

# 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 welcome.

## We're Back! Tosa's Night Out 2021 at Hart Park

Boy, it sure is nice to be able to begin to return to normalcy. One of our first events will be Tosa's Night Out.

The City of Wauwatosa approved our event recently, so planning is happening in a fast and furious manner. But to date, here is what we know:

- ❖ The event will be back at Hart Park on Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 8pm.
- ❖ There will be a limited number of t-shirts to purchase the day of the event.
- ❖ This will be a smaller event than in years past, but know that there will be plenty of activities for the whole family.
- ❖ Bunzel's hotdogs and chips will be available for purchase, yum!
- ❖ We will take a walk, just under a mile, so wear some walking shoes.

We are so excited to have this awesome event back on the books and look forward to seeing all of you there. So, please join us!

## Road Rage

Road Rage and Aggressive driving have increasingly become a major concern on U.S. roadways. Common behaviors displayed by an aggressive driver include rude and profane gestures, excessive speeds, unnecessary use of horns or headlights and sudden lane changes. Here are some tips to avoid being a target of road rage:

- Maintain an adequate following distance.
- Avoid prolonged use of your horn to signal others.
- Leave early. Being in a rush when you're running late can lead to your own distracted driving.
- Use your turn signals.
- Practice defensive driving and allow space for others to merge.

If you are being followed by another driver that is clearly displaying aggression towards you, do not stop and get out of your car to confront the person. If possible, call the police from your mobile phone and provide your location and a description of the suspect vehicle. **Remember, there is never a winner in a road rage incident.**

## Tosa Green Summit 2021

The Tosa Green Summit will return to City Hall for recycling and other opportunities on **Saturday, September 11 and Saturday, September 18.**

### Saturday, September 11:

Recycling collections for Wauwatosa Crimestoppers Shredding, Textiles and Bikes in the City Hall Parking Lot from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Exhibits in the Lower Civic Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Saturday, September 18:

Recycling collections for MMSD Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics in the City Hall Parking Lot from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please note there is a fee of \$35 for recycling TVs and \$10 for computer monitors, cash only.

Everything is free (with the exception of the TV/monitor recycling). Save the dates and start getting ready to build awareness and take-action on your sustainable activities! For more information, like Tosa Green Summit on

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/TosaGreenSummit>

or contact Jeff

Roznowski at [jroznowski@wi.rr.com](mailto:jroznowski@wi.rr.com) or 414-803-9500.



## Crime Mapping & Security Cameras

The Wauwatosa Police Department is utilizing a new crime mapping system for the City of Wauwatosa. Citizens can view the approximate location of nearly all calls for service the Police Department responds to. This free service will give everyone an idea of what is taking place around them. You are able to search by call class and dates to make your search as beneficial as possible, you can also zoom in to a specific area of the City on the map. Data on this mapping system goes back to the beginning of 2020. The only incidents that will not be displayed are sexual assaults, mental health matters and family trouble/domestic incidents.

You can find the crime map on the City of Wauwatosa webpage, once on the homepage, go to Public Safety then click on Crime Mapping. At this point, you can open the mapping in a new window which will give you a full page of information. Otherwise if you are reading this newsletter online, follow this link, [click here](#).

Do you have a home surveillance system? In the past, the Wauwatosa Police Department asked you to register your cameras on Crime Reports, but with the system no longer in use, your information has been deleted. We are asking, once again, to register your information through a survey link that is safe and secure on our Facebook page. A database will be established for long term storage, this data will be utilized only by authorized personnel and not distributed outside the police department. The link to fill out the survey is: [Camera Survey](#). If there is an incident in your area, we may contact you to get permission to view footage that your system captured. Our department will not have access to your surveillance system, but rather just the knowledge that you have video should something happen nearby. Again, that information will remain confidential and never shared with anyone outside of our department.

If you don't have internet and would like information regarding incidents that happen in your area or to give us your camera information, you may call 414-471-8430 ex. 5111. Community Support is available Monday through Friday to assist you. We thank you for your help.

## Fireworks on July 4

Fireworks will be held on July 4 at 9:15 pm. The fireworks will be launched from a different site compared to previous years. We invite the public to watch from Hart Park. To alleviate traffic congestion in the Village, if at all possible, please take public transportation or walk to the event.



## Bike Safety

This may sound like a message that is repeated every Summer, and quite frankly, it is. When families go through the horrific experience of learning a loved one has suffered fatal injuries from a traffic incident, we take that seriously and need to take the time to keep spreading the word on bike safety. Here are a few tips that you may want to keep close at hand the next time your out for a ride:

- First and foremost, be visible. Wear reflective clothing so vehicle traffic is able to see you before they are upon you. Blinking lights are a great way to let traffic know that something is ahead and they need to pay attention to whatever that may be. A bicycle that is being ridden at night is required to have a white headlight and a red taillight to enhance visibility.
- If you didn't know, a bike is considered a vehicle and responsible to follow rules of the road just as a regular vehicle does. A bicyclist can be ticketed for failure to obey stop signs/light and all other rules of the road.
- Avoid a driver's blind spots, this can put one in a very dangerous position, do your best to ensure that you are seen. Using the designated bike lane, paved shoulder or path is your best option for safety.
- Be alert for hazards on your path such as rocks, potholes, utility grates and train tracks.
- If you wear earphones while riding, try to wear only one, this will give you the opportunity to hear what's going on around you.
- Wear a helmet, this is one way to prevent serious and/or deadly head injuries.



We at the Wauwatosa Police Department want you to be safe while enjoying your bicycling activities and these are valuable tips to get you back home safely.

Enjoy your Summer!

## Parade on July 5

Join us for the parade on North Avenue. The celebration is one of the largest parades in the state and features over 50 units. The parade proceeds west on North Avenue between 80th and 104th Street.

Date: Monday, July 5, 2021

Parade Start Time: 9:00 am



### SENIOR AMBASSADOR'S NEEDED IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

The Wauwatosa Senior Commission has created the Senior Ambassador Program to connect older adults to their community: its people, its activities, its resources. There are ambassadors in many Wauwatosa neighborhoods. If you would like to suggest an ambassador for your neighborhood, to know the ambassador in your neighborhood, or to learn more about the program, please contact Laura Laurishke at 414-471-8430.



### WAUWATOSA CRIME STOPPERS

771-TOSA or  
Text Keyword  
"Tosa" to "Crimes"

Cash Reward up to \$1,000

### Wauwatosa Police Department

*Luke Vetter – Acting Chief of Police*

### Community Support Division

*Captain Gary Gabrish  
Lieutenant Joseph Roy  
Sergeant Jim Morrill  
Specialist II Mike McDermott  
Officer Dan Kane  
School Officer Tracy Burbach  
School Officer Farris Griffin  
School Officer Andy Yothesackda  
School Officer Jeremy Bronner  
Administrative Support Specialist -  
Laura Laurishke*

## Block Party Banners

### NOW AVAILABLE! Block Party Street Banners

- Easily attaches to street barricades or garbage carts.
- Prevents traffic flow during a block party.
- Advertises the block party with a 2½' x 10' banner.

Reserve your banners now...there are 16 sets available for distribution. Just check the box at the bottom of the block party application to reserve a set for your party, and remember there is a \$25.00 deposit that will be returned when the banners have been returned. If you have questions, call Maija Ptaszek at 471-8430, ext. 5129. Banners are available for pickup at the Police Department on the Friday prior to a block party. Please return by the following Monday so the banners can be re-distributed.

### Wisconsin State Statute 346.89(3)(a)

No person may drive any motor vehicle while composing or sending an electronic text message or an electronic mail message

Texting while driving causes greater impairment than being under the influence of drugs or alcohol while driving.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) driving a vehicle while texting is six time more dangerous than intoxicated driving.

## Watch Your Purse

Everyone goes shopping, whatever type of shopping that may be. We ask that everyone shopping and using a purse take extra precaution and keep a close eye on your money, credit/debit cards or anything else of value that's contained inside your purse.

- Keep your purse zipped, snapped or otherwise closed to prevent theft.
- Utilize a crossbody bag when shopping, this will keep your hands free and your valuables on you at all times.
- Don't leave your cart unattended while shopping, even if it's only for a minute. Theft only takes a moment.
- If you are helping someone else that can't reach an item, keep one hand on your purse while your free hand does the reaching.
- While in the parking lot, don't leave your purse in the shopping cart while packing your groceries/items in the vehicle. Anyone driving or walking by can easily grab your purse and be gone before you know it.
- As always, be aware of your surroundings and pay attention to what is going on around you.

Thefts of this type happen, so be prepared and keep your valuables safe. Once your wallet/purse is gone it takes only minutes to charge and/or get access to cash. Don't become a victim.



## Please Put Down Your Cell Phone

Did you know that it's illegal to text and drive in Wisconsin? Believe it or not, it is illegal. You can reference Wisconsin State Statute 346.89(3)(a) for complete details or [click here](#).

Safety is always a factor when driving alone or with a passenger(s). Seconds can be the difference of going home or going to the hospital for treatment or worse.

Most of you have already realized that traffic is quickly returning to normal as our pandemic is slowly coming to an end. Now we need to re-focus on driving safety, not only for ourselves but for everyone out on the road. Talk to your teens and adult children that drive, let them know just how devastating a few second conversation can be. Nothing is really that important that it can't wait a few minutes, if it is, pull over to a safe location to create a safe environment for all of us.



Mom's, Dad's, Grandma's and Grandpa's leading by example can go a long way to help create a solution to this ever-growing problem.