.

Guests: Tony Hellenbrand, guest of Connie Blau; Bob Ziegler, guest of Neil Kruschek; Lori Gray and Kim Lengfeld, guest of Joy McMerty; Chad Updike, guest of Alan Langeteig.

Visiting Rotarians: None.

Birthdays: Sept. 30, John Cullen.

Anniversaries: Oct. 5, Dan and Kristin Statz.

Prayers: Sept. 30, Leonard Allen; Oct. 7, Susan Vergeront; Oct. 14, Pat Durden.

Programs: Oct. 7, Club Assembly.

Greeters: Sept. 30, Kim Kalepp and Kevin Kearney; Oct. 7, David Kennedy and Katie Kennedy-Shepherd; Oct. 14., Neil King and Ed Kruchten.

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.