



**Waunakee
Rotary
Club**

**July 27, 2006
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Traffic safety and planning for jail space are two of the most important issues facing the Dane County Sheriff's office, according to candidate Mike Hanson.

Mike faces no opposition in the Sept. 12 primary for the Republican nomination. His name will be on the ballot in November, and he hopes to succeed Sheriff Gary Hamblin, who decided not to seek re-election.

Dane County led the state in traffic fatalities in 2003, Mike said. He chaired a committee that sought ways to make the roads safer. One measure that was implemented was creation of a traffic team of deputies. As sheriff, Mike said he would like to build upon that program, which includes enforcement and education.

It would take the county six to 10 years to open a new jail once that decision is made, Mike said. At the moment there is no plan for a new jail, and the sheriff must begin planning for additional jail space.

Meanwhile, Dane County is spending \$1.9 million a year to ship inmates into jails in 14 other counties. Transportation takes up deputies' time and separates inmates from their families. It also allows inmates to network with the criminal elements in other counties.

"At some point, it becomes more expensive to ship inmates to 14 other counties than to build a new jail," he said. "Alternatives to jail are in place. At some point,

we're going to need more space."

The sheriff also must recruit, train and lead a diverse work environment, Mike said. That diversity is needed to help the sheriff's office deal with the threat of gangs.

Gangs are a countywide problem, recruiting in the high schools and middle schools, Mike said.

Mike said he supports drug and alcohol treatment and diversion programs. He emphasized that their success rates are inconsistent and the county should use the programs that work best instead of trying to maintain a broad array of programs that are aimed to fit every need.

Mike's day job is public information officer for Madison Police Department. He also has worked as human resources manager in Minnesota and for American Family Insurance.

He also has served on the Dane County Board for four years. There, he has served on the committee that oversees the sheriff's office and its budget.

Other items:

- Waunafest float preparation will take place July 29, Larry Felsheim said. Apparently, lack of planning is part of the adventure.
- District governor will be coming at the end of August.

Guests: Luke Tierney, guest of Greg Garton.

Visiting Rotarians: Ralph Montello, Marco Island.

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Calendar of Events:

**September, Rustic Road Rally
Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Oktoberfest**

Birthdays: July 28, Bob Arntz;
July 30, Amy Gile-Enge.

Anniversaries: None.

Prayers: July 27, Susan Vergeront; Aug. 3, Leonard Allen; Aug. 10, Kim Wilde; Aug. 17, Pat Durden; Aug. 24, Msgr. Kramer; Aug. 31, Larry Felsheim.

Programs: July 27, Sal Al-Ashkar on "Diabetes: America's Epidemic;" Aug. 3, Club Assembly; Aug. 10, Wisconsin Sports Development Corp, Ron Vincent; Aug. 17, ???; Aug. 24, Professor Denis Collins on Lessons from Enron.

Greeters: July 27, Tammy Reefe and Tom Reis; Aug. 3, Ellen Schaaf and Jim Schmitz; Aug. 10, Gene Smith and Lynne Spielman; Aug. 17, Dan Statz and DuWayne Statz.

An old farmer's advice:

• If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.

• Lettin' the cat out of the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.

• Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgement.