



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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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.

Please Check Your Speedometer

The Wauwatosa Police Department receives numerous calls concerning traffic issues year-round. This is not unusual, but it seems that more calls came in throughout the 2023 calendar year. The majority of calls are in regard to speeding and/or issues with those not wanting to conform to school crossing rules. While the Wauwatosa Police Department does not oversee the Crossing Guards program, we certainly can and will enforce laws and ordinances that are violated within our City.

We know that the majority of these traffic problems stem from people that live right in one's own neighborhood with the few exceptions. Talk with neighbors, friends and teens that are of legal driving age, discuss your concerns and wishes that we need to keep our children and those walking safe. As we start a new year, let's all make some new resolutions.

Below you will find the City of Wauwatosa School Crossing Ordinance, please familiarize yourself and your family with this information and do everything in your power to keep our children and neighbors safe.

11.14.010 - School crossings.

It shall be the duty of the crossing guards appointed pursuant to Section 349.215 of the Wisconsin Statutes to protect persons who are crossing a street in the vicinity of a school.

11.14.020 - Authority of crossing guards.

Every operator of a motor vehicle approaching a school crossing which is controlled by an adult crossing guard appointed under Section 349.215 of the Wisconsin Statutes shall follow the directions of the school crossing guard. If directed by the school crossing guard to stop, the operator shall stop the vehicle not less than ten feet nor more than thirty feet from the school crossing and shall remain stopped until the school crossing guard directs the operators to proceed.

11.14.030 - Uniform and equipment of crossing guards.

School crossing guards shall wear insignia or uniforms which designate them as school crossing guards and shall be equipped with signals and signs to direct traffic to stop at school crossings.

Will You Be My Valentine?

Will you be my Valentine, is back for its fourth-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 and one other facility on Wednesday, February 14th 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 120 valentine cards to distribute. We will supply the pink hearts if your little ones or those young at heart, 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 116th 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. Any help you can give would be most appreciated.

Project Lifesaver Wauwatosa

Winter can be a wonderful time of year for many, but for some, cold temperatures and snow can become a worst enemy if you can't find your way home.

There are many individuals that suffer from cognitive disorders, such as Alzheimer's, Dementia, Autism, Down Syndrome and Traumatic Brain Injuries. Of course, these aren't the only cognitive disorders, there are many. Cognitive disorders can lead to individuals wandering and having no idea where home is or the inability to talk with others to find a way home. Winter weather can be deadly for individuals that are cognitively impaired.

The Wauwatosa Police Department has Project Lifesaver, which is a 501 (C)(3) community based, public safety, non-profit organization that provides law enforcement, fire/rescue, and caregivers with a program designed to protect, and when necessary, quickly locate individuals with cognitive disorders who are prone to the life-threatening behavior of wandering. Radio frequency is utilized because it's dependable, it's able to go through building, wooded areas and water, GPS can go down and lacks the ability to go through buildings, wooded areas and water.

How Project Lifesaver works is that the caregiver decides to purchase a wristband/ankle band for the client that is worn 24/7. Each client is given a unique frequency number and a transmitter that is worn inside of the band. If a loved one wanders off or goes missing, the caregiver calls the Wauwatosa Police Department to report the missing person. Dispatch will contact specially trained officers to go on a mission to locate the client. The Wauwatosa Police Department has special antenna's that are able to dial into the frequency number which will set off a chirping sound that will enable us to locate and return the client home to their family. Batteries are changed in the band on a sixty (60) day cycle by the police department, this will insure the band is always operational and ready to be located if necessary. The Wauwatosa Police Department doesn't do anything with locating clients unless we are notified by the caregiver that our assistance is needed.

The average find time for those on Project Lifesaver is thirty (30) minutes. Project Lifesaver was started in 1999 and has over 4,000 missions completed to date with a 100% success rate.

If you know of someone that would be a good fit for this program, please have them contact Laura Laurishke with the Wauwatosa Police Department at 414-471-8430 or email llaurishke@wauwatosa.net to discuss Project Lifesaver Wauwatosa in further detail.



Bringing Loved Ones Home

2023 Crime Stoppers Data

The Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers has had another successful year thanks to you! Crime Stoppers received 12 anonymous tips in 2023 that lead to the arrests of 7 individuals for narcotics and disorderly conduct violations. Other crimes reported included narcotics distribution and suspicious circumstances. As a result of these arrests the Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers paid out \$300 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.

**Sunday, March 10th
Daylight Savings
Begins At 2AM
Spring Forward**

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 Yothsackda

School Officer Cordero Finley

Administrative Support Specialist –

Laura Laurishke

Crime Statistics

Comparative Analysis – City Wide

Category	01-01-22 thru 11-30-22	01-01-23 thru 11-30-23	Percentage of Change 2022 - 2023
<i>Part 1 Crimes</i>			
Homicide	0	1	100.00%
Sexual Assault	20	20	0.00%
Robbery	35	21	-40.00%
Assault	100	107	7.00%
Burglary	57	76	33.33%
Larceny-Theft	1,292	1,230	-4.80%
Motor Vehicle Theft	214	179	-16.36%
Subtotal of Part 1 Crimes	1,718	1,634	-4.89%
<i>Other Select Incidents</i>			
Fraud	214	242	13.08%
Vandalism	160	131	-18.13%
Narcotic Law Violations	65	70	7.69%
Drunken Driving	80	87	8.75%
Disorderly Conduct	1,520	1,796	18.16%
Fatal MVA	3	1	-66.67%
Personal Injury MVA	127	158	24.41%
Property Damage MVA	999	929	-7.01%
Total of All Calls	27,658	32,309	16.82%

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.

What Would You Do?

Do you pay attention to your surrounding when you enter a facility that you've never been to before? Do you ever think about bad situations that could suddenly become your reality?

Know this article isn't meant to frighten or scare, it's meant to bring awareness and engage your inner self to think about survival. Hopefully you'll never be put in a situation where your life is in danger, but it could happen.

We'd like to discuss "Situational Awareness" which is the ability to perceive, understand, and effectively respond to one's situation. It involves comprehending a given circumstance, gathering relevant information, and making informed decisions to successfully address any potential risks, hazards, or events that might occur.

There is no right or wrong answer, everything is dependent on each individual situation that one may find themselves in, but, being able to think on your feet and quickly accessing the situation may help one in the long run.

When home, in one's vehicle or at work, do you notice people, conversations, unusual noises or strange circumstances? If you said "yes", that's what we wanted to hear. Thank you for paying attention to your immediate surroundings and situation. If you hear or see something that doesn't feel right, it probably isn't, take the opportunity to find a way to remove one's self and/or your family and friends from the area. Once safe, it would be a good idea to call police for help.

Here are tips to consider when at home, in a vehicle, parking lot, or at work:

- Keep doors locked when at home. Close the garage door and lock vehicles.
- Ask who's at the door before just answering and opening the door.
- Teach family the easiest way to exit the home quickly and where you should go to reunite.
- Don't be rushed when driving, take your time and observe what's happening around you.
- When stopped at traffic signs or signals, don't pull up right behind the vehicle in front of you, leave some space to make an exit if necessary.
- Know how your vehicle locks work.
- Avoid road rage.
- Listen for threatening conversations at work, restaurants, stores or any other facilities.
- In a parking lot or on the street, walk like you have a purpose, make eye contact and say "hi" to let strangers know they are seen.
- Have keys out and ready to use once you reach your destination.

Please know the Wauwatosa Police Department is always on-duty and willing to help. Don't take situations into your own hands, we are trained professionals and are at the ready to provide our services upon request. We can be reached at 414-471-8430, or 9-1-1 for emergencies. If you are calling after hours (8PM), you will hear a recording, if you need a police officer to stop at your location, either hit "0" or "1" and you will be transferred to a dispatcher. Do your best to give complete and accurate information on the subject(s) involved, whether it be the people/vehicle(s) or both.

Reduce your risk of being a victim!

