



**Waunakee
Rotary
Club**

**March 26, 2009
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County executive candidate and local resident Nancy Nancy spoke to the Waunakee Rotary Club March 19 about her desire to see a change in county government.

Nancy championed public safety as her primary motivation for running, also citing transportation and land use issues.

If elected April 7, Nancy said she would operate the county in a much different fashion than the incumbent, Kathleen Falk. Nancy said she would be more cooperative in helping municipalities accomplish their goals rather than dictating policy down to them.

She also would not be afraid to hire people more intelligent and with more experience than her, Nancy said.

When it comes to public safety, the failure of the county 911 center in the death of UW student Brittany Zimmermann really shone a light on the issues, Nancy said.

She charged that Falk's inaction on a 2004 audit led to the problems with the Zimmermann call. And while Falk has made steps to improve the center since, Nancy said she engaged in a cover up of the Zimmermann call and has dragged her feet in appointing a director.

Politically motivated decision making is the problem, Nancy said. By ignoring the 2004 audit and appointing an inexperienced director in 2005, Falk made mistakes, Nancy said. A true leader does what's right when nobody is looking, Nancy said.

Transportation also is a driving factor for Nancy's run. The candidate is adamantly opposed to plans floating around for a commuter rail line running from Middleton to just shy of Sun Prairie. The train is estimated to serve only 5,500 riders a week, Nancy said, while causing 8,000 blockages of traffic a day, not to mention it would

require a \$10 million per year operating subsidy, Nancy said.

The train also would be funded by a half-cent sales tax through a regional transportation authority. The authorization power was given to the county board in the governor's proposed budget, Nancy said.

Not only would a commuter train frustrate automotive commuters, she said, but it could hinder ambulance, police and fire personnel from responding to emergencies. And it would impact home values near the line, Nancy said, noting that nobody likes to live near a busy road, much less a rail line.

"I am probably the last stop for commuter rail," she said, adding it would be a black hole for the county.

The flip side of rail, Nancy said, is focusing on roadways, not only improving existing corridors but adding ones such as the North Mendota Parkway and a southwest bypass of Madison. Nancy said Falk just isn't interested in a parkway and is just stalling at this point.

In the grander scheme, Nancy said commuter rail is really about control of development more than transportation. That brings up another problem Nancy has with the current county executive's philosophy. She said Falk has acted with a top-down attitude toward municipalities instead of helping them implement their plans.

"I'm not looking to be a bully; I'm looking to be a friend," she said.

Nancy also criticized Falk's purchasing of land around the country.

"You don't need to own it all to make it green," she said.

Plus purchasing the land takes it off the tax rolls, which just increases the burden for everybody else, and requires a greater maintenance workload, Nancy said.

The county could really use some-

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Calendar of Events:

- May 12, Safety Seat Check
- March 24, Taste of Rotary, Crown Plaza, Madison, 5 p.m.

one with business management experience that focuses on critical needs first, Nancy said, and she has that experience.

Other items:

•Harriet Statz said three families are needed to host the Rotary Exchange student next school year.

•volunteers are needed to hide eggs for the Easter egg hunt at Endres Manufacturing on April 11 and also needed to stuff the eggs on April 9.

Guests: Trent Ejzak, guest of Tom Reis; Rob Wolfe, guest of Mike Lawrence; Amy Fluke, guest of Lori Derauf; Brent Neevel, guest of Roberta Baumann.

Visiting Rotarians: Bruce Mohs, Madison East; Stan Kruger, Lexington, Va.

Birthdays: March 26, Ken Ballweg; April 1, Ken Pesik.

Anniversaries: March 31, Drew and Lolly Lawrence

Prayers: March 26, Leonard Allen; April 2, Pat Durden.

Programs: March 26, Al Dassow, Foundation recap; April 2, Club Assembly.

Greeters: March 26, Jim Brussell and Frank Bucaida; April 2, Jonny Burkoker and James Chancellor; April 9, Scott Cochems and John Cullen.