



# TOSA WATCH

Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

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TOSA WATCH - Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter is sponsored 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.

## Responding to School Emergencies

Misinformation can spread quickly if an emergency takes place at or near a K-12 school. This can greatly impact the response to an incident. When parents and guardians do not know what is going on, many may try to contact the school, arrive at the school, and/or try to enter the school during an unsafe situation. Parents/and guardians being too close to the school often hinder the rescue attempts of law enforcement and representatives of fire and rescue teams on scene. Being too close may also potentially place them into harm's way, especially if law enforcement is dealing with a tactical situation with weapons involved.

### QUICK TIPS if there is a School Emergency

**Stay calm and alert:** In the event of a school emergency, please remain calm and know that school staff, Wauwatosa School District Personnel, and City of Wauwatosa Police and Fire are working to keep your child/ren safe. Please keep your phone close and follow the directions provided. Based on the situation, the Wauwatosa School District and/or Wauwatosa Police Department will provide information. Depending on the situation parents may also monitor local television, news stations, or social media outlets for updates.

**Please do not come to the school:** We understand the emotion of wanting to come to the school to see your child especially in a situation that feels stressful. However, arriving at the scene before it is secure can interfere with the emergency response and put you in danger. Previous school emergencies around the country have shown that one of the greatest challenges is how to manage the number of parents and concerned citizens that arrive at the scene. By rushing to the school, parents/guardians can unintentionally cause traffic jams that may block emergency responders from getting to the school or leaving if necessary to transport injured students or staff to the hospital for care. Families should not pick up their students until communication is given from the Wauwatosa School District.

**Please do not call the school:** We ask that families do not call the school. This keeps phone lines open for communication with emergency services and school officials. This helps school staff remain focused on the safety of the students. The school and Wauwatosa School District will ensure that information is being shared. If a student is injured, the families of those children will be notified directly.

**If your child calls or texts you, please keep them calm:** Many students will try to call and text parents during an emergency. We ask that you remain calm and reassuring when this occurs. Encourage your students to follow the directions of school staff and law enforcement. (Continues on Page 2)

## Fall Is In The Air

For many, Fall is a great time of year; the cool crisp air, the beautiful colors of leaves on the trees and knowing the holidays are just around the corner.

Don't be fooled though by all the beauty and forget that this time of year can also bring about some dangerous driving conditions. Two things that don't mix well; falling leaves and rain.

Many motorists don't realize until it's too late that speed and wet leaves can cause devastating end result for those not paying attention to the road conditions.

- Kids are back at school, many of which ride a bike or walk to school.
- Families out enjoying outdoor activities in cooler temperatures.
- Residents out raking leaves to the curbs for fall pick up.

These are normal activities of those living in Wauwatosa who enjoy doing outdoor activities in Fall.

So, please, slow down, pay attention to the road conditions, talk with your young drivers and explain the possible problems that can arise from driving too fast for conditions.

Lets all enjoy the season and be safe.



## Responding to School Emergencies

(Continued from Page 1)

**Make sure your contact information and all emergency contact information are accurate and up to date:** The Wauwatosa School District will communicate with families when there is an emergency at a school. Please make sure that your emergency contact information is always up to date at your child's school. In the event of a serious emergency, all emergency contacts will be called.

The Wauwatosa School District and the Wauwatosa Police Department work together to ensure the safety of your children and loved ones. Families and the community also play a role in keeping our children safe. The schools have response plans in place as on how to respond to certain situations. Become familiar with the terms below that are used at school, and be open to have conversations with your children regarding safety in and outside of the school.

### TERMS TO KNOW

**Hold:** Used when hallways need to be cleared of all occupants. Most commonly used during a medical emergency.

**Secure:** Used to secure the building from a potential threat outside of the building, such as criminal or suspicious activity in the neighborhood or close to the school.

**Lockdown:** Used when there is a perceived threat inside the building.

**Shelter:** Used during severe weather or other environmental threats.

**Evacuate:** Used to move students out of the building. During an evacuation, students and staff will relocate to another site or location until it is determined that they can safely return to the school building.

We all play a role in maintaining the safe learning environment of the children and staff of the Wauwatosa School District. With more information and communication, we can all work together to ensure that all of our students and school communities feel secure and supported!

## Comparative Incident Analysis

Category	1-01-20 thru 08-31-20	1-01-21 thru 08-31-21	% of Change 2020 -2021
<i>Part 1 Crimes</i>			
Homicide	0	0	0.00%
Sexual Assault	4	14	250.00%
Robbery	18	18	0.00%
Assault	53	63	18.87%
Burglary	51	54	5.88%
Larceny-Theft	1,037	845	-18.51%
Motor Vehicle Theft	59	233	294.92%
<b>Subtotal of Part 1 Crimes</b>	<b>1,478</b>	<b>1,556</b>	<b>5.28%</b>

*Note: The above are incidents are reported to 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.*

## Emergency Notifications

The City of Wauwatosa has contracted with the Emergency Communications Network to license their CodeRED high-speed notification system. Based in part on an existing reverse 911 database, the system also gives individuals and businesses the ability to add additional phone number(s) directly into the system.

CodeRED is a geographically based rapid notification system. This means that physical Wauwatosa street addresses are required to ensure emergency notification calls are received by the proper individuals in a given situation. The CodeRED system allows local government officials from Wauwatosa's Police, Fire, Health, and Public Works Departments to communicate time sensitive personalized messages via voice, email, and text in a quick manner.

All businesses and residents who have changed their phone number or address within the last year or have an unlisted number, cellular number, or cable VoIP number are especially encouraged to register.

To register go to City website [www.wauwatosa.net](http://www.wauwatosa.net), then click on Public Safety, click on CodeRED and Sign up, you will be directed to the registration page of CodeRED. It's that easy, no internet, no problem, call Laura Laurishke at 414-471-8430 with the Wauwatosa Police Department for assistance.



## Neighbor Trouble

Every now and again the Wauwatosa Police Department receives calls from residents about an issue with their neighbor.

There are pros and cons when living in a City where homes are right next to one another. Best practice is that we all do what we can to keep tension and stress between neighbors low. Here are the steps you can take to keep the peace.

The first step to alleviate tense situation is to talk with your neighbor in a calm and non-threatening manner. You may find that the neighbor does not even realize what's happening and will be happy to curtail the activity that is bothersome to you. This of course is the best-case scenario.

If you find that you've only escalated the situation by bringing the issue to their attention, call the police while the actual activity is happening. We'd be happy to stop by and determine if this is a police issue or if it's a civil issue, which will have to be taken to court to rectify.

Neighbor trouble can consist of many different things, but some examples are listed here:

- Barking dogs, ongoing issue
- Tree not being trimmed and on neighbor's property
- Flowers/Fence on neighbor's property
- Light that is too bright at night and shines right into a bedroom
- Cameras that are up on the neighbor's home, placement/into neighbor's home
- Loud parties late into the night
- Bonfires where the smoke blows into the neighbor's window
- Bad language being used in front of young children, ongoing issue

Try to work with your neighbors, look up City Ordinances so you know what the rules are and abide by those rules. Please know that when we respond, we are working off Wauwatosa Ordinances, which dictate which offenses are enforceable and which ones we will help to mediate.

When we live in an urban area, we may find ourselves in a not so comfortable situation but we should all try to make the best of that situation. We all need to co-exist without letting our feeling get in the way.

If you do need help with your concerns, please call the Wauwatosa Police Department at 414-471-8430 and ask for "Dispatch," they'll have an officer stop by.

Property issues, such as property damage by a neighbor or property line disputes will need to be addressed by City Hall, they can be reached by calling 414-471-8969.

PLEASE, BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

# Tosa's Night Out

The Wauwatosa Police Department and the Wauwatosa Neighborhood Watch Committee would like send a big "THANK YOU" to everyone that Participated in Tosa's Night Out Against Crime on Wednesday, August 4th.

The weather cooperated fully to make our first year back to Hart Park a success and we couldn't have been happier.

Thank you to all that committed to support and keep this community event going, we can't do what we do without the support of all those that donate to this family friendly event.

We hope you all had fun and that you'll join us again next year.

## THANK YOU, Sponsors and Participants!

<b>Wauwatosa Police Department</b>
<i>James MacGillis - Chief of Police</i>
<b>Community Support Division</b>
<i>Captain Gary Gabrish</i>
<i>Lieutenant Joseph Roy</i>
<i>Sergeant James Morrill</i>
<i>Specialist Mike McDermott</i>
<i>Officer Dan Kane</i>
<i>SRO Tracy Burbach</i>
<i>SRO Farris Griffin</i>
<i>SRO Andy Yothsackda</i>
<i>SRO Jeremy Bronner</i>
<i>Laura Laurishke - Administrative Support Specialist</i>

# City Wide Trick or Treat & Neighborhood Association Activities

Wauwatosa's trick-or-treat hours are **Sunday, October 31, 2021 from 1-4pm.** Once again, we are listing recommendations from the Wauwatosa Health Department for COVID-19 safety.

Ways to protect yourself include wearing a mask, physical distancing, avoiding large crowds, and frequent hand washing.

### Safer ways to celebrate Halloween:

- Wear a mask while trick-or-treating and stay at least 6 feet away from people you don't live with.
- If you choose to host or attend a gathering, keep it small and outdoors. Wear a mask and maintain 6 feet of distance from people who you don't live with. If food is being served, avoid potlucks and buffet style food options.
- Alternative options to traditional trick-or-treating:
  - Individual grab bags or treats outside the door to avoid in-person contact.
  - Candy stations or designated stops in your neighborhood.
  - Drive through trick-or-treating.
  - Host a virtual costume party.
  - Stay home and bake Halloween-themed treats, have a scavenger hunt, or watch scary movies.
- Stay home if you are sick or have symptoms of COVID-19.

### Neighborhood Associations

If your neighborhood associations will be hosting their own Halloween event, please contact Laura Laurishke with the Community Support Division at 414-471-8430 or llaurishke@wauwatosa.net with the following information.

- Neighborhood Association Name
- Boundaries or location of Event
- Contact Person Name and Phone Number
- Date and Hours that your group will celebrate your Halloween Activities.
- Any distinguishing marking of homes that will participate.

This information will not be shared with anyone but used to make a list for the Wauwatosa Police Patrol Division to know when and where activities will be taking place.

Individuals looking for information on when Neighborhood Associations will be having these events should contact one's Neighborhood Association directly.