

# TOSA WATCH

Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

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TOSA WATCH - Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter is published quarterly by:

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

## Tosa's Night Out 2019

The Wauwatosa Neighborhood Watch Committee (WNWC) and the Wauwatosa Police Department are excited to announce that our 25<sup>th</sup> annual Tosa's Night Out will take place on Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. That's right, this year, Tosa's Night Out turns 25 years old!

Thank you so much to all of our sponsors that made 2018 so successful. Our 2018 Major Sponsor was WaterStone Bank. The 2018 True Blue Sponsors were Froedtert & the Medical College, Home Depot of Wauwatosa, and Dave & Busters of Wauwatosa. We can't thank our sponsors enough for their generous contributions. Our event wouldn't be the same without them.

Once again, Tosa's Night Out 2019 will take place at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Preceding the July 31<sup>st</sup> culminating event at the Zoo we will have our Wauwatosa Police officers stopping by all of the block parties during the weekend of July 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. We encourage as many neighborhoods as possible to host your block parties during this weekend. We love stopping out and speaking with Wauwatosa's citizens!

On Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, we will also host our "Night Out in Your Neighborhood" events throughout the city. We plan to be at Madison, Roosevelt, Underwood and Wilson Elementary Schools once again. This event is great to stop, grab a hot dog, and meet some of the officers that patrol your neighborhoods day in and day out.

On July 31<sup>st</sup> we can all come together again at the Milwaukee County Zoo where you can meet many of our sponsors and participating groups, and end the night with the ever popular flashlight walk through the zoo!

Registration for Tosa's Night Out 2019 will officially open on Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:00AM until 11:30AM at the Hart Park Muellner Building, 7300 W Chestnut Street. The registration kick off is in conjunction with the annual Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers pancake breakfast.

You can register online at [www.tosasnighout.org](http://www.tosasnighout.org) starting on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019. If you register online and live in the city, t-shirts and tickets will be delivered to your home. Also starting on May 13<sup>th</sup> you may register or obtain registration forms at the Little Read Book Store, 7603 W State St (ph 774-2665).

Have a great spring! We hope to see you all at our Tosa's Night Out events this summer.

## Suspicious Circumstances

One of the main concepts of the block watch program is *recognizing and reporting suspicious activity*. Sometimes the question, “What is suspicious?” comes up. Let’s take a closer look at this block watch principle:

**Recognizing** suspicious activity is as simple as asking yourself, could the vehicle or person(s) I am observing:

- Be about to commit a crime?
- Be in the act of committing a crime?
- Have just committed a crime?

In your neighborhood you can rely on your personal knowledge. Do you recognize the vehicle or person as a resident or frequent visitor to the area? Do you know a house to be vacant? This is where knowing your neighbors pays off. Using personal knowledge of ones surroundings helps you to decide if something is suspicious.

If you see a suspicious vehicle, can you tell if the vehicle is occupied? Do you recognize the vehicle? Does the vehicle appear to be in the area for a purpose, or is it just sitting there? Whether the vehicle is occupied or unoccupied, if you feel suspicious or threatened, you should call the police.

**Reporting** a suspicious circumstance to the police should always be something to consider. Call 911 immediately if you believe that a crime is in progress. If you suspect that you or someone else is in immediate danger, do not hesitate to call 911. This will insure the quickest police response.

The Wauwatosa Police Department’s non-emergency number is 414-471-8430. This number is used for incidents which are not “in progress”.

Bottom line: never hesitate to call the police should you feel concerned about a suspicious vehicle or person. You should always err on the side of caution. There have been many criminals scared away before the crime, stopped in the act of a crime, or arrested after the crime because a concerned citizen called the police based on suspicion.

## Thefts from Vehicles

Please review these tips in an effort to reduce the opportunity of thefts from vehicles:

- Never leave anything of value in your vehicle.
- Remove not only your portable electronic devices but everything related to those items as well, such as cords and mounts.
- Never keep anything of value in plain sight if you must leave it in your vehicle for a period of time.
- Get out of the habit of leaving loose change in your car.
- Always park in a well-lit area. If parking in the driveway at home install sufficient exterior lighting.
- Always lock your car.

Remember, if we take away the opportunity for crime, the criminals will have to go elsewhere.



**WAUWATOSA  
CRIME  
STOPPERS**

**771-TOSA**

Cash rewards up to \$1,000.

### Wauwatosa Police Department

*Barry M. Weber - Chief of Police*

### Community Support Division

*Captain Chris Fox*

*Lieutenant Jack Morrison*

*Sergeant Chad Geiszler*

*Specialist II Mike McDermott*

*Community Support Officer Dan Kane*

*School Officer Joel Kutz*

*School Officer Tracy Burbach*

*School Officer Farris Griffin*

*School Officer Jim Morrill*

*Administrative Support*

*Specialist Laura Laurishke*

### HARTFEST

**FRIDAY – JUNE 21**

**SATURDAY – JUNE 22**

**HART PARK**

Live Music  
Nightly

**Summer is on its way! If you're interested in having a neighborhood block party this summer, please remember to call for a block party permit. Permits must be submitted 3 weeks prior to your party. For more information call Mary at 471-8430, ext. 5101.**

**CITY OF  
WAUWATOSA**

**MEMORIAL DAY  
OBSERVANCE**

**MONDAY, MAY 27, 2019  
AT 9:00 AM**

**LONGFELLOW  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
7600 W. NORTH AVENUE  
– IN THE AUDITORIUM**

**FEATURING:  
THE WAUWATOSA  
COMMUNITY BAND**

**FEATURED SPEAKER:  
SPENCER HOYT,  
A COMBAT VETERAN OF  
THE PERSIAN GULF  
WAR**

**IT IS WITH GREAT  
RESPECT THAT  
WAUWATOSA PAYS  
TRIBUTE TO OUR  
COUNTRY'S MEN AND  
WOMEN WHO HAVE  
FALLEN IN THE LINE OF  
DUTY – CITIZEN OF THIS  
GREAT NATION WHO  
GAVE THEIR LIVES TO  
PRESERVE THE  
LIBERTIES UPON WHICH  
AMERICA WAS  
FOUNDED.**



## Suspicious Person or Vehicle

Suspicious circumstances were discussed earlier in this newsletter, now we'd like to talk about suspicious persons and vehicles.

While the Wauwatosa Police Department is responsible for creating a safe environment for you, it's one's duty to be vigilant and socially responsible as well. It is never a good idea to try to play 'hero' in such situations, instead you should be attentive of your surroundings and make mental notes on suspicious persons or vehicles. You can always help officers by giving a good description of what you see. Train yourself to look for important information.

Make note of the following information on suspicious persons and vehicles. If you believe a crime has occurred, is in progress, or is about to occur, then call the police at 911.

### Suspect Description

- ❖ Sex
- ❖ Race
- ❖ Age
- ❖ Height
- ❖ Weight
- ❖ Complexion
- ❖ Hair color
- ❖ Eyes/color of eyes
- ❖ Glasses
- ❖ Clothing : Color of coat/shirt/pants/shoes
- ❖ Accessories: Hat, bracelet, etc.
- ❖ Tattoos
- ❖ Scars/Marks
- ❖ Any additional information that may help to locate the suspect.

### Vehicle Description

- ❖ Color
- ❖ Make
- ❖ Model
- ❖ License Plate/State
- ❖ Direction of Travel
- ❖ Any damage to the vehicle
- ❖ Any additional information that may help to locate the vehicle.

Be watchful and careful when recording information on a suspicious person or vehicle, don't find yourself as a victim too.

The Wauwatosa Police Department appreciates the fact that many crimes are prevented due to the input from callers who give good suspect descriptions.

Keep up the good work!

## Communicate With the City

Wauwatosa offers many ways that residents can communicate with all of us who work for the City of Wauwatosa. Go to [wauwatosa.net](http://wauwatosa.net) to access these resources:

**Online service forms.** See a pothole? Want to report a concern about a property? Or not sure where to start? Fill out an online form that goes directly to staff to help you. In the last six months, we've responded to 1,320 online service requests. Find them online: [wauwatosa.net/service](http://wauwatosa.net/service)

**Email lists.** We have email lists for major construction or development projects, public health, and the city newsletter. Sign up to receive emails from us. Hit reply if you have a question. Go to [wauwatosa.net/eNews](http://wauwatosa.net/eNews) to sign up.

**Facebook and Twitter.** We bring core services to your social feeds and encourage you to talk with us there.

**Interactive Maps:** We have interactive maps available to see safe routes to school and crossing guard locations, a map of reported crimes updated daily, and our new construction map which shows all active construction projects in Wauwatosa including details on the project, its timeline, and who you can contact with questions. Go to [wauwatosa.net/maps](http://wauwatosa.net/maps) to see all of the available maps.

**Meeting Portal.** Can't make it to a city meeting? Agendas and minutes of all meetings as well as videos of our Common Council and standing committee meetings are available at the meeting portal: [wauwatosa.net/meetingportal](http://wauwatosa.net/meetingportal).

## Pedestrians & Vehicles Beware

It was brought to the Wauwatosa Police Departments attention, because of the article in our last Tosa Watch newsletter, that drivers have responsibilities as well as pedestrians when crossing streets.

Many of us have been told that pedestrians *always* have the right of way. While most of the time this is true, there are some exceptions and there are also some tips that you, as a pedestrian, can use to be safe and considerate to the motoring public.

The state of Wisconsin defines a pedestrian as "*any person afoot or any person in a wheelchair, either manually or mechanically propelled, or other low-powered, mechanically propelled vehicle designed specifically for use by a physically disabled person, but does not include any person using an electric personal assistive mobility device.*"

Regarding Right-of-way on crosswalks, the state of Wisconsin states, "*The operator of any vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the street within any marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection except at those intersections where the movement of traffic is being regulated by traffic officers or traffic control signals.*"

While motorists need to make sure to look for pedestrians as they are approaching crosswalks, pedestrians, conversely, also need to watch for vehicles. While this seems pretty basic, there are people who aren't heeding this advice and are involved in motor vehicle crashes with pedestrians.

One thing that pedestrians need to remember is that just because they have the right of way, doesn't mean that the oncoming motorist will stop. A law written on a piece of paper can't stop a 2,000 pound vehicle. Make eye contact with the driver of the vehicle and make sure that they see you. Make sure that the vehicle is stopped, or at the very least slowing before you step off of the curb.

Pedestrians also have to know that they don't have the right to suddenly step into traffic and make motorists stop for them. Statute 346.24(2) states that, "*No pedestrian, bicyclist, or rider of an electric personal assistive mobility device shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk, run, or ride into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is difficult for the operator of the vehicle to yield.*" If a pedestrian violates this statute it is possible to receive a traffic citation.

One last tip for pedestrians is to be considerate of motorists. Traffic, especially in the Village area, can become very congested. If you see that vehicles are getting backed up, it's not a bad idea to let some traffic go through before you decide to cross. It also may be safer because as we all know some drivers tend to lose patience the longer they have to wait in traffic. This can create poor judgment and bad decisions which will lead to unsafe driving.

If drivers and pedestrians can follow the law and be considerate to one another we can make sure there are no unfortunate tragedies. Let's all be safe out there.

## Volunteers Needed

Crime Stoppers is seeking help with the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Pancake Breakfast to be held on Sunday, May 12, 2019, from 8:00AM to 11:30AM at the Muellner Building at Hart Park (7300 W. Chestnut St.). What a great way for young people to volunteer and get service hours at the same time!

All volunteers will receive a free breakfast ticket. If you register as a volunteer, you will receive a free breakfast ticket for your mother as well. Tickets will be provided at the event. If you would like to help, please call Officer Dan Kane at 471-8430, ext. 5114, or email [dkane@wauwatosa.net](mailto:dkane@wauwatosa.net).

## Annual Independence Day Celebration

Wauwatosa's Independence Day celebration is scheduled for Thursday, July 4, 2019. This year's theme is "Parade of Stars."

**The annual Wauwatosa parade will begin at 9:00AM. The parade will travel West along North Avenue from North 80<sup>th</sup> Street to 104<sup>th</sup> Street.**

Family Fun events will be held at Hart Park starting at 4:00PM with fireworks at 9:15 PM (fireworks rain date – July 5).



## Avoid Becoming a Victim

Just a few tips to keep you and your property safe while out and about

- Walk with authority and always make eye contact with those around you.
- Try to walk with a friend or two.
- Be alert to your surroundings inside and out, avoid tunnel vision.
- Know your route and stay on well-lit paths for night time activities.
- Don't use earphones or ear buds.
- Dress casually and comfortably yet appropriately for your activities and the weather.
- Leave your expensive and even expensive appearing jewelry at home.
- Avoid carrying a purse or handbag if possible.
- Carry important items including your cash in your front pockets.
- Do not flash anything of value.
- Carry a cell phone. Inexpensive ones for just emergency use are available.
- Avoid texting, it distracts you more than you think.
- Only carry the key(s) you need.
- Carry a whistle to help summon help when needed in an emergency.

## FREE Home & Business Security Surveys

The Wauwatosa Police Department offers **free** Security Surveys to all Wauwatosa residents and business owners. The survey takes an objective look at your property and its security measures. Officer Dan Kane has been through extensive training in crime prevention, security measures, and safety techniques that can be used to protect one from the criminal element.

Officer Kane will come to your property and inspect the inside and outside of your home or business for security deficiencies. A survey is filled out by the officer on scene which will list the problems observed and give you recommendations as how the problem can be rectified.

If you are interested in having a security survey conducted at your property you can call Officer Kane at the Wauwatosa Police Department, Community Support Division at 471-8430 Ext. 5114.

### HOME/HAZMAT – COLLECTION 2019

**DROP OFF YOUR OLD AND UNUSED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND HELP KEEP OUR LAND, AND OUR WATER, A LITTLE CLEANER.**

**STATE FAIR PARK – GATE 1  
(OFF GREENFIELD AVENUE)**

**APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> 11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.  
APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup> 8:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

**Go to [mmsd.com](http://mmsd.com) for more details.**



## **Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers Pancake Breakfast & Raffle**

The Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers is hosting its 17<sup>th</sup> annual “Pancakes with Mom” Breakfast on Sunday, May 12, 2019 from 8:00 am to 11:30 am at the Hart Park Muellner Building (7300 W. Chestnut St). Over 900 people attended last year’s event and a great time was had by all.

Enjoy all-you-can-eat hot cakes, sausage and all the breakfast fixings. Last year’s guests were excited to find flowers for mom, balloons, games and prizes for the kids. Join McGruff the Crime Dog for a fun filled morning that will benefit the Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers. Event sponsors include Wauwatosa Neighborhood Watch Committee, WaterStone Bank, Minuteman Press, Metcalfe’s Market, Starbucks Coffee, Modern Woodman, Dave and Busters, Metro MLS, Rose’s Flower Shop and Sysco.

Tickets are available at the door on the day of the event at \$7.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children ages 3-8 and children under 3 are free.

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**Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers Pancake Breakfast  
Sunday, May 12, 2019  
Ticket Order Form  
(Orders mailed after April 26, 2019, will not be processed)**

Please list the number of adult and children’s tickets you wish to purchase. Children under 3 are free and do not require a ticket. Tickets will be mailed within 10 days. Make checks payable to Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers. Please include a phone number on your check. Do not send cash.

Return your check and this form to:

**Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers  
1700 N. 116 St  
Wauwatosa WI. 53226**

_____ Adult	X	\$7.00	\$ _____
_____ Child	X	\$3.00 (ages 3-8)	\$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed			\$ _____

If you have any questions call Officer Dan Kane at 471-8430 ext. 5114.

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