



TOSA WATCH

Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

Volume 32, Issue 3

July - September 2023

Inside This Issue

Tosa's Night Out 2023 1

Tosa Green Summit 2023 2

Sextortion 101 2

Homelessness 3

Vehicles vs. Pedestrians 3

Block Party Banners 4

Crime Statistics 4



TOSA WATCH - Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter is sponsored by:

The Wauwatosa Police Department-Community Support Division
1700 North 116th Street
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53226
Telephone: (414) 471-8430
FAX: (414) 471-8470

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

Tosa's Night Out 2023

Tosa's Night Out 2023 will be here before you know it. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, August 2, 2023 from 4p-8p. Our 29th annual event will again take place at Hart Park, 7300 W. Chestnut Street. Once again Tosa's Night Out will be side-by-side with the Tosa Tonight concert series! Tosa Tonight concert series will feature "Me Like Bees" followed by "Wesley Arms" for your listening pleasure.

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, canvas bag, 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, Flight for Life landing, health and wellness exhibits, consumer protection information, and a raffle for those that register early. Food and refreshments will also be available at family friendly prices.

Early online registration is ongoing 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 Wauwatosa home 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.

To the right is the 2023 commemorative design created by our friends at Catral Doyle Creative. The illustrative design for 2023 celebrates not only Tosa's Night Out but Tosa Tonight concert series.

Hope to See You There!



Tosa Green Summit 2023

The Tosa Green Summit returns to City Hall for its 13th year of recycling and exhibits on **Saturday, September 9 and Saturday, September 16.**

Saturday, September 9:

Recycling collections for Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers Shredding, Medicine, Textiles, Bikes and donations to Tosa Cares in the City Hall Parking Lot from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Exhibits in the Lower Civic Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., including **presentations on Recycling and Nature (new for 2023).**

Saturday, September 17:

Recycling collections for MMSD Household Hazardous Waste (Milwaukee County residents only), Electronics and **Scrap Metal (new for 2023)** in the City Hall Parking Lot from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Please note: there is no fee this year for TV's and**

Computer Monitors! There is a \$40 fee for a/c units and dehumidifiers, cash only.

Everything is free (with the exception of the items listed above). Save the dates and start getting ready to build awareness and take-action on your sustainable activities!

For more information, like Tosa Green Summit on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/TosaGreenSummit> or contact Jeff Roznowski at jroznowski@wi.rr.com or 414-803-9500.

Sextortion 101

This article comes to you because of a concerned School Resource Officer who is also a parent.

Now is a good time to sit down with your kids and discuss Sextortion/Extortion. It's a real crime and it happens more often than one might think and yes, even in Wauwatosa.

Sextortion – the act of threatening to share nude or explicit images/videos.

Images can be shared with the public if the victim doesn't meet the demands of the "friend". Victims are usually caught off guard by the threat which is generally for additional photos and/or money.

Your child may not even know he/she is involved in the scheme until it's entirely too late. Some victims pay the fee and hope for the best, but best practice is to not get involved with these strangers to begin with. This should remind one of Stranger Danger except for the inability to actually see the stranger.

While we want to trust individuals online we need to educate ourselves about current trends and how to prevent them. Unfortunately, if you want your kids to have smartphones and don't want to keep track of their activities while on the phone, your kids may grow up quicker than you'd like. If you pay for your kid's smartphone and monthly bills, as a parent, we encourage you to monitor your kid's activity online and know what apps are being used and what the apps purpose is.

First and foremost, kids, teens and young adults should never take pictures of themselves in any stage of undress much less nude that would be sent to anyone let alone online that is unknown to them. Remember, once the picture is sent, you can't get it back.

Secondly, only use the camera on your electronic device for meeting or talking with people that one knows. Don't perform any type of risqué behavior, the other end may be recording your performance without your knowledge. The video may be used against one too.

While technology is an amazing tool it can be used for unpleasant and criminal acts that can lead to devastating results and life-long embarrassment or humiliation for the victim.

Parents, it may be uncomfortable to discuss this topic with your family, but a little feeling of being uncomfortable may alleviate a horrific situation for your whole family. There are apps available that can help monitor activity on your kids' smartphone, download it, use it and don't worry that your kids have a problem with that. Be a parent by giving your kids all the information they need to make good choices. They'll thank you later!

Please, Please, Please

When you're out and about, whether it be at the grocery store or the mall, pumping gas or just walking the dog. Please be aware of your surroundings, pay attention to people, cars and anything that may look suspicious.

It only takes a moment for an incident to occur and for one to become the victim of a crime.

Put your phone away. Once you've gotten to where you need to be, there will be plenty of time to discuss whatever it is that is so important.



**WAUWATOSA
CRIME
STOPPERS**

**771-TOSA or
Text Keyword
"Tosa" to "Crimes"**

Cash Reward up to \$1,000

Wauwatosa Police Department

James MacGillis – Chief of Police

Community Support Division

- Captain Gary Gabrish*
- Lieutenant Bradley Beckman*
- Sergeant Jim Morrill*
- Specialist II Mike McDermott*
- Specialist I Dan Kane*
- School Officer Farris Griffin*
- School Officer Andy Yothesackda*
- School Officer Cordero Finley*
- Administrative Support Specialist –
Laura Laurishke*

Homelessness

According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Milwaukee County had 832 homeless individuals in 2022. While this may sound like an alarming number, Milwaukee County was also considered to be the lowest per capita homeless population in the nation. Within the homeless population in Milwaukee County the majority of these individuals are sheltered homeless.

Unsheltered homeless individuals reside in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, abandoned buildings or on the street. A sheltered individual resides in an emergency shelter. While an emergency shelter is not a permanent place to stay it certainly can protect one from weather conditions and keep individual safe from the environment they were living in.

There are many reasons one may become homeless, whether it be the loss of a job or mental health problems for example, the struggle is real. There are however groups and individuals that are able to help one get back up on his/her feet. If a homeless individual has been residing in your area for any amount of time, the Wauwatosa Police Department suggests you call us at 414-471-8430. We have social workers/counselors on staff that can arrange help for the individual.

With resources that exist in Milwaukee County everyone that needs help getting back on track can receive the best possible assistance to move forward and thrive. If you find yourself wanting to help, by maybe providing a clothing item or a non-perishable food item that is wonderful. But, please remember that your kindness may encourage the homeless individual to become dependent on you and not receive the professional help that is available to them. We all want what is best for all who may have fallen on hard times, let's work together towards a long-term solution.

Vehicles vs. Pedestrians

Motorists, please know that it is your responsibility to watch for pedestrians and bicyclists while driving in your vehicle. To learn more, you can visit the Wisconsin State Statutes webpage at, [State Statute](#). We'd like everyone to know the lawful rules that exist regarding vehicle and pedestrian safety.

Pedestrians also need to watch for vehicles. While this seems pretty basic there are people that aren't heeding this advice and are involved in motor vehicle crashes with pedestrians. While many of us have been told that pedestrians *always* have the right of way, mostly they do, but there are exceptions. As a pedestrian, use good judgement to be safe while out walking, biking and co-existing with the motoring public.

One thing that pedestrians need to remember is that just because they have the right of way, doesn't mean that the oncoming motorist will stop. A law written on a piece of paper can't stop a 2,000-pound vehicle. Make eye contact with the driver of the vehicle and make sure that they see you. Make sure that the vehicle is stopped, or at the very least slowing before you step off of the curb.

Be safe out there and have a great summer!

Block Party Banners

NOW AVAILABLE! Block Party Street Banners

- Easily attaches to street barricades or garbage carts.
- Prevents traffic flow during a block party.
- Advertises the block party with a 2½' x 10' banner.

Reserve your banners now...there are 16 sets available for distribution. Just check the box at the bottom of the block party application to reserve a set for your party, and remember there is a \$25.00 deposit that will be returned when the banners have been returned. If you have questions, call Maija Ptaszek at 471-8430, ext. 5129. Banners are available for pickup at the Police Department on the Friday prior to a block party. Please return by the following Monday so the banners can be re-distributed.

Wisconsin State Statute 346.89(3)(a)

No person may drive any motor vehicle while composing or sending an electronic text message or an electronic mail message

Texting while driving causes greater impairment than being under the influence of drugs or alcohol while driving.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) driving a vehicle while texting is six times more dangerous than intoxicated driving.

Crime Statistics

Comparative Analysis – City Wide

Category	01-01-22 thru 05-31-22	01-01-23 thru 05-31-23	Percentage of Change 2022 - 2023
<i>Part 1 Crimes</i>			
Homicide	0	0	0.00%
Sexual Assault	6	10	66.67%
Robbery	8	7	-12.50%
Assault	49	53	8.16%
Burglary	21	32	52.38%
Larceny-Theft	552	530	-3.99%
Motor Vehicle Theft	86	78	-9.30%
Subtotal of Part 1 Crimes	722	710	-1.7%
<i>Other Select Incidents</i>			
Fraud	91	95	4.40%
Vandalism	55	56	1.82%
Narcotic Law Violations	37	30	- 18.92%
Drunken Driving	33	41	24.24%
Disorderly Conduct	640	676	5.63%
Fatal MVA	1	0	-
Personal Injury MVA	51	56	9.80%
Property Damage MVA	405	375	- 7.41%
Total of All Calls	11,808	13,839	17.02%

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 may result in different numbers reported to the NIBRS incident-based reporting system 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 request.