

TOSA WATCH

Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

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Wauwatosa Police Department
Community Support Division
1700 North 116th Street
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53226
Telephone: (414) 471-8430
FAX: (414) 471-8447

TOSA WATCH provides useful information for citizens who participate in the Wauwatosa Block Watch Program. Reader comments and contributions are always welcome.

Burglary Prevention Tips

One of the most personally devastating crimes can be a burglary because of the invasion into what we all feel is our safe haven. Provided below are tips that will help make your home more burglary-resistant.

- ✓ Leave exterior lighting on around the home during all hours of darkness. Low-level outdoor lighting fixtures should be left on from dusk to dawn. Using compact fluorescent bulbs in outdoor fixtures is not only energy efficient, but it also provides great facial and color recognition without being a nuisance to neighbors.
- ✓ Lock all doors and windows when not at home or while sleeping.
- ✓ Open windows should be pinned so that they cannot be opened more than 4". Pinning is accomplished by drilling holes into both frames of a double hung window so that a pin can be placed through both frames in the closed or open position. By pinning the windows at 4" ventilation is received while preventing anyone from reaching in or entering the premise without physically breaking the glass. If installing new windows, purchase ones that have pinning devices built right in.
- ✓ Never keep purses, laptops, briefcases, wallets or other items of value on tables or counters near windows.
- ✓ Basement windows that are not glass block should have horizontal security bars placed across the middle of the glass and mounted on both sides with appropriate mounting hardware. You may consider having a few that are hinged on one end and locked or latched on the other to allow an escape route. If your basement is used as living space, please refer to fire codes, as you are required to have an escape window or door.
- ✓ Make sure all exterior doors are solid wood or metal and the hinges are on the inside of the building. If the hinges are on the outside replace them with security hinges, this prevents anyone from removing the hinge pins.
- ✓ Replace inferior dead bolts or in the case where no dead bolt exists, install a "Grade 1" or "Grade 2" dead bolt with at least a 1" throw and beveled housing to resist gripping and twisting.
- ✓ All lock strike plates (the plate that a dead bolt or door knob bolt goes into, penetrating the door frame) should be mounted with 3" screws. Consider an after market strike plate that requires 4 screws for mounting. By using longer screws that go deeper into the framing anyone using a foot or ramming device to break the door in at the lock will have greater difficulty. *Continued on page 2*



**WAUWATOSA
CRIME
STOPPERS**

771-TOSA

Cash rewards up to
\$1,000.

If someone you know is elderly or dependent upon life-sustaining or health-related equipment, check on them during severe weather or power outages. Register them as a special-needs customer with the utility company so they will become a priority customer. Notify others who could provide help such as neighbors, nearby friends and emergency responders, such as the fire department.

We Energies -24 hr
800-662-4797
Electric
800-261-5325
Natural Gas

**Wauwatosa Police
Department**

Barry M. Weber - Chief of Police

**Community Support
Division**

*Captain Chris Fox
Lieutenant Jack Morrison
Sergeant Chad Geiszler
Specialist Mike McDermott
Officer Dan Kane
SRO Joel Kutz
SRO Tracy Burbach
SRO Farris Griffin
SRO Jim Morrill
Laura Laurishke – Administrative
Support Specialist*

Burglary Prevention Tips *Continued....*

- ✓ Consider replacing exterior door knob-in-lock sets with those that have a “dead latch” mechanism to prevent slipping the lock with a shim or credit card. This does not eliminate the need of having a dead bolt on all exterior doors.
- ✓ If you have glass within 40” of the door’s deadbolt consider a security screen mounted over the glass with screws as long as the door or interior wall is thick. Another fix is to have a glazer apply a residential-grade security film to the glass. Both of these modifications will make it more difficult for someone to break the glass and reach inside to open the deadbolt.
- ✓ In doors without a window consider installing a wide-angle, 160° peephole mounted no higher than 58 inches. For those homes with children consider mounting a second one at a lower height. Also tell your children to never unlock and/or open the door for strangers.
- ✓ For homes with sliding glass doors consider pinning the doors at the top and bottom of the door frames just as you would with a double-hung window. Along with the pinning you may want to install a “Charley Bar” which is a fold-away metal bar installed horizontally mid-way up the stationary part of the sliding door.
- ✓ When installing window air conditioning use the provided holes to run screws through the housing and into the window frame. These holes are accessible by removing the front grill. Again, use 3” screws for mounting. If your air conditioner came with any brackets or mounts make sure you use those as well. If the air conditioner is smaller than your window opening, consider building a frame to go between the unit and the opening. Make sure you mount that frame to the window framing and then the air conditioner to the frame you built. When mounting the air conditioner make sure to mount it at an angle so that condensation from the unit drains out and onto the ground.
- ✓ Ensure that all landscaping is trimmed to a height that does not provide a hiding place for would-be thieves. Tree limbs should be trimmed back at least 6’ from the roof so that no one can gain access to the roof or second floor by climbing a tree. Landscape lighting is a great supplement to exterior lighting and can add to the curb appeal of a home.
- ✓ When new big-ticket or highly-desirable items are purchased, don’t leave the empty boxes at the curb for trash pickup; this only advertises your new “goodies”. Take the boxes yourself to the Recycle Drop-off Center, 11100 W. Walnut Road.
- ✓ Close garage doors and garden sheds when unable to continuously monitor them.
- ✓ While not at home, keep a radio on and put timers on interior lights. This will provide the illusion that someone is in the residence, and the lighting will make your arrival inside safer and more welcoming if arriving home in the dark.
- ✓ If there is an active Block Watch in your neighborhood display the sign inside your residence in a prominent window. If there’s not one in place, consider starting one today.



Notify Me

Did you know the City of Wauwatosa offers a free program that enables anyone to receive email or text notification regarding non-emergency community news? Sign-up is quick and easy. If you're interested in receiving information on up to thirty specific topics, just follow these steps to get started.

Go to: www.wauwatosa.net

Search: Notify Me, then, choose what notifications you're interested in receiving and the method of delivery you prefer. Please know that ALL personal information will be kept confidential.

Examples of specific notification include, but are not limited to:

- Current Construction Projects
- Homepage News
- Hot Topics
- Community Events
- City Newsletter
- Main City Calendar
- Council Meetings & Agendas

For further information on this program you can contact Karen Jaeckels at (414)-479-8915.



Hidden in Plain Sight

The public is becoming more aware of an increasing trend in middle and high school students nationwide as well as in the Wauwatosa community, smoking e-cigarettes or “vaping”. The practice of inhaling through a vape pen can also be known as “juuling”. “Juuling” is named after a brand called Juul, which makes devices that are easily concealed, and are often mistaken for a flash drive. Vape pens are often disguised as everyday objects such as pens, markers and highlighters. These devices contain nicotine, and cannot be purchased or possessed by persons under the age of 18.

Knowledge is power, and the safety and wellbeing of our youth is always first and foremost. Please take the time to research e-cigarettes and vape pens. There are several manufacturers and brand names of each. Familiarize yourself with these products and devices. Remember, they are hidden in plain sight!

Respect Your Neighbors

Wauwatosa is a great city with lots of beautiful, safe and peaceful neighborhoods. In Wauwatosa's neighborhoods we tend to practice the traditions those of us born 35-plus years ago learned from our parents. As we were growing up, we got to know our neighbors. Getting to know one's neighbors builds mutual respect, we are inclined to help out when we can and sometimes make life-long friends. Recently, it has come to the attention of this office that some of our neighbors are forgetting how to be good, respectful neighbors.

First, how should neighbors behave when living in a tight urban setting like Wauwatosa?

- If you come home late at night remember to turn your car radio down and if you're not alone, keep your conversation as quiet as possible.
- When talking outdoors remember there may be young ears tuned in. Use appropriate language.
- Pets should not be allowed outside unattended. Noisy pets need to be trained. Wauwatosa does enforce the noise ordinance 24 hours a day.
- When walking your pet you must pick up any waste that it may produce.
- When driving in your neighborhood be aware of children playing. Sometimes toys end up in the street as well as the children.

Secondly, how do we handle the situation if our neighbors are not being good neighbors?

- Talk to your neighbor. If you're not comfortable doing this alone, take along another neighbor.
- Be courteous when explaining your concern, but make your point.

If the problem persists, contact police whenever the nuisance or disturbance is taking place.

Buried Fire Hydrants

Snow season has arrived, and everyone is cleaning off sidewalks and driveways. Don't forget fire hydrants that may be in your yard! In an emergency when seconds count, buried hydrants can cause delays in promptly putting out a fire! Please take a few minutes to shovel the snow away from that fire hydrant. It may be your house or a neighbor's that will depend on it.

When winter storms strike and travel is a must, make sure to have survival gear in the vehicle.

Blankets, a shovel, flashlight, extra batteries, warm clothing, quick energy food and bright clothing that can be used as a distress flag.

NO OVERNIGHT PARKING BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 3:00 AM – 6:00 AM

**TO REQUEST PERMISSION TO PARK OVERNIGHT:
471-8430**

DECLARED SNOW EMERGENCY

- NO PARKING ON CITY STREETS - AUTOS WILL BE TICKETED AND/OR TOWED

Pedestrian Crossing Safety

Wisconsin statutes 346.23 and 346.24 both direct that vehicles must yield to pedestrians crossing the road in crosswalks. With hundreds of crosswalks, both controlled and uncontrolled, across the city of Wauwatosa, it is inevitable that there will be incidents of drivers failing to yield to the pedestrians in those crosswalks. The Wauwatosa Police Department takes both driver and pedestrian safety very seriously, and when incidents occur there are no winners.

Pedestrians can take measures to assure their own safety when navigating the road ways. The first step is to only cross roads in marked crosswalks. Those intersections with Walk / Don't Walk signs or crossing guards are considered controlled intersections, and should be a walker's first choice in crossing locations. Those intersections that have the white pavement markings and static signage are considered uncontrolled. They are considered the same as far as state law goes and are both perfectly good to use, but controlled intersections can offer an enhanced degree of safety.

The second step to be considered by the walking public is the appropriate time to enter the crosswalk. According to state law, vehicles must yield to those pedestrians already in the crosswalk, however it can be very difficult for a driver to come to an abrupt stop safely. Things like the speed limit on the street, weather conditions, and visibility can all lower a driver's ability to come to a safe stop. Pedestrians should wait until the traffic has dissipated or slowed before entering the crosswalk, allowing drivers the most opportunity to see them and react appropriately.

When both drivers and pedestrians motor through the urban landscape with caution and respect for others, everyone can get to their destination safely.

Sgt. Joseph Roy, Wauwatosa Police Department Patrol Division

Sex Offender Registry

The Wisconsin Department of Corrections is focused on public safety, specific to those offenders on community supervision. The website below is available to assist you in knowing who's who in your neighborhood. Remember, these are individuals that have served their time and are trying to make a fresh start in life, so please be respectful of the individuals' rights.

Go to the website www.widocoffenders.org and click on the "Search Registry" icon. You can search by name or location. In the location field, you can search by zip code. The search will reveal a list of registered offenders. Click on any of the names listed, and the offender's information, including residence, will be listed.

The website, brought to you by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, also offers valuable insight into how a person becomes a registered sexual offender, and other frequently asked questions. If you have any further questions the WI DOC can be contacted at 608-240-5000.

Snow and Ice Removal

The full width of public sidewalks, crosswalks, and curb ramps must be cleared of snow and ice by noon of the day following snow or ice accumulation. To prevent slippery conditions sprinkle non-movable ice with a de-icing agent or sand. Sidewalks and ramps are to be cleared again after each plowing operation. Sidewalks on major streets are inspected for compliance, and the residential areas are inspected on a complaint basis.

A notice of noncompliance is sent to a property owner if snow and ice is not removed as required. If the work is not completed within the allotted time, city crews will perform the work and charge the property owner. For example, a 60- foot-wide lot would be charged \$140 each time snow and ice are cleared by city crews. If you have questions or need to report a violation, call the Parks and Forestry Department at 471-8420.



Sunday,
March 10th

Crime Statistics

Comparative Analysis – City Wide

Category	01-01-17 thru 11-30-17	01-01-18 thru 11-30-18	Percentage of Change 2017 - 2018
<i>Part 1 Crimes</i>			
Homicide	0	2	0.00%
Sexual Assault	11	13	18.18%
Robbery	39	27	- 30.77%
Assault	70	60	- 14.29%
Burglary	147	115	- 21.77%
Larceny-Theft	1,741	1,249	- 28.26%
Motor Vehicle Theft	130	116	- 10.77%
Subtotal of Part 1 Crimes	2,138	1,582	- 26.01%
<i>Other Select Incidents</i>			
Fraud	238	222	- 6.72%
Vandalism	180	129	- 28.33%
Narcotic Law Violations	114	103	- 9.65%
Drunken Driving	144	95	- 34.03%
Disorderly Conduct	1,943	1,356	- 30.21%
Fatal MVA	0	1	0.00%
Personal Injury MVA	263	178	- 32.32%
Property Damage MVA	1,275	1,190	- 6.67%
Total of All Calls	31,620	30,076	- 4.88%

Note: The above are incidents that are reported and investigated by the Police Department. Actual crime classifications usually change when the complaints are finally analyzed and dispositions are determined. This will result in different numbers reported to the UCR documents submitted and reported at the end of the year.

If there is something you'd like addressed in this newsletter, please contact Laura Laurishke at 414-471-8430 ext. 5111 or email, llaurishke@wauwatosa.net. We will do our best to accommodate your requests.

Make 9-1-1 Work for YOU!

An informed caller is 9-1-1's best caller. It's important that you know how to help 9-1-1 help you. In an emergency, seconds matter, so being knowledgeable and prepared can make all the difference. Here's what you can do:

Know WHEN to call 9-1-1. 9-1-1 is for emergencies only. You should only be dialing 9-1-1 if someone is hurt or in danger, or if you are in immediate need of police, fire, or medical assistance. If you aren't sure your situation is an emergency, you should err on the side of safety and call 9-1-1, let the 9-1-1 operator make the decision whether to send help or not.

Know WHEN NOT to call 9-1-1. Don't call 9-1-1 just because you burned dinner and your guests are arriving any minute, or because you are late for a meeting and need help finding an address. While those situations may count as emergencies for you, they aren't for public safety. Inappropriate use of the 9-1-1 system wastes resources and ties up the lines at the 9-1-1 center, and nobody wants to be on hold when they are in the middle of a real crisis. Note that making harassing and prank calls to 9-1-1 is a crime in most states.

Know the capabilities of the device you are using. 9-1-1 can be contacted from pretty much every device that can make phone calls (traditional landline, cell, VoIP), but the callback and location information that accompanies your call to the 9-1-1 center can vary drastically amongst technologies and between geographic regions. 9-1-1 and telecommunications professionals are hard at work to make sure 9-1-1 works the same on all devices in the future, but until then it is your job to be knowledgeable about benefits and limitations associated with various technologies. Contact your service provider(s) for more information.

Know where you are. This is probably the most important information you can provide as a 9-1-1 caller, so try to be aware of your surroundings. Make a real effort to be as detailed as possible. When you are outside and don't know the street address, look for landmarks or cross streets. When you are inside a large building or one with multiple levels, you can help emergency services by letting them know which floor you are on, which apartment you are in, etc.

Stay calm. When you are on the phone with 9-1-1, you are their eyes and ears. Try not to panic. If you are crying or yelling, it can be hard for the 9-1-1 operator to understand you. If you can answer all of the 9-1-1 operator's questions, the faster they can get the right services to your location.

Never hang up. You may have called 9-1-1 by accident, or your situation may have resolved itself, but it is important to let the 9-1-1 operator know this. If you end a call abruptly, operators are going to assume that something has gone very wrong and will either call you back or send help anyway. To ensure the call center is able to take calls and dispatch services to on-going emergencies, make sure the 9-1-1 operator tells you it is okay to disconnect before you hang up. Keep in mind that the call taker can dispatch responders to your location without disconnecting from a call, so, until otherwise instructed, make sure to hold the line so that you can provide any additional information to the 9-1-1 operator.

HAVE A SAFE AND FUN WINTER!