



**Waunakee
Rotary
Club**

**March 5, 2009
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There has been a new face in the Waunakee Police Department – one with a long, furry snout.

Alex joined the ranks of the department last spring after training for year with K-9 officer Adam Kreitzman. Police Chief Kevin Plendl said Kreitzman proposed the K-9 program, researched it, and helped to implement it after it was approved

Chief Plendl noted that surveys of the community showed drugs and traffic were two major concerns, and the K-9 unit can help locate drugs during traffic stops. By law, officers can search a vehicle only with consent. But if Alex searches the vehicle and sits down – an indication that drugs are on board – a search is permissible.

Alex is trained as a drug sniffing and search dog. Unlike the Dane County Sheriff K-9 unit dogs, he is not trained to bite as a means of restraint.

“Alex doesn’t bite, but he can track people. He’ll probably just lick you to death when he finds you,” Officer Kreitzman said.

Chief Plendl noted that a bite dog would have increased the village’s insurance premiums. Also, the police department opted for a less intimidating Labrador Retriever rather than the traditional K-9 German Shepherd breed for school presentations.

Officer Kreitzman said his goal was always to be part of a K-9 unit. To his credit, Lt. Joe Peterson noted, Officer Kreitzman completed the steps necessary to obtain the dog and completed the legal training necessary.

“He’s been a great tool for us at school presentations,” Officer Kreitzman said about Alex. “He catches the kids’ eye a lot more than I do.”

When the dog is off duty, he’s like a household pet and lies on the couch, Officer Kreitzman said. Children also perceive him as similar to their pets. But like the other police officers in the department, the dog is a professional.

“When I put the uniform on and when we get out in the squad, he knows he’s going to work,” he added.

Alex has done 53 car searches cars during his first year on the job. He has located marijuana, cocaine and mushrooms, and helped with searches.

Officer Kreitzman is the only officer who can use Alex for searches and testify in court in related cases. He still works at training Alex. K-9 dogs usually reach their peak at about 4 years old and can work alone, he said.

K-9 dogs normally retire between the ages of 7-10, when they lose the drive to play – the motivation behind their work.

Officer Kreitzman said he hopes to find another dog to replace Alex when he retires and to keep the Waunakee K-9 unit going for a long time.

Lt. Peterson said Alex is very much a part of the agency, and his photograph hangs on the wall at the station with the other officers’.

Other items:

•Gary Epping said he still has about a dozen Super Raffle left. The raffle benefits community

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Calendar of Events:

- March 4, Super Raffle
- May 12, Safety Seat Check

projects. Also, workers are needed for the event.

•Susan Vergeront reminded the club of the Broadway Extravaganza II event at First Presbyterian Church March 6-8.

•Drew Lawrence said he just returned from a mission trip to Gulfport, Miss., with his church.

Guests: John Ripp, guest of Paul Gilbertson; Rob Wolf, guest of Mike Lawrence.

Birthdays: None.

Anniversaries: None.

Prayers: March 5, Leonard Allen; March 12, Pat Durden; March 19, Susan Vergeront.

Programs: March 5, Club Assembly.

Greeters: March 5, Peggy Acker-Farber and Leonard Allen; March 12, Bob Arntz and Ken Ballweg; March 19, Ron Ballweg and Connie Blau.

**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.