



# 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.

## Railroad Tracks and Blue Signs

In the past month or so, the Wauwatosa Police Department has responded to two vehicles that have found themselves driving on the railroad tracks. While both incidents can be explained, it's still troublesome to know such things do happen.

With that being said, the police department would like to present information that may increase awareness and educate those who live, work and play in Wauwatosa.

As you approach most railroad tracks, you'll see common things like an "X" labeled railroad crossing, which of course tells one there are railroad tracks near and large white and red arms with lights that flash red when a train is coming. The main thing we'd like to discuss is the blue sign that is affixed at all railroad crossings as this sign is not only posted in Wisconsin, but throughout the entire United States.

If you're unaware of the blue sign, please continue to read as this sign can truly save a life that may be in jeopardy. Whether you find yourself stuck on the railroad tracks or someone else in a dangerous position, possibly driving on the tracks or next to them, the blue sign is the best information one can equip themselves with.



The blue sign will have a phone number and a unique address that consists of six numbers followed by a letter. If you see someone or something on the tracks, call the phone number posted on the blue sign, give the operator that answers the unique address code which is directly related to the Railroad Emergency Notification System as this number gives the railroad your exact location. Instead of calling 9-1-1 and having to wait for the police to contact the railroad, you will immediately be talking with the railroad who in turn will contact the engineer to stop the oncoming train(s). The time you save in minutes by calling the railroad first could very well be enough time for the engineer to stop the train before an accident occurs. Then call 9-1-1 if you need additional help to clear the tracks and don't forget to call the railroad again once the tracks are clear.



## 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 are falling leaves and rain.

Many motorists don't realize until it's too late that speed and wet leaves can cause a 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.

Let's all enjoy the season and be safe.



## School Resource Officer Patrol

The majority of parents and guardians know that Wauwatosa East and West High Schools have School Resource Officers on campus while school is in session. So, it only makes sense that our School Resource Officers also work at special events that take place throughout the school year at the school's request. Typical events may include sporting events, dances and even graduation. If one really thinks about it, it makes sense that the School Resource Officers would be in attendance as many kids have established strong bonds with the officers they see throughout the year.

Sporting events such as basketball and football can draw huge crowds of fans as parents and kids attend to cheer on their team. After all, isn't that what high school sports is all about? But sometimes unacceptable activities occur at these games and officers need to address bad behavior. Due to some recent fights and unruly behavior at both Tosa East and West football games, we have increased our presence at the games. The Wauwatosa Police Department doesn't want you to feel like there is an ongoing problem at the games, but wanted to inform you of the reason behind extra officers at the games.

We all look forward to enjoying the school sporting events and we hope you will too!

## Rainbow Fentanyl Is Trending

You may have already seen this information but for those who have not the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has reported the newest threat in the synthetic opioid crisis.



Rainbow Fentanyl, is being made to look like candy for younger users. It can come in powder or pill form and is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine.

While this specific drug hasn't made it to Wisconsin as of this publication, it has already been found in Illinois and Michigan. Sit down with your children and have an open and honest conversation with them about the dangers and how they may be targeted. Talk with your children about an "exit" plan that can be used if they are offered drugs so they'll know how to walk away.

No one wants to believe that this type of activity could happen in Wauwatosa, but it can. Overdoses and overdose deaths happen everywhere to all types of families. There is no discrimination. The best steps anyone can take is to be educated and communicate, no matter how difficult the conversation may be. Take the first step to safeguard your loved ones against possible overdose and even death.

If you happen to see this drug surface in the area, call the Wauwatosa Police Department immediately. Don't touch it or taste it. Keep the drug contained in the packaging it was found in and call 414-471-8430 and ask for Dispatch. We have a quick turn-around time and will be there within a few minutes.

This information is brought to you by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

## Marked Crosswalks

Have you ever wondered why a crosswalk is marked with diagonal lines? It would seem that many don't as we drive through cities and see people ignore the rules. Let's all get involved and try to spread the word to your children, their friends, family members and even your adult friends. It's too often that we don't stop to let pedestrian cross streets safely.

Throughout Wauwatosa, marked crosswalks exist and it is one's responsibility to know what needs to be done upon approaching such a crosswalk.

**Wauwatosa City Ordinance 11.20.010 – Right-of-way on crosswalks states:** The operator of any vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the street within any marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection except at those intersections where the movement of traffic is being regulated by traffic officers or traffic control signals.

Many of us have been driving for years and it's second nature to just stop and let individuals cross, but it doesn't seem to be the norm anymore.

We as pedestrians must make the best decision on crossing or not crossing a street. Don't assume that a driver will stop just because the crosswalk is there. Use common sense and good judgement as we know our bodies can't win against a vehicle hitting us.



## Wauwatosa Citizen Academy is Back

Have you ever asked yourself, "I wonder what a police officer does?" The Wauwatosa Police Department can answer your questions and any others that you may have.

Earlier this year, the Wauwatosa Police Department brought back the Citizen Police Academy. This year's class was the first one offered in just over twenty years. The twelve participants had a front row seat to the inner workings of the Police Department over the ten-week program. The class was attended by a combination of citizens, community stakeholders, city employees and city officials.

The citizen academy provides citizens an opportunity to gain knowledge and a better understanding of the vision, values, goals and operations of the Wauwatosa Police Department. The goal of the academy is to enhance collaboration and partnerships between the community and the Police Department.

The Citizen Academy is designed to be interactive. It will include lectures, demonstrations, practical exercises and open discussion provided by members of the Wauwatosa Police Department along with guest speakers. Your evenings will be filled with topics including communications, Special Response Team, Crash Investigations, K9, Criminal/Death Investigations and a tour of our facility. Additional activities will include being fingerprinted and hands-on participation such as; traffic stops, use of force scenarios, OWI (Operating While Intoxicated) enforcement, along with firearms and emergency vehicle operation.

Classes are held at the Wauwatosa Police Department, 1700 N 116 St, Wauwatosa, WI. Each class starts at 6pm and will be approximately three hours long. Participants will be provided credentials, shirt, and all class materials. There is no cost to attend the Citizen Academy.

The Wauwatosa Police Department Citizen Academy is open to adults age 18 and older who live, work, or own property in the City of Wauwatosa. Background checks will be conducted on all applicants. If you have any questions or are interested in attending a future academy class please contact the Community Support Division at 414-471-8430. Additional information will be posted on the Wauwatosa Police Department Facebook page in the near future.

\*Enrollment is extremely limited, however a waiting list will be established for future academies.

**On behalf of the Wauwatosa Police Department,  
we wish you and your families a**  
*Happy Thanksgiving  
And Holiday Season!*

# Trick or Treat

Wauwatosa's trick-or-treat hours are **Sunday, October 30, 2022 from 1-4pm**. 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
- Boundaries or location of Event
- Contact Person Name & Phone
- Date and Hours of activities.
- Any distinguishing marking on homes that will participate.

This information will not be shared with anyone but used to make a list for the 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.



## Wauwatosa Police Department

*James MacGillis - Chief of Police*

## Community Support Division

- Captain Gary Gabrish*
- Lieutenant Brad Beckman*
- Sergeant James Morrill*
- Specialist Mike McDermott*
- Officer Dan Kane*
- SRO Tracy Burbach*
- SRO Farris Griffin*
- SRO Andy Yothsackda*
- Laura Laurishke – Administrative Support Specialist*

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The weather cleared up just in time for family and friends to gather and enjoy all Hart Park had to offer at this years' Tosa's Night Out.

To our Sponsors and Participating Groups, your commitment to support this community event does not go unnoticed. Tosa's Night Out happens because of you, so, **Thank You!**

## Monetary Sponsors:

- WaterStone Bank
- Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin
- Kiwanis Club of Wauwatosa
- Foti Chiropractic
- Action Law
- Catral Doyle Creative

## Raffle Sponsors:

- Brewers \* Green Bay Packers \* Admirals \* Milkmen
- Home Depot \* Lowlands Group \* Bartolotta
- Timber Rattlers \* Rocket Baby \* Breadsmith

## Participating Groups:

- Be SMART for Kids \* Big Brothers Big Sisters \* Bird Scooters
- Cornerstone Security \* Dick's Sporting Goods \* Ebenezer Child Care
- Foti Chiropractic \* Froedtert Health Community Engagement \* Girls Scouts
- MADACC \* Make-A-Wish
- Milwaukee County Department of Health & Human Services Aging and Disabilities Services
- Project Lifesaver \* Sojourner Family Peace Center \* Stop the Bleed \* Target \*
- Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers \* Wauwatosa Fire Department
- Wauwatosa Health Department \* Wauwatosa Lions Club
- Wauwatosa Police Department \* Wauwatosa Public Library
- Wauwatosa Public Works \* Wauwatosa Recreation Center
- Wauwatosa Veterans Memorial
- Wisconsin Department of Corrections
- WI Department of Transportation – SE Freeways Unit & I-94 East/West Project



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

