

# A valuable tool

## New radar trailer will help promote safety

By Steve Targo

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**Linn** — Speeding motorists pose quite a conundrum for town residents and police.

Typically, a resident will register a complaint that motorists are driving too fast up and down their road, and Linn Police Chief Dennis Wisniewski said they usually say it happens "all the time."

Suppose someone asks for a police officer to run radar on their road.

But motorists tend to slow down when they see a police officer parked on the side of the road.

And it's unrealistic to keep a police officer stationed at one place throughout the day.

Wisniewski hopes his department's new radar trailer will address these problems.

### Where it has been

The Linn Town Police Department has stationed its new radar trailer at numerous locations throughout the town.

Police have placed the trailer on South Lake Shore Drive, near Fontana Country Store; South Lake Shore Drive and Pilgrim Church Road; South Lake Shore Drive at Big Foot Beach; at the historical marker on South Lake Shore Drive; Willow Road; Linn Road; and Chapin Road.

Linn Police Chief Dennis Wisniewski said if people request it, police can place the trailer at a certain location. To request it, call 275-6194, ext. 11.

That offer isn't limit to residents, either.

"If any police department needs to borrow it, they certainly may," Wisniewski said

"It's a very valuable tool because, not only does it project the speed of a vehicle, but with the software included, it provides us with statistical information, which would include the number of vehicles, the average speed, the highest speed, the lowest speed, the time of day and other things," he said. "With this information, we'll be able to tell when the highest volume of traffic would be operating in a certain stretch of road at a given time.

"Rather than post an officer on a specific roadway, we'll be able to put them there at the most beneficial time."

### How it all started

Wisniewski said he became interested in obtaining a radar trailer after a Linn Road resident suggested it.

"A resident on Linn Road was complaining about the high volume of traffic there and that they all travel above the speed limit," he said.

Police would run radar patrols on the road, but motorists slowed down whenever they saw the squad car.

But once police left the area, motorists would begin speeding again.

"It was like we were never there," Wisniewski said.

Thanks to a \$1,000 donation from the Big Foot Lions Club and a \$500 donation from the Lake Geneva Jaycees — and the go-ahead from the Linn Town Board — the Police Department purchased the \$5,900 trailer from Decatur Electronics.

The remaining cost had been budgeted for, according to Wisniewski.

### Why a radar trailer?

He said there are several reasons why he wanted the department to obtain a trailer,

including the possibilities of reducing accidents, catching speeders and collecting statistical information.

"We can use this to determine whether or not we want to raise and/or lower a speed limit on a stretch of road," Wisniewski said. "So far, it's been widely accepted.

"In some areas, it's helped, but in some areas, it hasn't. Sometimes, people will ignore it, (but) when that radar trailer is out, people shouldn't be surprised to see a squad car at the other end, (or a police officer) writing tickets."

But the main goal for police is safety, not tickets.

"The main reason for this was to attract people's attention to their speeds and to slow

down. The bottom line is we're trying to promote safe driving," Wisniewski said.



STEVE TARGO/  
REGIONAL NEWS  
**(FROM LEFT)**  
**LINN POLICE**  
**CHIEF** Dennis  
Wisniewski, Big  
Foot Lions Club  
President Ken  
Van Diggelen,  
former Lions  
Club president  
Bill Grunow and  
Linn Town Board  
Chairman Dave  
Bollweg with the  
Linn Town Police  
Department's  
new radar trailer.