



Waunakee Rotary Club

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Computers and technology can improve our lives, but they can also be confusing and sometimes scary. Union Technology Cooperative is in the process of forming to help Dane County residents and businesses utilize technology to the best of their abilities.

Ross Tennant and Justin Weier, two of the cooperative's founding members, spoke at the Feb. 12 Rotary meeting.

That cooperative hasn't quite opened its doors yet, but the members are completing the necessary steps to do so.

Ross has a computer consulting firm, Computer Workshop by Tennant Technologies, which he has operated since October of 2007. He has served over 150 businesses and residents.

Technology is important to people, Ross said. It allows them to communicate ideas efficiently and effectively, can save time and money, and help businesses earn more money. The world has never experienced a technology that can help businesses with their taxes, provide conveniences and online shopping.

But computers and the accompanying jargon can be confusing, Justin said.

"That's one of the reasons why we formed the cooperative," Justin said.

Justin has worked in information technology for a larger company. He noted that 10 years ago, the most complicated task most people faced was programming their VCRs. Now they need instructions sometimes just to turn on their DVD players.

Wireless networks are now in more demand as households are adding second computers.

But computer use poses its own risks, opening door to possible identity theft or fraud. The cooperative can take some responsibility for secu-

rity setup and let customers know when to run updates if viruses are floating around.

Ross said people also need help when beginning to install new applications, such as QuickBooks. Older computers that get bogged down also call for attention, he said.

The cooperative also helps businesses set up networks so that they can share information at different locations.

The five founders of Union Technology Cooperative all have their own LLCs. They are forming a not-for-profit company where all the profits go to the technicians or to communities. The technicians can then provide services to other non-profits and senior citizens at reduced rates.

They can also provide community outreach and offer the use of free software programs that are as good or better than commercial software.

"We're trying to be conscious of the community as a whole and what we can do to better it," Justin said.

Other news:

•Susan Vergeront announced that First Presbyterian Church will present a Broadway Extravaganza Show with Margaret Lambert, Dave Baltes and Betsy Flanagan performing March 6-7.

•Harriet Statz said many club members stepped up to host the 26 youth exchange students and next year's 10 outbound students at the Wonderful Waunakee Winter Weekend. The students had a great time, she said. The club thanked her for her efforts in organizing the event. Lori Derauf organized the potluck dinner at the Village Center.

•Ken Ballweg reminded the club of the hypnotist show presented by the Waunakee Community Foundation Feb. 21. Ken brought

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Calendar of Events:

- Feb. 21, Waunakee Community Foundation Hypnotist Show
- Feb. 24, Whitetails Unlimited
- March 4, Super Raffle
- May 12, Safety Seat Check

tickets, and will have them available for purchase next week, as well.

•Gary Epping said 30 tickets are left for the Super Raffle.

Guests: Chris Kietrys, guest of Bill Erickson; Barb Pulvermacher, guest of Ellen Schaaf; Bill Barlow and Betty Willems, guests of Phil Willems.

Birthdays: Feb. 24, Danny Paul

Anniversaries: None.

Prayers: Feb. 19, Pat Durden; Feb. 26, Susan Vergeront; March 5, Leonard Allen.

Programs: Feb. 19, Gary Acker, Waunakee Fire Department; Feb. 26, Waunakee Police K9 Unit; March 5, Club Assembly.

Greeters: Feb. 19, Phil Willems and Rich Wipperfurth; Feb. 26, Brent Ziegler and Mike Ableidinger; March 5, 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. Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.