

# TOSA WATCH

Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

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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.

## A New Look for Officers

Load-Bearing Vests and Body Worn Cameras: Our Officer's Uniforms will look a bit different.

Being a police officer comes with plenty of physical challenges, from sitting in an uncomfortable position in order to write reports in the patrol car, to sometimes needing to pursue a suspect on foot. These challenges can not only affect an officer's performance on the job but it can also take a physical toll.

Although police officers join the department in good physical condition, after carrying around 20-25 pounds of gear on their duty belts, for long shifts, day after day, year after year, many officers develop long-term physical ailments, specifically hip and back injuries. Those injuries can lead to staff shortages, overtime costs and worker comp claims. To help alleviate some of those issues, the department has updated our uniform policy to include load-bearing vests. Load-bearing vests allow officers to distribute the weight of their police equipment by moving some items from the duty belt to the vest. It is our hope that this change will have short- and long-term health and wellness benefits for our officers.

Also, beginning March 1, our officers will be wearing body worn cameras. The cameras resemble a small black box and will be worn on the front of the officer's chest. More information will be released regarding the body worn cameras as we finalize the implementation but we are excited for this new technology and believe it will enhance our police services.





**WAUWATOSA  
CRIME  
STOPPERS**

**771-TOSA**

Cash rewards up to  
\$1,000.

**Brrr, it's cold outside,  
but please, NEVER  
leave your vehicle  
running while  
unattended! Vehicles  
continue to be stolen  
because they are left  
running with a spare set  
of keys inside. This  
simple crime prevention  
tip should help prevent  
auto thefts and keep  
you on schedule.**



**Wauwatosa Police  
Department**

*Barry M. Weber - Chief of Police*

**Community Support  
Division**

*Captain Jack Morrison*

*Lieutenant Joseph Roy*

*Sergeant Abby Pavlik*

*Specialist Mike McDermott*

*Officer Dan Kane*

*SRO Joel Kutz*

*SRO Tracy Burbach*

*SRO Farris Griffin*

*SRO Andy Yothsackda*

*Laura Laurishke - Administrative*

*Support Specialist*

## **Tosa Watch Newsletter, Where Do We Go from Here?**

The Wauwatosa Police Department has been publishing the Tosa Watch newsletter since our November – December 1994 first edition. The newsletter was created to distribute information to the Block Watch participants and to create a connection and/or partnership with citizens of Wauwatosa and the Wauwatosa Police Department. Through the years we have earned trust and established relationships that have grown into friendships with many community members and we'd like to continue to do just that.

With 2020 being a year of many challenges, our department made changes to how we distribute the Tosa Watch newsletter and we'd like to take it a step further, with your help. While printing the newsletter has been a great option for distribution, we've decided that we would like everyone in Wauwatosa, residents, business owners and employees to have an opportunity to receive the Tosa Watch newsletter and the easiest way to make this happen is to distribute the newsletter via email. The Wauwatosa Police Departments Community Support Division hopes you will add your name to the distribution list that will be kept secure and not given out for additional mailings. All we need is your name, address, email address and phone number, it's that easy. Some Block Watch Captains have already responded to this email, but most haven't or are uncomfortable getting neighbors email information to send the Tosa Watch to them. This distribution concept is moving forward, so, don't be left behind and in the dark as paper copies will not be the normal form of distribution any longer. Access to the latest version of the Tosa Watch newsletter will be available on the Wauwatosa Police Department Facebook page and the City of Wauwatosa webpage as well.

While we determine what topics make the Tosa Watch newsletter, we strongly encourage citizens to reach out and ask questions you may have; we're always happy to get suggestions for articles that may help you and others within our community. The Tosa Watch talks about City events, crime trends, crime statistics and topics of importance to City of Wauwatosa residents and those that work in Wauwatosa.

For those that don't have access to the internet or a computer, we'd still like to get a paper copy to you if you're interested. You can reach Laura Laurishke at 414-471-8430 ext. 5111 or by email at [llaurishke@wauwatosa.net](mailto:llaurishke@wauwatosa.net) for questions, comments or with your name and address so we can get you your copy of Tosa Watch.

## **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.



## Project Lifesaver Wauwatosa -

The Wauwatosa Police Department is proud to provide this proven program for safeguarding and locating individuals who may be at risk for wandering due to Alzheimer's, Autism, Down Syndrome, dementia and other conditions.

- Clients wear a waterproof band that emits a
- Personalized radio frequency signal.
- Batteries are changed every 60 days.
- If a client is missing, caregivers call 911 immediately.
- Trained search specialists arrive on site with locating equipment.
- Recovery times may decrease dramatically over traditional search and rescue techniques.

If you know someone that tends to wander and could benefit from this program, please have their caregiver call the Wauwatosa Police Department at 414-471-8430. For more information, you can also visit [www.projectlifesaver.org](http://www.projectlifesaver.org).



## Vehicle Theft Trends

Within the past three months the Milwaukee Metropolitan area has seen a large increase in stolen vehicles, primarily Kia, Honda, and Hyundai models. Since October, the majority of these specific stolen vehicles have occurred in the City of Milwaukee; however, the City of Wauwatosa has seen a similar increasing trend. During this time frame, Wauwatosa has had 21 Honda and Kia models targeted. To provide a comparison for this current trend, there were only 12 Honda and Kia vehicles taken in the previous 9 months (January 1- September 30, 2020). This accounts for only 16% of all stolen vehicle. The current trend now has these specific vehicle accounting for about 43% of all vehicle stolen and/or attempted vehicles targeted. Roughly 15% of vehicles stolen in Wauwatosa are taken without the key; however, the current trend has these types of vehicle being taken without the keys about 50% of the time. Subjects who steal these models of vehicle will typically break a window to gain entry and then damage the steering column to get the vehicle started. These stolen vehicles have been linked to additional criminal activity throughout Wauwatosa and the whole Milwaukee Metropolitan area including: Reckless driving incidents and armed robberies.

### Here are some prevention tips:

- Steering wheel locking device like a Club
- Kill switch which is a mechanism that disables the vehicle from starting (OnStar type system)
- Use a steering column collar that wraps around the column for extra protection
- Keep your eyes open for vehicles that drive slowly down your street, they may be looking for cars that have exhaust emerging to show the vehicle is running and available to steal
- With the cold weather upon us, we also recommend that people do not leave their vehicle running unattended while trying to warm it.

Please remember that a running a vehicle that's unattended increases the likelihood of theft. Many people think that with a newer vehicle the key fob must be inside the vehicle to drive, but key fobs are only designed to start the vehicle and not designed to prevent the vehicle from being driven once the vehicle is started.

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

**TO REQUEST PERMISSION TO PARK OVERNIGHT:**  
 (414) 471-8430

**DECLARED SNOW EMERGENCY**  
 - NO PARKING ON CITY STREETS -  
 AUTOS WILL BE TICKETED AND/OR TOWED

## Will You Be My Valentine?

The Community Support Division within the Wauwatosa Police Department is looking for some help. Our plan is to visit Oak Park assisted living facility on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> to present them with the Valentines and some candy. Seniors can often times be forgotten but still want to feel loved and appreciated. So, do you have a little artist in the family? Do you watch a group of kids that might be looking for something to do?

Well, we have the hearts if you have the time to work your magic. Our goal is to collect 100 valentine cards to distribute. If we get a good response, we'll look to add another facility next year. We will supply the pink hearts if your little ones or even not so little ones will do the decorating. If you let us know how many you'd be interested in helping with, we can get the hearts to you, or you can stop by the Wauwatosa Police Department, at 1700 North 116<sup>th</sup> Street and ask for them at the Front Desk. When they are finished, you can bring them back to the police department or you can give us a call and we can come get them too. For additional information please contact Laura Laurishke at 414-471-8430 at ext. 5111 or email, [llaurishke@wauwatosa.net](mailto:llaurishke@wauwatosa.net). Any help you can give would be most appreciated.



## Electronic Payments

Venturing into the world of ecommerce (transactions conducted electronically on the internet) can be a scary thought, but it looks like it's here to stay. We all know that security and credit card fraud can be a huge risk factor and that brings us to the following information that may make one's shopping experience more comfortable.

A well-known electronic payment platform, PayPal, along with others give you an opportunity to shop with little concern of fraud. These platforms let you shop online more securely because the seller never sees your credit card information, that's all set-up behind-the scenes before you begin to make purchases. Electronic payment platforms offer you the ability to set up an account by utilizing a debit card or credit card to fund your account, the data is then encrypted for extra protection against fraud and identity theft. Of course, each platform comes with advantages and fallbacks, it's up to you to decide what platform is best for you.

Do you need to pay your rent or reimburse a friend for dinner last night? Once again there are so many options available to make a person to person (P2P) transaction. We've looked at two different person to person platforms and that's only because they are widely used. Venmo and Zelle utilize this type of platform, they are very easy to research and each one again, comes with its own set of rules. This type of account can be set-up using a bank account to link to, a debit card or a prepaid card for funds. Some of these platforms charge a percentage fee for transferring funds and additional fees for immediate transfers. If you are doing international payments, check to see which platform offers that option. Person to person transfers are frequently protected by bank-grade security and encryption. You'll need to make sure that you are using the correct email address or phone number when making fund transfers as most transaction can be very difficult to reverse and sending limits vary by platform.

Global online payment systems come in all shapes and sizes, with ecommerce and electronic technology continuing to grow, we recommend that you do additional research to find your best fit. While we know that online shopping and payments don't work for everyone, it has come a long way to provide security to its consumers. Friends and relatives may be able to offer additional information on specific platforms and the experiences they've had, or search online for more information to make your decision easier.

## Scrape Those Windows

It is not only illegal to drive with frosted over windows, it is also extremely dangerous. With the cold winter nights comes the burden of cleaning off your ice-covered windows each morning. Motorists who drive watching the road thru a small defrosted viewing area can cause many accidents. To save time in the morning, place a piece of cardboard or rug over your windshield before you go to bed.

When you go to work in the morning, simply peel off the covering and you're ready to safely drive to work. Take the time to scrape your windows clear of ice and snow for a safe driving experience.





# Crime Statistics

## Comparative Analysis – City Wide

Category	01-01-19 thru 12-31-19	01-01-20 thru 12-31-20	Percentage of Change 2019 - 2020
<b>Part 1 Crimes</b>			
Homicide	0	0	0.00%
Sexual Assault	25	18	- 28.00%
Robbery	27	29	7.41%
Assault	67	78	16.42%
Burglary	92	81	- 11.96%
Larceny-Theft	1,520	1,561	2.70%
Motor Vehicle Theft	76	107	40.79%
<b>Subtotal of Part 1 Crimes</b>	<b>1,807</b>	<b>1,874</b>	<b>3.71%</b>
<b>Other Select Incidents</b>			
Fraud	281	236	- 16.01%%
Vandalism	138	173	25.36%
Narcotic Law Violations	117	79	- 32.48%
Drunken Driving	93	46	- 50.54%
Disorderly Conduct	1,255	1,234	- 1.67%
Fatal MVA	0	2	0.00%
Personal Injury MVA	207	142	- 31.40%%
Property Damage MVA	1,286	773	- 39.89%
<b>Total of All Calls</b>	<b>32,213</b>	<b>23,117</b>	<b>- 28.24%</b>

Frostbite can be very dangerous to anyone. Winter can leave one vulnerable to extreme cold for varying lengths of time, which can cause damage to our skin, actually going all the way down to the bone. Frostbite commonly occurs on these areas: your nose, ears, cheeks, chin, fingers, and toes. People with heart disease or other circulation problems are at higher risk.

If you don't have to go out in extreme conditions, don't; but if you must, make sure you cover yourself to protect as much skin as possible

If frostbite occurs, run the affected area under warm (not hot) water. For severe cases, call 9-1-1 immediately. Stay Warm Out There!



Sunday,  
March 8th

*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.

## Have You Been Spoofed?

Spoofing is when a caller deliberately falsifies the information transmitted to your caller ID display to disguise their identity. Is it legal? Yes and no.

Scammers often use spoofing so it appears that an incoming call is coming from a local number, or spoof a number from a company or a government agency that you may already know and trust.

Under the Truth in Caller ID Act, FCC rules prohibit anyone from transmitting misleading or inaccurate caller ID information with the intent to defraud, cause harm or wrongly obtain anything of value. Anyone who is illegally spoofing can face penalties of up to \$10,000 for each violation. However, spoofing is not always illegal. There are legitimate, legal uses for spoofing, like when a doctor calls a patient from her personal mobile phone and displays the office number rather than the personal phone number or a business displays its toll-free call-back number.

### **FCC rules specifically require that a telemarketer:**

- ✓ Transmit or display its telephone number or the telephone number on whose behalf the call is being made, and, if possible, its name or the name of the company for which it is selling products or services.
- ✓ Display a telephone number you can call during regular business hours to ask to no longer be called. This rule applies even to companies that already have an established business relationship with you.

You may not be able to tell right away if an incoming call is spoofed. Be extremely careful about responding to any request for personal identifying information.

- ✓ Don't answer calls from unknown numbers. If you answer such a call, hang up immediately.
- ✓ If you answer the phone and the caller - or a recording - asks you to hit a button to stop getting the calls, you should just hang up. Scammers often use this trick to identify potential targets.
- ✓ Do not respond to any questions, especially those that can be answered with "Yes" or "No."
- ✓ Never give out personal information such as account numbers, Social Security numbers, mother's maiden names, passwords or other identifying information in response to unexpected calls or if you are at all suspicious.
- ✓ If you get an inquiry from someone who says they represent a company or a government agency, hang up and call the phone number on your account statement, in the phone book, or on the company's or government agency's website to verify the authenticity of the request. You will usually get a written statement in the mail before you get a phone call from a legitimate source, particularly if the caller is asking for a payment.
- ✓ Use caution if you are being pressured for information immediately.
- ✓ If you have a voice mail account with your phone service, be sure to set a password for it. Some voicemail services are preset to allow access if you call in from your own phone number. A hacker could spoof your home phone number and gain access to your voice mail if you do not set a password.
- ✓ Talk to your phone company about call blocking tools and check into apps that you can download to your mobile device. The FCC allows phone companies to block robocalls by default based on reasonable analytics. More information about robocall blocking is available at [fcc.gov/robocalls](http://fcc.gov/robocalls).
- ✓ Remember to check your voicemail periodically to make sure you aren't missing important calls and to clear out any spam calls that might fill your voicemail box to capacity.

If you think you've been the victim of a spoofing scam, you can file a complaint with the FCC at [consumercomplaints.fcc.gov](http://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov) or by calling 1-888-225-5322.

This information has been supplied by the Federal Communications Commission.

