

TOSA WATCH

Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

Volume 32, Issue 2

April - June 2023

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

Tosa's Night Out 2023

On behalf of the Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Committee and the Wauwatosa Police Department, we are pleased to announce that Tosa's Night Out 2023 has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 2, 2023. Our 28th annual event will take place at Hart Park, 7300 W. Chestnut Street. Once again, we will be working in collaboration with the Tosa Tonight concert series!

Tosa's Night Out is a free event where everyone is welcome. Participants who officially register for our "Flashlight Walk Against Crime" will receive a commemorative t-shirt, flashlight and other sponsored checkpoint items along the walk route. The walk begins promptly at 8:00 PM at Hart Park on the day of the event. Tosa's Night Out is designed to celebrate and solidify community partnerships that exist in Wauwatosa which help keep our citizens, businesses, and visitors safe and informed. Wauwatosa's celebration will include live entertainment, courtesy of the Tosa Tonight concert series. Games, police and fire department displays, health and wellness exhibits, consumer protection information, and a raffle will be available for those that register early. We are trying to confirm Flight for Life again for this year's event. Food and refreshments will also be available at family friendly prices.

Early online registration will be from May 7th through July 21st. You can register at <https://tosanightout.org/> for \$7.50 per person. After July 21st, the price will increase to \$10 per person. With early registration you not only receive the benefit of a lower price, but your shirts will be delivered to your house prior to the event. For registrations received after July 21st, shirts will need to be picked up at the Wauwatosa Police Department or at the event.

If you know someone that may be interested in receiving this newsletter, please have them contact Laura Laurishke at laurishke@wauwatosa.net or by calling 414-471-8430 ext. 5111. We'd like to get them on the email address list for distribution.

If you know someone that is elderly or disabled and has no access to a computer or the ability to connect to the internet, please have them call the police department and we will set-up arrangements for a newsletter to be sent to them.

The Wauwatosa Police Department will have a limited number of copies of the Tosa Watch newsletter at our department, the Wauwatosa Library and the Hart Park Senior Center

Thank You and we appreciate your support.

**Wauwatosa Crime
Stoppers**

771-TOSA

**Cash rewards up
to \$1,000.**

Wauwatosa Police Department

James MacGillis - Chief of Police

Community Support Division

Captain Gary Gabrish

Lieutenant Brad Beckman

Sergeant James Morrill

Specialist II Mike McDermott

Specialist Dan Kane

School Officer Farris Griffin

School Officer Andy Yothesackda

School Officer Cordero Finley

Administrative Support

Specialist Laura Laurishke

**HARTFEST 2023
BBQ & Music**

**FRIDAY – JUNE 16
SATURDAY – JUNE 17
HART PARK**

Live Music
Nightly

**Summer is on its way! If
you're interested in
having a neighborhood
block party this
summer, please
remember to submit a
block party permit.
Permits must be
submitted 3 weeks prior
to your party. For more
information call Mary at
471-8430, ext. 5101.**

Pedestrian Safety

Wauwatosa neighborhoods are usually buzzing with pedestrian traffic year-round. Have you ever considered the laws that regulate something as simple as taking a walk? Wisconsin State Statutes and Wauwatosa's Municipal Code both address pedestrian movement and responsibilities. Please consider the following excerpts from the existing law. The entire volume of ordinances can be viewed at www.wauwatosa.net.

When crossing at **controlled intersections**, pedestrians have the right-of-way as long as they are crossing with the green light or a “walk” signal and within the crosswalk. In all other cases pedestrians shall yield to vehicles lawfully proceeding on a green or “GO” signal.

When crossing at **uncontrolled intersections**, pedestrians have the right-of-way within any marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection. However, no pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk, run, or ride into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is difficult for the operator of the vehicle to yield.

The safest advice is to cross at an intersection. When it is necessary to cross at a point **other than an intersection**, pedestrians must yield the right-of-way to vehicles upon the roadway.

Pedestrians using streets not provided with sidewalks shall travel along the left side of the street. The pedestrian upon meeting a vehicle shall, if applicable, step off the traveled roadway.

In spite of the laws regulating pedestrian movement, the best advice is to walk defensively. Do not assume that a motorist sees you and do not assume that they will be following the law. Wear bright colored or reflective clothing, avoid reduced hearing with the use of headphones or earmuffs, and do not impair your peripheral vision with bulky hoods or hats. Walking is a healthy habit, do your best to make it a safe one!

The following article was written at the request of a “Tosa Watch” reader. If you would like to see a topic covered, please call the Community Support Division at 414-471-8430 ext. 5111 and ask for Laura Laurishke.

***DEA's next National Prescription Drug Take Back
Day is April 22, 2023 – 8AM to 12PM***

**Wauwatosa Police Department
1700 North 116th Street
(Outside Parking Lot)**

**Stop by, let us make disposal quick and easy.
Please no syringes.**

THIS MEMORIAL DAY
PLEASE REMEMBER ALL
OUR COUNTRY'S MEN
AND WOMEN WHO HAVE
FALLEN IN THE LINE OF
DUTY – CITIZENS OF THIS
GREAT NATION WHO
GAVE THEIR LIVES TO
PRESERVE THE
LIBERTIES UPON WHICH
AMERICA WAS
FOUNDED.



Independence Day 2023

Wauwatosa's Independence Day celebration is scheduled for Tuesday, July 4, 2023. This year's theme is "Star Spangled Fourth."

The annual Wauwatosa parade will begin at 9:00AM. The July 4th parade will use a temporary route this year due to construction on North Avenue. The parade will begin at Hoyt Park swimming pool parking area and travel North on Swan Boulevard to North Avenue. On North Avenue the parade will travel East to the Wauwatosa Civic Center Parking Lot.

Family Fun events will be held at Hart Park starting at 4:00PM with fireworks at 9:15 PM (fireworks rain date – July 5).

Good Neighbors

Wauwatosa has always been known to be a great place to raise a family with plenty of restaurants, unique shops, coffee houses, parks and good company of friends and neighbors. Everyone strives to be in a happy and relaxing neighborhood, to enjoy a life of little drama and free of stressors. Ah, that is the good life. But at times we find ourselves living in a completely different life than was hoped for. Neighbors that take issue with where your fence will go, the beautiful flowers that you just planted on my lot line, or even the surveillance camera that the neighbors have are pointed right at my house.

These are a few examples of calls that the Community Support Division handles on a regular basis. While some have easy solutions, some can be extremely difficult to resolve. Neighbors can become enemies and bicker back and forth continually, which is no way to live. The best thing to do is, bring the issue to your neighbor that is causing a concern on your part. Try your best to work it out, you are neighbors and unless you plan to move will leave you both in a strained relationship.

There is one way to resolve a lot line complaint, it's not the cheapest, but it can help clear things up. Call City Hall and request a Plot Survey. This will be for your specific piece of land and will outline what land belongs to you and what land belongs to the neighbor. Unfortunately, surveys can run approximately \$500, but the police can't act on anything without this information. Once you have your survey though, it's yours and you never have to worry about it again.

A tree on your neighbor's property is hitting your house or garage, there is a simple fix. Per City Ordinance you may trim any part of a tree or bush on your property back to the owners' lot line. Please know that one should stop by the neighbor's home and let them know you plan to trim back the tree or bush, just as a common courtesy, they may be unaware of the problem and volunteer to trim the tree or bush themselves.

A neighbor's camera is pointed at my house. While this may be true, it doesn't necessarily mean that the camera is capturing video of you in your home, it may be the appropriate angle to capture the owners drive way. It is legal for a homeowner to have a camera facing a neighbor's home as long as the camera is not focused on an area of the home that would capture the neighbor in a state of undress.

Living in a tight urban setting like Wauwatosa can bring its challenges. Let's all do your best to be good neighbors.



Armed Robbery, Victim or Witness

Armed robbers depend on the element of surprise, using intimidation and confusion to their advantage. A robber’s main objective is to steal your personal possessions and escape as quickly as possible. While robbers rarely hurt their victims, they may if you resist or provoke them.

While not all robberies can be prevented, there are steps that can be taken to help prevent one from becoming a victim. Below are just a few.

- Awareness of your surrounding is key. Watch for people, look at those walking by you and greet them with a “hi,” “nice night, right?” or whatever you’re comfortable with. Make sure individuals know that you’re paying attention.
- If you feel uncomfortable while out and about, either because of something you’ve seen or it just doesn’t look right, walk into a business along your route and call the police. The Wauwatosa Police respond to hundreds of calls each year regarding suspicious persons, vehicles or circumstances. If it turns out to be nothing, that’s fine it can also prevent a situation from turning bad.
- Vehicles may be driving around the block multiple times or slowly as if watching for the opportune moment to strike. Make sure to have a plan in place. Whether it means going to someone’s home you know or not, just give a little thought to what you might do.

Heaven forbid you ever find yourself in the midst of being a robbery victim, but if you are, please try to remember the follow suggestions:

- Try your best to remain calm.
- Do what the robber says, no more, no less.
- Don’t make any sudden or unexpected movements.
- If you can’t comply with the robber’s commands, give them a clear and convincing reason why.
- If possible, don’t concentrate on the weapon. Instead, do your best to get basic information that police can use to apprehend the subject(s). Any unusual physical characteristics, sex, height and weight, last known direction of travel, clothing, hair color as well as facial hair are most helpful. This will be a traumatic situation, just do the best you can.
- If shots are fired during a robbery, get away from the robber and take cover behind a car, house or anything else you find.
- Call 9-1-1 for help as soon as you feel safe doing so.

If the robbery occurred inside your home, lock your doors immediately after the robbery, and allow only the police inside. Anyone who witnessed the robbery should not leave until the police have interviewed them. Be mindful not to touch potential physical evidence that the police can process for fingerprints or DNA analysis.

Let’s all be safe out there, watch out for one another and call in any suspicious or questionable behavior that you see. The Wauwatosa Police Department can be reached at 414-471-8430.

Happy Spring!
