



# TOSA WATCH

Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

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

The Wauwatosa Police Department-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 welcome.

## White Cane Safety

White Cane Safety Day is nationally recognized on October 15 every year. It promotes pedestrian safety and well-being, especially for those who are visually impaired and use white navigation canes.

While the Wauwatosa Police Department talks frequently about regular pedestrian traffic within our City, we haven't touched on the visually impaired community. It only makes sense that attention is brought to our readers on laws that affect both pedestrians and drivers. Below you will find the Wisconsin State Statute that will be referenced if one is ever in violation of the White Cane Law.

Wisconsin's White Cane Law Statute N. 346.26(1) states:

“An operator of a vehicle shall stop the vehicle before approaching closer than 10 feet to a pedestrian who is carrying a cane or walking stick which is white in color or white trimmed with red and which is held in an extended or raised position or who is using a dog guide and shall take such precautions as may be necessary to avoid accident or injury to the pedestrian.” The penalty for violating the law is between \$25 and \$200 for the first offense and between \$50 and \$500 for the 2nd violation.

Help us create a welcome and safe community for all residents including those who are blind or visually impaired.

## Overnight Parking

Wauwatosa has a “No Overnight Parking” ordinance, that means there is no parking from 3a.m. until 6a.m. on City streets within the City of Wauwatosa. You can however request overnight parking by going online to: [tosaparking.com](http://tosaparking.com). If you need street parking, a vehicle can register for up to 15 free nights of street parking per year. We accept requests for overnight guests, stalled vehicles and for construction projects which makes off street parking impossible.

If you don't have access to online registration, you can also call our non-emergency phone number at 414-471-8430. Requests for permission are not accepted after 3:00 am on the date the vehicle(s) will be parked on the street.

## Fall Security Tips

Fall is the perfect season to spruce up your yard and improve your home security. Spend a warm sunny day in your backyard trimming the bushes, pruning the trees, and removing the summer overgrowth. These listed actions will invite your neighbors “in” and the burglars “out”.

1. Trim bushes below window height.
2. Remove or trim bushes that cover or conceal basement windows.
3. Prune trees so that branches hang 7 feet above the ground.
4. Thin out “brush” fences that provide concealment. Expose the beauty of your yard to your neighbors by allowing them to see in. Burglars do not like open well landscaped yards.



## Light It Up

Keep your neighborhood safer by turning on your outside lights. For the few pennies it adds to your energy bill, you are making your yard safer. Burglars do not want to be seen taking your property, so, there is no better prevention than to light up your yard and your neighborhood.

## Suspicious Circumstances

One of the main concepts of the block watch program is *recognizing and reporting suspicious activity*. Sometimes the question, “What is suspicious ?” comes up. Let’s take a closer look at this block watch principle:

**Recognizing** suspicious activity is as simple as asking yourself, could the vehicle or person(s) I am observing:

- Be about to commit a crime?
- Be in the act of committing a crime?
- Have just committed a crime?

In your neighborhood you can rely on your personal knowledge. Do you recognize the vehicle or person as a resident or frequent visitor to the area? Do you know a house to be vacant? This is where knowing your neighbors pays off. Using personal knowledge of one’s surroundings helps you to decide if something is suspicious.

If you see a suspicious vehicle, can you tell if the vehicle is occupied? Do you recognize the vehicle? Does the vehicle appear to be in the area for a purpose, or is it just sitting there? Whether the vehicle is occupied or unoccupied, if you feel it’s suspicious or threatening, you should call the police.

**Reporting** a suspicious circumstance to the police should always be something to consider. Call 911 immediately if you believe that a crime is in progress. If you suspect that you or someone else is in immediate danger, do not hesitate to call 911. This will insure the quickest police response.

The Wauwatosa Police Department’s non-emergency number is 414-471-8430. This number is used for incidents which are not “in progress”.

Bottom line: never hesitate to call the police should you feel concerned about a suspicious circumstance, vehicle or person. You should always err on the side of caution. There have been many criminals scared away before the crime, stopped in the act of a crime, or arrested after the crime because a concerned citizen called the police based on suspicion.

## Listen to Your Children

You talk to your children and tell them about all the rules for staying safe. You often complain that children do not listen. But do you listen to your child when they voice concern or mistrust? Listening is often more difficult than talking, even for adults.

Whatever the reason for your child's apprehension, it is real to them and worth the time for you to talk with them about it. Every child is different, and no one knows your child better than you. You may relieve their concern or decide to investigate the situation that is bothering them. In either case, the effort to listen will pay off, your children will be happy you listened and be more willing to come to you with future problems and for advice.

## Drug Take Back

**Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>  
9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.**

The Wauwatosa Police Department will once again sponsor a Drug Take-Back Event.

The goal is to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposal of prescription medications. (**No syringes accepted**)

Please stop by and see us at 1700 N 116<sup>th</sup> Street, no need to get out of your car, we'll come to you.

Hope to see you there!



**On behalf of the  
Wauwatosa Police  
Department,  
we wish you and  
your families a**

*Happy  
Thanksgiving  
And Happy  
Holidays!*

## What's Going On?

Curious citizens often ask police officers on patrol questions. As part of our dedication to community / police partnerships, questions are always encouraged and often easily answered.

One type of question officers routinely receive revolves around “what happened” or “what were all those police cars doing.” Due to call volume, officers may or may not always know about a specific incident, especially if the incident was minor. Furthermore, if an investigation is ongoing, involves juvenile suspects or victims, or is not considered an open record, officers are prohibited from disclosing the facts of an incident.

Callers to our department wonder why we don't inform citizens about recent crimes and incidents of public concern. The fact is - we do. The Community Support Division remains active in disseminating information to all individuals who make inquiries. We also have a Public Information Officer who posts regularly on Facebook, be it events or high-profile incidents. Upon request we will also compile crime stats for individual block watches and neighborhood associations.

One should feel free to contact the Community Support Division at 414-471-8430, ext. 5111 or [laurishke@wauwatosa.net](mailto:laurishke@wauwatosa.net) to see if we can pull numbers or answer questions for you. We can even schedule a meeting to talk with you and your neighbors to discuss crime prevention tips for your home, vehicle or outdoor space.

A core principle of Wauwatosa's Block Watch Program involves “neighbors getting to know neighbors.” This includes good communication. The Wauwatosa Police Department would prefer to give you accurate information that can be passed along so there are no misunderstandings. Look forward to hearing from you.

## Looking for a Few Good People -

Many times in the “Tosa Watch” newsletter, you have read about the Wauwatosa Neighborhood Watch Committee (WNWC). You may have seen them mentioned in conjunction with Tosa's Night Out (TNO). You may have wondered: “Who are they? What do they do? Why are they important to the community?”

The WNWC is a group of volunteer citizens who formed a partnership with the Wauwatosa Police Department in 1994. To date, the group remains a great example of a community / police partnership and community-oriented policing. *The mission of the committee is to actively advocate for community safety throughout Wauwatosa.* One of the most prominent ways the WNWC does this is through our annual Tosa's Night Out event.

Due to the success of Tosa's Night Out, the committee has been able to grant funds for many community-based programs including, but not limited to: “Block Party” street banners, police safety equipment, community safety literature, neighborhood Block Watch signage, “Slow Down” yard signs, playground equipment, senior safety programming and materials, and seed money for Tosa Skateboarders United. We're currently looking for some new members who are eager to volunteer in the community. If you are interested in joining this group or just have questions, please contact Sgt. James Morrill at [jmorrill@wauwatosa.net](mailto:jmorrill@wauwatosa.net) or call (414) 471-8430, ext. 5169.

## Trick or Treat

The City of Wauwatosa's Trick-or-Treat hours are **Sunday, October 29, 2023 from 1-4pm.**

Individuals looking for information on when Neighborhood Associations will be having their events, please contact your Neighborhood Association directly.

New this year, the Wauwatosa Police Department has been approved to host a Trunk-or-Treat. The event will take place on Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 5pm – 7pm at the Wauwatosa City Hall parking lot.

For further details, please follow the Wauwatosa Police Department on Facebook, we will post update at that location.



### 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 Farris Griffin*

*SRO Andy Yothesackda*

*SRO Cordero Finley*

*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 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The weather was great 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

Action Law \* Current Electric \* Dick's Sporting Goods

Fast Signs \* McDonald's (Hwy 100 & 124<sup>th</sup> Street)

Wauwatosa Veterenary Clinic

Kiwanis Club of Wauwatosa \* Catral Doyle Creative

### Raffle Sponsors:

Art'e \* Betty Brinn Children's Museum \* Black Twig \* Breadsmith Discovery World \* Fermantorium \* First Stage \* Golden Nest

Johnson's Cycle & Fitness \* Kin \* Milwaukee Admirals

Milwaukee Brewers \* Milwaukee County Parks \* Milwaukee Milkmen Milwaukee

Wave \* Phase II Skate Shop \* Stone Creek Coffee

Ultimate Confections \* Valentine Coffee Company

The Village Cheese Shop

### Participating Groups:

Ability Center \* Dick's Sporting Goods \* Ebenezer Child Care

Flight for Life \* Foster Care Recruitment Specialist

Friends of Hoyt Park Pool \* Froedtert Health Community Engagement

Kiwanis \* MADACC \* Make-A-Wish

Milwaukee Co. Children's Community Mental Health Services

Milwaukee Co. DHHS Aging and Disabilities Services

Milwaukee Co. Sheriff's Office, Bomb Squad

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) \* Right at School

Sojourner Family Peace Center \* Stop the Bleed

Suburban Milwaukee Lions Club \* Target \* Tosa Green Summit

Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers \* Wauwatosa Detective Bureau

Wauwatosa Fire Department \* Wauwatosa Health Department

Wauwatosa Lions Club \* Wauwatosa Public Library

Wauwatosa Public Works \* Wauwatosa "Rave System"

Wauwatosa Recreation Center \* Wauwatosa Veterans Memorial

Wave Educational Fund \* Wisconsin Department of Corrections

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