



**MATT SOWERS** Staff Photographer

Cpl. Mornas Colston of the Lake County Sheriff's Office poses for a picture on his patrol bike Saturday afternoon. A similar motorcycle will be used by LSCO to patrol Minneola for traffic violators.

# Minneola putting a chopper on patrol

**TAYLOR VERNARSKY**  
Staff Writer

**MINNEOLA** — Speeders and other traffic violators in Minneola will have to be on the lookout from now on.

The city will have an officer patrolling city neighborhoods and roadways on a Harley-Davidson motorcycle starting this week.

"Traffic has been the biggest complaint in the city," said Mayor David Yeager. "By having a police presence in the area, it should make things easier and safer."

Minneola does not have its own police department. Instead, it depends on the Lake County Sheriff's Office for public safety.

"The city council wanted extra traffic enforcement for Minneola, so the plan is to have a deputy patrol during daylight

hours," said Lt. Gregory Link, supervisor for LCSO's Minneola sector.

The sheriff's office supplied the deputy to patrol the city on a \$28,000 motorcycle.

Yeager said the funds for the motorcycle came from a forfeiture account with money collected from drug seizures and other sources.

"The city supplied the money to build the motorcycle and the sheriff's office did all the work in building it," Link said.

The benefit to having a deputy patrol on motorcycle, Yeager said, is that the deputy will be able to maneuver in and out of neighborhoods more easily than he would in a car. But Yeager said a car would be provided for the deputy in the event of harsh weather.

"The deputy is only going to be doing

traffic calls," Yeager said. "The motorcycle should prove to be a good community relations tool. Residents will be more in touch with it when traffic complaints occur."

The new motorcycle for Minneola will be in action not long after two Harleys purchased by Clermont to better navigate traffic.

"The department got the motorcycles from last year's budget," said Clermont Lt. Eric Jensen. "They just hit the road about six weeks ago, after the sirens and lights were installed."

Jensen said the motorcycles are not only easier to maneuver into residential areas, but they also get better gas mileage.

"Motorcycles are good for a lot of different things," he said. "They are definitely working out great."