

# TOSA WATCH

Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

Volume 29, Issue 1

January – March 2020

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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.

## Did You Know...?

In light of the recent incidents in schools across Wisconsin, questions about school safety are on the minds of many Wauwatosa residents. As one of the four School Resource Officers (SRO's) employed by the police department, I can tell you we work closely with the Wauwatosa School District and the private schools to ensure school safety to the best of our ability.

Currently, SRO's are stationed at each of the secondary schools. The two high school SRO's are primarily responsible for the schools in which they serve. The two middle school SRO's are stationed at Longfellow and Whitman, but also meet the needs of all the elementary schools and private schools. As a group, the SRO's primary goal is to maintain a safe environment for the staff and students.

The job of keeping schools safe is an ever changing environment. In addition to the ongoing standard police department training, SRO's receive advanced training in intervention and tactics. All four SRO's are Crisis Intervention Trained (CIT). This specialized training provides officers with knowledge and a better understanding of how to safely interact with a person in a mental health crisis. Additionally, CIT officers learn and practice numerous de-escalating techniques that prove invaluable when interacting with a juvenile in distress. Tactically, the SRO's routinely train for an "active shooter" response, which includes addressing the threatening behavior and providing lifesaving measures.

Last year, the police department along with the school district implemented a new safety procedure called "The Standard Response Protocol". In a nutshell, the plan provides a standardized response for first responders and schools: to react to a threat outside or inside a building, evacuate and reunify students with their families in the event of an emergency, take shelter in case of severe weather, and stay in place if there is a medical emergency. Each facet of the SRP is practiced during drills periodically throughout the school year.

In addition to concerns about physical violence in schools, SRO's are concerned with the misuse of social media. The cell phone has become the go to tool for harassing, bullying, threatening, drug dealing, and sending inappropriate images. It should be noted that if a person is under the age of 18 and they send nude images, the person who sends the image is guilty of distributing child pornography and the person who receives the image is guilty of possession of child pornography. Both of these acts are considered felonies in the state of Wisconsin. *Continued on page 2*



**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! The vast  
majority of auto thefts  
in Wauwatosa are  
vehicles that were 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 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*

## **Did You Know...?** *(Continued from page 1)*

The SRO's would like to remind parents to educate their children about the dangers of social media and the legal ramifications of misusing it. Kids should know that an image meant to be sent to a known person can be redistributed without their knowledge and that predators often misrepresent who they are in order to receive nude images and videos. Kids should also know that an electronic image or text will never go away! Even if the file is deleted or an app tells them it has been deleted after a specific time, the content will stay on the phone and can be located by people in the know, including law enforcement.

Parents should know that there are a number of apps and services available to monitor a child's phone. A simple internet search for "social media monitoring" will introduce parents to a multitude of tools that are available. Kids should understand that parents own their phones and should be allowed access to them at their request! The best practice though is to openly communicate with your child why online safety is so important and to foster their respect and understanding for your internet concerns early on.

The SRO's enjoy working in the schools and want to keep your children safe. We remind everyone, if you "see something, say something". Together with the community we can continue to improve upon our shared goal of a safe learning environment!

-P.O. Jim Morrill

If you'd like to speak with a School Resource Officer, contact:

- P.O. Jim Morrill, Wauwatosa East High School: (414) 773-2009
- P.O. Farris Griffin, Wauwatosa West High School: (414) 773-3031
- P.O. Tracy Burbach, Longfellow Middle School: (414) 773-2412
- P.O. Joel Kutz, Whitman Middle School: (414) 773-2612

## **Project Lifesaver Wauwatosa - Bringing Loved Ones Home**

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 has a tendency 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).

## 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](http://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.



## Credit Card Safety

It's that time of the year when many of you will be getting credit card and other bank statements for purchases you made for the holidays. Some people glance at their balance and simply make their payment to their credit card company. If you're one of these people, don't be embarrassed. You're not alone. Millions of people each year fall victim to credit card fraud, so the question is, "What can you do to protect yourself?"

The first step can be asking your financial institution what type of protection they provide. Most have fraud protection and are willing to reimburse any losses you may have if you report it as soon as possible, but this can vary from bank to bank so make sure to ask.

Watch your statements. Look closely at all transactions on your statement. If there is something that doesn't look right, investigate it right away. Several years ago, my wife called me and asked if I had subscribed to Rachel Ray magazine. I had not. One tactic fraudsters will use is to make small, relatively insignificant, purchases using your credit card number. This shows a couple of things to the criminal: it will show if the card is actually active and it will show if you're paying attention to your statement. If that purchase goes through, the criminal knows they have a card they can use for larger purchases and it's possible you won't know about those purchases until your next statement arrives in the mail.

Be careful when making internet purchases. Many times, credit cards can be compromised during internet purchases. Look for websites that begin with HTTPS as opposed to HTTP. One example is <https://www.amazon.com/>. Websites that begin with HTTPS are less vulnerable to hackers because they are encrypted, meaning information is converted into secret code that hides the information's true meaning, thus keeping your credit card information more secure.

Keep your card close. One of the most common ways people have their accounts compromised is by losing or misplacing their credit card. If this happens you can only hope an honest person finds it and turns it in. If someone else finds it, they will often go directly to a store to attempt to make fraudulent purchases. If you have lost your card, report it to your financial institution *immediately*.

Know your surroundings. This is a very general safety tip that should be used at all times. Before using your card in public, look around. Is there someone in the area that makes you feel uneasy? If so, be patient and wait or find another register where you can make your purchase.

While the banks and credit unions try to do their part in keeping you from falling victim to fraud, you can see that there are many things you can do to protect yourself. Many financial institutions will forgive or reimburse you for any fraudulent charges, but at the very least, it will be an inconvenience to you if you are a victim. Most of the time, your card will need to be cancelled and reissued, which will take time. You may also have to take time to go to your bank to fill out paperwork regarding the fraudulent charges.

## 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:  
(414) 471-8430**

**DECLARED SNOW EMERGENCY**

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

## Snow Removal Ordinances

The Wauwatosa Police Department receives many calls each winter regarding snow removal and proper placement of such snow. Below you will see what is required by Wauwatosa Municipal Ordinances. You will notice that there is no mention of homeowners shoveling snow on a neighbors' property, but we hope that one would be courteous to avoid basement windows, gas/water meters and anything else that may be considered breakable. If we treat each other the way we'd like to be treated, we should manage to get through the winter months without issue.

Please make note that it is illegal to shovel, plow, or use a snow blower to displace snow into the City streets. Sidewalks need to be clear of snow and/or ice within 48 hours of a snowfall.

And lastly, please pay attention to fire hydrants in your area by removing snow that is around them for ease of use, if necessary. Here are the specifics Ordinances for your convenience.

### 12.24.010 - Removal of snow and ice from sidewalks.

The owner, occupant, or person in charge of each and every building or property in the city of Wauwatosa fronting upon or adjoining any street, and the owner or person in charge of any unoccupied building or lot fronting upon or adjoining any city street, the public sidewalk and the adjoining crosswalk by twelve noon of the day following any snowfall or accumulation of ice and shall cause the same to be kept clear from snow and ice. Crosswalks are to be cleared to the plowed area of the street. When ice is formed on any sidewalk or crosswalk and it cannot be removed, the owner, occupant, or person in charge of the adjacent property shall keep the sidewalk and crosswalk sprinkled with calcium chloride, sodium chloride, other acceptable deicing materials or sand. Where snow continues to fall for some time, it shall be removed immediately after the snowfall ends.

### 12.24.060 - Throwing snow and ice on street unlawful.

It is unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to throw or put or cause to be thrown or put any snow or ice from private property into any street, avenue or other public place in the city of Wauwatosa.

### 12.24.070 - Throwing snow and ice around fire hydrant unlawful.

It is unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to throw or put or cause to be thrown or put, any snow or ice on, over, or around a fire hydrant so as to obstruct the view of the hydrant or to cause an obstruction to the connection of fire equipment to the hydrant.

## 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.



## 2019 Crime Stoppers Data

The Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers has had another successful year thanks to you! Crime Stoppers received 11 anonymous tips in 2019 that lead to the arrests of 2 individuals for credit card fraud and theft. Other crimes reported included narcotics possession and distribution, robbery and suspicious circumstances. As a result of these arrests, the Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers paid out \$275 in reward money.

If you have information regarding a crime that has been committed and wish to report it anonymously, please call the Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers at (414) 771-TOSA (414-771-8672) or download the “P3 Tips” app to your smartphone to submit tips. As always, if you witness a crime in progress, dial “911” immediately.



Sunday,  
March 8<sup>th</sup>

## Crime Statistics

### Comparative Analysis – City Wide

Category	01-01-18 thru 11-30-18	01-01-19 thru 11-30-19	Percentage of Change 2018 - 2019
<i>Part 1 Crimes</i>			
Homicide	1	0	-100.00%
Sexual Assault	13	24	84.62%
Robbery	27	22	- 18.52%
Assault	60	58	- 3.33%
Burglary	115	88	- 23.48%
Larceny-Theft	1,249	1,359	8.81%
Motor Vehicle Theft	116	71	- 38.79%
<b>Subtotal of Part 1 Crimes</b>	<b>1,581</b>	<b>1,622</b>	<b>2.59%</b>
<i>Other Select Incidents</i>			
Fraud	222	268	20.72%
Vandalism	129	127	- 1.55%
Narcotic Law Violations	103	111	7.77%
Drunken Driving	95	87	- 8.42%
Disorderly Conduct	1,356	1,142	- 15.78%
Fatal MVA	1	0	-100.00%
Personal Injury MVA	178	194	8.99%
Property Damage MVA	1,190	1,164	- 2.18%
<b>Total of All Calls</b>	<b>30,079</b>	<b>29,672</b>	<b>- 1.35%</b>

*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.

## Looking for a Few Good People - Wauwatosa Neighborhood Watch Committee

Many times in the “Tosa Watch” newsletter, you have read about the Wauwatosa Neighborhood Watch Committee (WNWC). You may have seen them mentioned in conjunction with Tosa’s Night Out (TNO). You may have wondered: “Who are they? What do they do? Why are they important to the community?”

The WNWC is a group of volunteer citizens who formed a partnership with the Wauwatosa Police Department in 1994. To date, the group remains a great example of a community / police partnership and community oriented policing. ***The mission of the committee is to actively advocate for community safety throughout Wauwatosa.*** One of the most prominent ways the WNWC does this is through our annual Tosa’s Night Out event.

Due to the large success of Tosa’s Night Out, the committee has been able to grant funds for many community based programs including, but not limited to: “Block Party” street banners, police safety equipment, community safety literature, neighborhood Block Watch signage, “Slow Down” yard signs, playground equipment, senior safety programming and materials, and seed money for Tosa Skateboarders United.

We’re currently looking for some new members who are eager to volunteer in the community. If you are interested in joining this group or just have questions, please contact Sgt. Chad Geiszler at [cgeiszler@wauwatosa.net](mailto:cgeiszler@wauwatosa.net) or call (414) 471-8430, ext. 5226.

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!

## Checklist to Protect Yourself from Scams

- If you have doubts about a business, phone the Better Business Bureau (BBB) at (414) 847-6000 or visit their site online at <https://www.bbb.org/local-bbb/bbb-serving-wisconsin>.
- Never pay for products or services ahead of time unless you are certain the company is reputable.*
- Read everything in a contract before you sign it. Don’t sign anything you feel nervous about or do not understand. Don’t let anyone pressure you to sign anything or give an immediate answer.
- Beware of overly friendly strangers. (Scam artists report that the key to selling a scam is to first become friendly with the victim).*
- If a sales person won’t give you straight answers, stop the conversation.
- Never give out personal information, such as your social security, bank account, or credit cards numbers, over the phone unless you initiated the call and know whom you are talking to.*
- Be careful of contests, giveaways, sweepstakes, and free vacation offers. Many are scams.
- Remember: If it sounds “too good to be true,” it probably is.*