

# The Noon News

August 31, 2009

Published



Waterloo Exchange Club

**Cedar Valley Gang Activity**—Exchangite and Waterloo Police Chief Tom Jennings brought Capt. Tim Pillack and Sgt. Keith Rogers by to give us an



Waterloo Police Sgt. Keith Rogers discusses gang activity with Exchangites

update on criminal gang activity in the Cedar Valley. Captain Pillack heads up the Investigations Division. Sgt. Rogers, a 19 year veteran of the Waterloo PD, heads up the department's effort against gang crime.

Sgt. Rogers gave us an overview of the colors, symbols and gestures the gang members use to mark out their territory and show allegiance to specific groups. He went on to describe the extent that the police are outnumbered and frequently out-gunned by gangs.

Then Sgt. Rogers reviewed the local situation. He said there are 14 active gangs in the area. Each gang averages 20-30 members, ranging in age from 15 to 25 years. One of the most obnoxious local gangs is the Southside bunch. It's larger than average—they have about 35 members. Sgt. Rogers said they are responsible for a lot of the robberies in the area. One of the more troubling aspect of this bunch is the fact that a few of their members at any given time are transients from Chicago that come here to sell drugs and leave after a couple of month stay.

Sgt. Rogers listed four primary reason for gang activity: (1) Importation—families in other cities sending problem kids here; (2) Self Defense—folks being picked on by others form gangs to protect themselves from abuse; (3) Economics—drug sales are lucrative here, more so than larger cities like Chicago and (4) Social—disinterested parents not providing attention and support to their children. Hopefully some of our club's initiatives are addressing some of these root causes of the problem...

As far as what we as individuals can do, Sgt. Rogers suggested we: (1) simply be alert for what is happening around us and call the police when we see something that doesn't seem right and (2) be involved in the community. He cited the example of the NAACP in reducing violence recently.

## NEXT MEETING LOGISTICS

**Program:** Closed Business Meeting—Sep14

**Prayer :** Mark Johnson

**Pledge :** Cathy McGowan

**Menu :** TBD

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**Sep 07:** No Meeting—Labor Day

**Sep 14:** Closed Business Meeting

**Sep 21:** Mayoral Candidates

**Sep 28:** UNI's Ben Allen—Tentative

## WHAT'S FOR LUNCH

**Sep 07:** No Meeting—Labor Day

**Order Chef Salad one week in advance**

## BIRTHDAYS

**Sep 03:** David Girsch

## THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

*"There are good ships and there are wood ships, the ships that sail the sea. But the best ships are friendships, and may they always be."*- An Irish Toast

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**Tailgate Party Social Event**—The social committee has put together a tailgate party to be held on Saturday, September 12<sup>TH</sup> —10:30 AM at John And Jackie Wagner's home—2627 Ryan Drive in Cedar Falls. For more details, contact Jackie Wagner at 277-8873 or Trent Hunter at 404-4088.

**Guests**— Glenda Husome invited four guests from the House of Hope as her guests today. Emilee Sandberg and Lori Lantz are UNI students working in internships at House of Hope. Monica Paulsen and Holly Hartley are on the staff there.

Jackie Kugler invited Audrey Kugler, Jackie's mother-in-law, as her guest.

**Mayoral Candidates Forums**— We will be having a special meeting on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> . The candidates for mayor will be on hand for a forum moderated by Craig Holdiman. This will be a great meeting to invite guests.

**Message from President Droste**— Sharon sends along this information.

*On September 11th, 2009, an American flag should be displayed outside every home, apartment, office, and store in the United States. Every individual should make it their duty to display an American flag on the anniversary of one of our country's worst tragedies. We do this in honor of those who lost their lives on 9/11, their families, friends and loved ones who continue to endure the pain, and those who today are fighting at home and abroad to preserve our cherished freedoms. In the days, weeks and months following 9/11, our country was bathed in American flags as citizens mourned the incredible losses and stood shoulder-to-shoulder against terrorism. Sadly, those flags have all but disappeared. Our patriotism pulled us through some tough times and it shouldn't take another attack to galvanize us in solidarity. Our American flag is the fabric of our country and together we can prevail over terrorism of all kinds.*

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