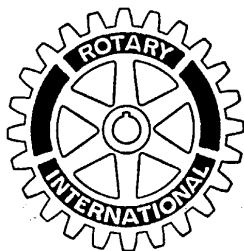


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Waunakee Rotary Club

Aug. 17, 2006
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Waunakee provides excellent services at reasonable costs, and steady growth has helped steady the local tax rates, village administrator Kim Wilde told members of the Waunakee Rotary Club last week.

Kim, also a Rotarian, was the speaker at the club meeting Aug. 10.

Waunakee's extensive planning efforts are "some of the most advanced of any community in the state," Kim said. Among others, the village has a comprehensive plan, a joint plan with the Town of Westport and a central business plan. These plans, completed by consultants and village staff, help the village manage its affairs more effectively. The village has obtained several grants to offset the costs of planning.

In the area of public safety, Waunakee has a police department and works with surrounding municipalities to support a fire department and EMS. Waunakee's low crime rate and excellent fire rating are the consequence of that public safety effort, Kim said. Waunakee's property crime rate is the lowest among Dane County communities, and the violent crime rate is one of the lowest. The favorable fire rating helps keep insurance rates down, and that indicates that the local fire department is capable of handling most situations it might face, Kim explained.

And Waunakee Area EMS is one of the best volunteer EMS departments in the state, Kim said.

The volunteers in the fire department and EMS keep the cost of those departments low and save village taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars, Kim said.

Waunakee's utilities, garbage collection and street maintenance are intended to safeguard the public health, Kim said. Parks, the library, the senior center and the community

center go a long way to provide recreational services for Waunakee residents, he added. Waunakee has 17 village parks now, totaling 240 acres, and Kim said that is well above the standard for a community of Waunakee's size.

Regarding growth, the village tries to accommodate new development without overwhelming local services. The village limits growth to an average of 125 new houses a year, a policy that dates back to 2001.

The village is in the process of reviewing proposals from developers for new subdivisions.

Waunakee's population growth has been fairly consistent over the past decade, Kim said. A projection shows that the village can expect a 16,000 population by 2030.

To foster commerce, the village established a business park and industrial park, where an estimated 2,000 people work. These facilities not only provide employment, but they also help keep the tax rate down, Kim said.

"My hat's off to the former leaders who had the vision to set aside land for the industrial park and the business park," Kim said.

Redevelopment projects in Waunakee's near future include Summit Credit Union and the North Madison Street site. Other projects coming up include a new police department, land acquisition for a new library – probably in 2009 – and construction of a new library the following year. Main Street is scheduled for reconstruction in 2011.

Other items:

•Kevin Kearney thanked Rotarians for their work at the Waunakee pizza stand. A more detailed report will come later.

•A sign-up sheet circulated for the Sept. 14 golf outing.

OFFICERS

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Calendar of Events:

Aug. 31, District Gov. visit
Sept. 14, golf outing
Sept. 24, Rustic Road Rally
Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Oktoberfest

•Rich and Sue Wipperfurth are parents of a new baby boy.

Guests: Alissa Kearney, guest of Kevin Kearney.

Visiting Rotarians: None.

Birthdays: Aug. 17, Frank Bucaida.

Anniversaries: None.

Prayers: Aug. 17, Pat Durden;
Aug. 24, Msgr. Kramer; Aug. 31,
Larry Felsheim.

Programs: Aug. 17, Lorrie Keating Heinemann, secretary of the state Department of Financial Institutions, on fraud and ID theft; Aug. 24, Professor Denis Collins on Lessons from Enron; Aug. 31, District Governor Hal Keitel; Sept. 7, Club Assembly; Sept. 14, Robbie Lowery, candidate for sheriff; Sept. 21, Thomas Steele - Mary Howard; Sept. 28, Wisconsin Business Development, Ron Vincent; Oct. 5, Club Assembly.

Greeters: Aug. 17, Dan Statz and DuWayne Statz; Aug. 24, Ray Statz and Jim Steffenhagen; Aug. 31, Sandy Taylor and Don Tierney; Sept. 7, Luke Tierney and Jon Townley; Sept. 14, Jim Tubbs and Robert Tucker.

See you Thursday!