

# 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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Community Support Division  
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FAX: (414) 471-8447 TOSA  
WATCH provides useful  
information for citizens who  
participate in the Wauwatosa  
Block Watch Program. Reader  
comments and contributions are  
always welcome.

## Ear Buds In, Ear Buds Out?

A question was brought to the attention of the Wauwatosa Police Department about driving with ear buds/headphones on. Here is what we have to say:

**State Statute 346.89 Inattentive Driving** - No person while driving a motor vehicle may be engaged or occupied with an activity, other than driving the vehicle, that interferes or reasonably appears to interfere with the person's ability to drive the vehicle safely.

While some may find this practice acceptable, some may not. Does the Statute specifically state ear buds/headphones are prohibited? No, but one might think about the consequences of not hearing what may be going on near you and consider if the need for ear buds/headphones are necessary while driving for safety purposes.

Like drivers that choose to drive with their dogs on their laps, is this really a safe way to drive? Consider the risk you create for yourself, your pet and other innocent individuals that could be hurt due to the inability to react in a quick manner for any given situation.

We'd like to include that texting while driving is a huge distraction and against the law in Wisconsin. Texting is the cause for many traffic issues, so pull off the road to text or wait until you've reached your destination.

One thing to take away from this article is that if you are put in a situation where there is an accident or worse, because of your inattentive driving, you may be held liable. Keep in mind that cameras are just about anywhere we drive and dependent on the type of accident, footage will be reviewed to determine what happened and why.

Let's all be considerate of one another, let's get to our destinations safely and be more cognizant of our surroundings and abilities to prevent hazardous situations. Let's make 2023 a safe and happy year.



## 2022 Crime Stoppers Data

The Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers has had another successful year thanks to you! Crime Stoppers received 12 anonymous tips in 2022 that lead to the arrests of 4 individuals for narcotics and weapons violations. Other crimes reported included prostitution, narcotics distribution and suspicious circumstances. As a result of these arrests, the Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers paid out \$200 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 771-TOSA (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.

♥HAPPY  
Valentine's  
DAY♥

### Wauwatosa Police Department

*James MacGillis - Chief of Police*

### Community Support Division

*Captain Gary Gabrish*

*Lieutenant Brad Beckman*

*Sergeant James Morrill*

*Specialist Mike McDermott*

*Specialist Dan Kane*

*SRO Tracy Burbach*

*SRO Farris Griffin*

*SRO Andy Yothsackda*

*Laura Laurishke – Administrative  
Support Specialist*

## False Alarms

The Wauwatosa Police Department receives many false alarms each year, be it commercial or residential alarms.

Commercial Burglar Alarm Systems should consist of a combination of physical security and a burglar alarm system. The physical security is to keep the burglars out, and the burglar alarm system is to detect the intrusion in the event the physical system fails.

Residential Burglar Alarm Systems should be simple to operate and designed to fit the lifestyle of the family and facility it is protecting. Otherwise, the alarm system will cause false alarms and become unreliable.

The most common cause for False Alarms are due to the following:

- End-users not being properly trained
- Physical changes to a facility/property
- Displays and decorations
- Malfunctioning equipment
- Heating and Air conditioning vents
- Ceiling fans
- Small animals

What can you do to prevent False Alarm's:

- Check all exterior doors to make certain they are closed and locked.
- Before leaving, make sure that all motion sensor areas are free of all that could trigger an alarm.
- Make sure you know how to quickly cancel an alarm, this will stop the response of an officer and may eliminate excess false alarm fees.
- Periodically review training with employees as a refresher for all.
- Report arming and disarming problems to your alarm company immediately.

The Wauwatosa Police Department is providing this information as helpful hints, but please follow the direction that your specific alarm company suggests.

This may sound off topic but is useful information. If you practice feeding small outdoor animals of any type, such as cats or birds, you may want to rethink that decision. Animals are a big cause of false alarms. Any activity can set-off motion detectors with ease. On windy days as well, check to make sure trees and bushes are trimmed well to stay out of a sensors direct path, this can cause problems with setting off alarms too.

As always, stay alert. If you see something suspicious, call the Wauwatosa Police Department. We are here 24/7, 365 days a year and are specially trained to help you. Call 9-1-1 for an emergency or 414-471-8430 for non-emergency situations, just ask for Dispatch.

# 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](mailto:llaurishke@wauwatosa.net) for questions, comments or with your name and address so we can get you your copy of Tosa Watch.



# Do You Own a Firearm?

While many are quite uncomfortable talking about firearms, some find it necessary to bear arms for protection for themselves and their families. Hunters, police officers and homeowners alike utilize firearms for individual and unique purposes. With training and practice a firearm can be a safe and effective tool to perform specific tasks. We all have our own opinions and thoughts about owning and using a firearm, and that's okay. As uncomfortable as it may be to do, we should be educating all members in a home that may need to, at one time or another use the firearm safely.

Here are a few tips on how to keep everyone safe:

- Always keep the muzzle (end that the bullet comes out of) of a firearm pointed in a safe direction. Don't point at anything unless you know it's your target.
- Firearms should be unloaded when not actually in use. This can prevent any possible accidental discharges.
- Don't rely on your gun's "safety". Mechanical devices can fail, please be very careful.
- Be sure of your target and what is beyond it. A projectile bullet can travel at a high rate of speed and pass through the intended target to what may be beyond the target.
- Always wear protection for your eyes and ears when shooting. Guns are quite loud and can damage hearing. While sometime casings can come back toward the upper body area and cause burns or strike an eye.
- Learn how your specific firearm works and how to properly handle it. This will allow you or family member to utilize the firearm if something should happen to the owner.
- Always use ammunition designed for your specific firearm. Be sure to follow this tip, not all firearms will work properly with bullets that are not specific to the firearm and can cause jamming or damage the firearm.
- If you feel comfortable, utilize a professional firing range to learn proper usage and mechanics for your specific firearm. The more you know about your firearm, the more you will alleviate the fears associated with owning a firearm.

Proper storage of your firearm is also very important, there are many options, here are just a few:

- Trigger Lock
- Cable Lock
- Gun Lock Box
- Gun Safe

The Wauwatosa Police Department offers free Cable Gun Locks upon request. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Laura Laurishke at 414-471-8430 ext. 5111 or by email at [llaurishke@wauwatosa.net](mailto:llaurishke@wauwatosa.net).

## Will You Be My Valentine?

Will you be my Valentine, is back for its third 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 Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> 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 116<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:llaurishke@wauwatosa.net). Any help you can give would be most appreciated.

## 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
<i>Part 1 Crimes</i>			
Homicide	1	0	-
Sexual Assault	21	20	-4.76%
Robbery	27	35	29.63%
Assault	95	100	5.26%
Burglary	74	59	-20.27%
Larceny-Theft	1,201	1,291	7.49%
Motor Vehicle Theft	320	214	-33.13%
<b>Subtotal of Part 1 Crimes</b>	<b>1,678</b>	<b>1,739</b>	<b>3.64%</b>
<i>Other Select Incidents</i>			
Fraud	269	215	-20.07%
Vandalism	195	160	-17.95%
Narcotic Law Violations	61	66	8.20%
Drunken Driving	62	80	29.03%
Disorderly Conduct	1,563	1,520	-2.75%
Fatal MVA	2	3	50.00%
Personal Injury MVA	187	127	-32.09%
Property Damage MVA	1,043	999	-4.22%
<b>Total of All Calls</b>	<b>24,757</b>	<b>27,658</b>	<b>11.72%</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.*

**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**