

TOSA WATCH

Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

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

Coyotes

Many Wauwatosa residents are concerned with the sighting of coyotes in their neighborhoods. While coyotes don't pose a serious risk to humans, they may cause deadly results with small animals. Coyotes typically feed on small game or rodents, unfortunately, as we keep building cities, wildlife has less options to forage. This is where the problems come into play with small pet owners. Coyotes have been known to attack, even kill cats and dogs for food or if they are feeling threatened by a family pet.

Here are some preventative measures one can take to keep coyotes at bay:

- Secure your garbage cans, rope or a bungee cord will work
- When disposing of certain foods, such as meat, cheese and eggs you may want to add a small amount of ammonia to the bag, this will discourage the coyotes from going through your garbage.
- When composting, use an enclosed container rather than exposed piles.
- If you have any fruit trees, make certain that all ripe fruit is picked and cleared from the ground.
- Motion lights and sprinklers may deter coyotes from entering your yard.

If you have family pets and want to keep them safe, here are some helpful hints:

- Keep pets indoors at night. Coyotes are known to forage at dusk and dawn.
- If you must take animals out at dusk or dawn, keep them leashed so they can't take off which gives you a better chance to protect your pet(s).
- Spay or neuter your dogs. Coyotes are attracted to and can mate with unsterilized dogs.

Trapping is a last resort and should be done through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), they can provide help and gather information at the same time. Please know, coyotes that are trapped are generally euthanized, make an educated decision before you take this approach.

If you find yourself in the path of a coyote, don't run away or turn your back to it. Make yourself look big and make noise, loud noise, if that doesn't work, you can throw a stick and or a rock, but try to avoid hitting the coyote.

For more information, contact the DNR at their Call Center. Staff is available 7 Days a Week from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and the phone number is Toll Free, 1-888-WDNRINFO (1-888-936-7463)

2021 Crime Stoppers Data

The Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers has had another successful year thanks to you! Crime Stoppers received 12 anonymous tips in 2021 that lead to the arrests of 3 individuals for narcotics and firearms violations. Other crimes reported included burglary, narcotics distribution 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 use the “P3 Tips” app from your smartphone or call 800-800-TIPS (8477) to submit tips. As always, if you witness a crime in progress, dial “911” immediately.



Wauwatosa Police Department

James MacGillis - Chief of Police

Community Support Division

*Captain Gary Gabrish
Lieutenant Joseph Roy
Sergeant James Morrill
Specialist Mike McDermott
Officer Dan Kane
SRO Tracy Burbach
SRO Farris Griffin
SRO Andy Yothesackda
Laura Laurishke – Administrative Support Specialist*

Know the Facts About Robbery...

Armed robbers depend on the element of surprise, using intimidation and confusion to their advantage. A robber’s main objective is to steal money or property, not to hurt or kill anyone. The robber will rarely hurt you unless you resist or provoke them.

WHAT TO DO BEFORE A ROBBERY - Be aware of your surroundings, greet strangers, letting them know you are watching. Pay attention to people dressed in clothing that may conceal a gun, such as shirt tails out, bulges from underneath jackets, or wearing heavy coats out of season. Be aware of people who may be watching you or your home, trust your gut feeling and if you feel or observe suspicious activity, call the police immediately.

WHAT TO DO DURING A ROBBERY - Try to remain calm, and do what the robber says to do, no more, and no less. Do not make any sudden or unexpected movements, and talk to the robber in a slow and calm manner. If you can’t or don’t know how to comply with the robber’s commands, give them a clear and convincing reason.

Do not concentrate on the robber’s gun, but instead try to make note of the robber’s sex, race, height, weight, and any unusual physical characteristics. You may also note clothing, hair color, and facial hair. Gathering this description may help you stay calm and provide the police with an accurate description of the robber. Never get into a car with a robber and allow them to take you to an unknown location. Call for help as soon as you feel safe doing so. If shots are fired during the robbery, get away from the robber and take cover behind a car, house, or anything else you find.

WHAT TO DO AFTER A ROBBERY - Check for injured people and call 9-1-1. If the robbery occurred inside your home, lock your doors immediately after the robber leaves and allow only the police inside. Anyone who witnessed the robbery should not leave until the police have interviewed them. Block off the immediate area to protect and preserve any possible evidence, and do not touch anything you think the robber may have touched. Be factual, and tell the police exactly what you saw and heard.

You may be a victim, but you are not helpless. Many robbery victims have helped the police identify and prosecute their assailants, sending them to jail. You too can help keep our neighborhoods safer.

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.



Tosa Watch Newsletter

The Community Support Division of the Wauwatosa Police Department wants to know what you'd like to see in the Tosa Watch Newsletter.

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 for questions, comments or with your name and address so we can get you your copy of Tosa Watch.



Winter Driving

Snow can be both fun and dangerous. As we travel from here to there, please take extra precautions on snowy and ice-covered roadways. Here are a few tips that will help ensure safe travel:

- Clear snow and ice from all windows, headlights, taillights and license plates. If possible remove snow from all areas of your vehicle including the hood and roof. Snow blowing off of your vehicle could temporarily distract drivers behind you and cause an accident.
- Make sure that your tires have adequate tread and are rated for all seasons.
- Pay attention to current road conditions and speed limits. Remember that speed limits are set for ideal road conditions and do not take ice and snow into consideration.
- Look farther ahead in traffic than you usually do and anticipate slower traffic patterns.
- Leave room for snow plows and pay attention to plowing patterns. Often times the lanes running parallel to the plow will not be as clear of snow and slush as the one being plowed.
- Look out for children. Kids often play and sled on snow mounds adjacent to the roadway.
- Use your brakes carefully and brake early. Don't be surprised if your Anti-lock brakes are activated, stay calm and proceed with caution.

Don't get overconfident in four-wheel drive vehicles. Four-wheel drive will allow you to get going quicker but won't necessarily allow you to stop quicker.



**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?

Will you be my Valentine, is back for its second year. The program was well received and we'd like to do it again this year. So, the Community Support Division is looking for some help. Our plan is to visit Oak Park assisted living facility on Friday, February 11th to present them with decorated Valentines. 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 116th 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. Any help you can give would be most appreciated.

Winter Street Smarts

This time of year, may cause some to add extra layers of Winter clothing to survive the elements. While adding the extra layers is essential for warmth, it can also leave one with less physical ability to react to situations that may come our way.

Hats and jacket hoods can reduce our peripheral vision and hearing. Layered clothing can reduce our ability to feel a pickpocket in action. Bulky footwear may affect our ability to run away if necessary.

Although there may be no way around wearing the extra layers to keep warm there are ways to stay safe while bundled up. Consider these options:

- Keep layered clothing loose to allow for best mobility.
- Avoid hoods or hats that affect your vision. Instead, wear headbands and earmuffs.
- If wearing boots that affect your ability to run, be aware of others around you and give yourself increased reaction time.
- If your hearing is affected by wearing headwear, use your vision to be more aware of your surroundings.
- Continue to pay attention to your surroundings when shoveling or snow blowing.

While we can't promise that you won't become a victim of crime, anything that you can do to be more aware of your surroundings may become good practice and help you to stay safe.

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.

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.



Meet with the Police

The Community Support Division is available to meet with you and your neighbors. Whether you'd like to meet as a Neighborhood Association or a Block Watch, know that we are here for you.

Meetings are generally scheduled for Tuesdays through Thursdays at 6:30PM and last approximately one hour. We can come out to your location or set-up a Zoom meeting, whichever you prefer.

You tell us what type of information you'd like to receive, otherwise we'll go with the basic Crime & Safety Presentation.

For further information or to schedule a meeting, contact Laura Laurishke at 414-471-8430 or email at llaurishke@wauwatosa.net. We do ask that you give us at least two weeks-notice. Look forward to meeting you. 😊



Sunday,
March 13th

Crime Statistics

Comparative Analysis – City Wide

Category	01-01-20 thru 11-30-20	01-01-21 thru 11-30-21	Percentage of Change 2020 - 2021
Part 1 Crimes			
Homicide	0	1	0.00%
Sexual Assault	15	21	40.00%
Robbery	26	27	3.85%
Assault	73	94	28.77%
Burglary	76	75	-1.32%
Larceny-Theft	1,400	1,201	-14.21%
Motor Vehicle Theft	88	320	263.64%
Subtotal of Part 1 Crimes	1,678	1,739	3.64%
Other Select Incidents			
Fraud	213	269	26.29%
Vandalism	168	195	16.07%
Narcotic Law Violations	77	61	- 16.44%
Drunken Driving	42	62	47.62%
Disorderly Conduct	1,000	1,434	43.40%
Fatal MVA	2	2	0.00%
Personal Injury MVA	135	187	38.52%
Property Damage MVA	720	1,043	44.86%
Total of All Calls	21,289	24,757	16.29%

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.

Sexting, Child Porn and Distribution of Child Porn

Definitions:

Sexting: Sexting is when people take and send sexually revealing pictures of themselves or send sexually explicit messages via the Internet, text messages or on social media.

Child Porn: Under Wisconsin law, possession of child pornography is defined as possessing or accessing any material depicting a child engaging in sexually explicit conduct. ... Know, or reasonably should know, that the child depicted in the material who is engaged in sexually explicit conduct is under the age of 18.

Distribution of Child Porn: In Wisconsin, possession of child pornography is a Class D Felony, punishable by up to 25 years in prison. Wisconsin law – Wis. Stat. 948.12(1m) – defines possession of child pornography as knowingly possessing or accessing any material that depicts a person under the age of 18 engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

One may recall a sexting article being published in the Tosa Watch Newsletter not too long ago. Despite that article, we are still seeing quite a few incidents occurring among youth at our elementary, middle and high schools. So, we thought we’d write another article with the chance that one may read this and become curious about what their teens are up to on their digital devices. Keep in mind that social media applications include but are not limited to:

- Discord; Snapchat; Instagram

Unfortunately, some youth set-up multiple accounts. One that their parent/guardian is aware of and an additional one that is set-up and maintained in secrecy! Although it is time consuming and a lot of work, parents should take time to review content on their children’s phones, computers, tablets, gaming systems and other electronic devices. Setting clear expectations and consequences (and then following through on them) for violating those rules should be priority number one. Parents, you need to remind your kids that once an explicit picture is out there, there is no getting it back. You have no control as to who has it, or when and where that picture will show up next. Sexting can lead to embarrassment for families, bullying, criminal charges, and in extreme cases, suicide. The small measures that you take now may make all the difference in the future.

A 2018 study by JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association) Pediatrics in which participants aged 12 to 17 years old responded showed:

- At least 1 in 4 teens are receiving sexually explicit texts and emails
- At least 1 in 7 are sending sexts
- More than 1 in 10 teens are forwarding sexts without consent
- About 1 in 12 teens have had sexts they’ve sent forwarded without consent

Currently, there is no sexting law in the state of Wisconsin, nor is there a sexting ordinance in the City of Wauwatosa. As a result, those responsible for sexting (including juveniles) can be charged with Possession/Distribution of Child Pornography, Exposing a Child to Harmful Material, Misuse of a Computerized Communication Device and others. Charges may include a misdemeanor or felony and can have life-long consequences. Also, if illegal material is located on a device, it very well may be confiscated and never returned.

This whole subject can be overwhelming and confusing, do your research and learn what Wisconsin State Laws are as some families will be affected by this type of activity. Don’t let it be yours. Please take the time to communicate and discuss with your child the sexting information above, it may be difficult to do, but in the end, it will be beneficial.

Resources:

<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/talking-about-sexting>

<https://www.missingkids.org/NetSmartz>