



Waunakee Rotary Club

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As Waunakee begins using carts for trash and recycling pick-up, the community may also start to recycle more. And recycling products requires less energy and water than manufacturing new products.

Tim Bolhuis of Pellitteri Refuse and Recycling Service, spoke to the Waunakee Rotary Club about Pellitteri's history Jan. 20.

The Pellitteri family has been in the business since the late 1920s. In the 1940s, the business was split among families, and in the early 1970s, current president Tom Pellitteri's father, Tony, died. The company was then sold to a larger enterprise headquartered in Detroit. Tim said during that time many smaller, family-owned businesses were acquired by larger ones. Tom Pellitteri went to work in Des Moines, Iowa, for the new company.

"He was not happy," Tim said.

Tom Pellitteri tried to buy the business back, but when he returned to the Madison area, he learned that the company had pretty much run the business into the ground.

So in 1979, Tom Pellitteri began his own business. He took out a loan, bought a truck, and built the company up one truck at a time, Tim said.

Typically, waste companies start out with construction businesses. They can also purchase trash compactors to reduce the amount of hauling and gain accounts like University Hospital and Meriter Hospital.

"We're just the little guy," Tim said, adding that smaller companies can run more efficiently sometimes with less overhead.

"It takes a lot less time to run a steamboat than it does to run a ship," he said.

In the 30 or so years since Tom

Pellitteri began the company, business has tripled. The company began to offer document destruction services after laws were enacted to protect private information such as medical and financial records. With companies required to provide data destruction, Pellitteri offered a way to shred on site.

About five to six years ago, Pellitteri began offering curbside pick-up.

"Tom remembered working for his dad in Shorewood. He vowed he would never have workers breaking their back," Tim said.

Automatic hydraulic systems had been put to use in the south, and they began coming here. Pellitteri began with the Village of Brooklyn five years ago; today, Pellitteri serves 21,000 homes in the metropolitan Madison area, including those in the Village of Waunakee.

Today, Tom Pellitteri's children are among the dedicated staff, and they have a strong work ethic, Tim said.

Their mission statement begins, "To continue Pellitteri's business tradition by promptly responding to customers' needs."

"I wanted to share this with you because you're going to be seeing a lot of our trucks around," Tim said.

Waunakee residents are set to get carts in March and automated service begins April 4. Tim showed a video on how the Material Recycling Facility operates, separating paper, plastic, metal and glass. He added that in other communities, residents recycle far more once they no longer have to sort these items beforehand.

And, he said, residents will no longer have to remove labels from cans and bottles because that is done at the recycling facility.

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Calendar of Events:

- Feb. 6 – Waunakee Neighborhood Connection Super Bowl party at Rex's
- Feb. 18-20 – Waunakee Winter Weekend.
- March 2 – Super Raffle

Other news:

• Todd Schmidt, village administrator, has his blog up, he said. It's at <http://waunablog.blogspot.com>.

• Mike Ableidinger has tickets for the WNC Super Bowl raffle.

• Neil Kruschek has tickets for the Super Raffle. Gary Epping is in charge of this for the club.

• Phil Willems provided a \$2,300 check to Larry Gehri, for the Lions Club's help with staffing the Rotary in Lights event. He said it was the "Lions share" of the donations collected.

Guests: Sara Moffatt, guest of Shelley Moffatt; Dawn Rodriguez, guest of Connie Blau; Dan Endres, guest of Tom Reis, Larry Gehri, guest of the club.

Birthdays: Jan. 27, Pat Durden
Jan. 29, Gary Epping.

Anniversaries: Feb. 1, Jim and Terri Brussell.

Prayers: Jan. 27, Susan Vergeront;
Feb. 3, Pat Durden; Feb. 10, Leonard Allen.

Programs: Jan. 27, Tony Hellenbrand, classification talk; Feb. 3, club assembly.

Greeters: Jan. 27, Todd Schmidt and Jim Schmitz; Feb. 3, Gene Smith and Dan Statz.