

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

How to be a Good Witness

Crimes are often solved or even prevented by information provided by citizen witnesses, which can make accurate eye witness statements crucial. But, being a good witness means not placing yourself or others in danger. Remember, your safety comes first. If you see a crime in progress, call 911 from a safe distance. A police dispatcher will answer the phone and ask a series of questions such as:

- **Where is the emergency?** If you don't know the exact address or street name try to recall the nearest intersection or businesses. Landmarks can be relayed to responding squads who may be more familiar with the area.
- **What happened?** Dispatchers may ask questions that at the time might seem irrelevant to you but may be very important for responding officers.
- **Is anyone injured? Is medical assistance necessary?** Remember, people's safety is our priority.
- **Were any weapons involved? If so, what kind of weapon was used? Where is the weapon now?**
- **Is the suspect still there? What did they look like?** General descriptions such as age, race, gender, height, weight, hair color and clothing description.
- **If the suspect fled the scene which direction did they travel? Did they leave in a vehicle?** For vehicles try to provide the color, make, model and license plate. New technological improvements are now able to identify vehicles with a partial license plate. Note other characteristics that were observed, such as dents, burned out lights or bumper stickers?

Never get between a suspect and their escape route. If the crime involves property such as theft from a vehicle or retail theft, ask yourself "should I risk my safety for a property crime?" The answer is "no!" Property can be replaced but your health and wellbeing cannot.

Don't be afraid to call the police if you observe suspicious activity even if no crime has yet to be committed. You know your neighborhood better than anyone and you're instincts are probably correct. The Wauwatosa Police Department encourages citizens to call at the first sign of suspicious activity as Crime Prevention is everyone's responsibility. With your help, we can keep our community safe.



**WAUWATOSA
CRIME
STOPPERS**

771-TOSA

Cash rewards up to
\$1,000.

If someone you know is elderly or dependent upon life-sustaining or health-related equipment, check on them during severe weather or power outages. Register them as a special-needs customer with the utility company so they will become a priority customer. Notify others who could provide help such as neighbors, nearby friends and emergency responders, such as the fire department.

We Energies -24 hr
800-662-4797
Electric
800-261-5325
Natural Gas

**Wauwatosa Police
Department**

Barry M. Weber - Chief of Police

**Community Support
Division**

*Captain Chris Fox
Lieutenant Jack Morrison
Sergeant Brad Beckman
Specialist Mike McDermott
Officer Dan Kane
SRO Joel Kutz
SRO Tracy Burbach
SRO Farris Griffin
SRO Jim Morrill*

*Laura Laurishke - Administrative
Support Specialist*

Working Safely From Home

Increasingly, businesses are allowing people to work from home. Offices are standard in many homes today and are equipped with computers, scanners, faxes and other expensive equipment. Remember that it is important to secure yourself and your equipment while you are working from home. Most burglaries occur during the day while most people are gone at work and school.

- Install solid doors and good deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
- Hang window treatments that obstruct the view into your office. You don't want to advertise what equipment you have in your home.
- Keep bushes and trees trimmed so that you can see into your yard and neighbors can see your house.
- Keep your cell phone nearby
- Review your insurance policy. Often times, a rider is needed to cover a home office. In the event something happens, you want to make sure that you are covered.
- Record serial numbers of office equipment.
- Anyone making a delivery to your home should be properly identified.
- Anyone soliciting in Wauwatosa is required to have a permit from the city that is easily identified with a lanyard.

People who work from home are often the eyes and ears of the block during the day. If you see something that you feel is suspicious, call the police promptly to have it checked out. Many times, a police officer may be just blocks away to respond quickly. Daytime burglars are often caught by the patrol officers when someone sees suspicious behavior and calls the police without delay.

Operation Identification

This is a program supported by most police agencies. It is recommend that you engrave your drivers' license, not your social security number, on televisions, stereos, computers, and small electronic appliances. This is suggested so we can identify and locate you if your stolen items are recovered. If you would like to be part of Operation Identification or would like more information about this free program, call the Community Support Office at 471-8430.

Project ChildSafe

The Wauwatosa Police Department has partnered with Project ChildSafe to make free gun lock safety kits available to Wauwatosa residents. Project ChildSafe is a nationwide program which helps ensure safe and responsible firearms ownership and storage in the home. Remember, nearly all firearms accidents in the home can be prevented simply by making sure that guns are kept unloaded and locked up when not in use, with ammunition secured in a separate location. The firearms safety kit includes a gun lock and instructional brochure. If you are interested in obtaining a firearms safety kit please contact Community Policing Officer Dan Kane at (414) 471-8430 Ext. 5114 or at dkane@wauwatosa.net.

Notify Me

Did you know the City of Wauwatosa offers a free program that enables anyone to receive email or text notification regarding non-emergency community news? Sign-up is quick and easy. If you're interested in receiving information on up to thirty specific topics, just follow these steps to get started.

Go to: www.wauwatosa.net

Search: Notify Me, then, choose what notifications you're interested in receiving and the method of delivery you prefer. Please know that ALL personal information will be kept confidential.

Examples of specific notification include, but are not limited to:

- Current Construction Projects
- Homepage News
- Hot Topics
- Community Events
- City Newsletter
- Main City Calendar
- Council Meetings & Agendas

For further information on this program you can contact Karen Jaeckels at (414)-479-8915.



Bullying is Bad News

Bullying has been a problem for quite some time, but not something that we really hear about, until a bad situation has surfaced. Bullying can be physically and psychologically damaging and have lifelong effects that can result in anxiety, depression and suicidal tendencies. Words can hurt, but, they can also help, if you see bullying step-up and stop it.

Bullying can be considered a devastating form of abuse that can rob young victims of their self-esteem, isolate individuals from their peers and even cause some to drop out of school. Building up our children today will bring strong communities in years to come.

Play a role in preventing bullying, here are a few things you can do to help.

- Teach your kids to solve problems without violence.
- Give positive feedback for good behavior, this will build their self-esteem
- Build your children's self-confidence so they can stand up for what they believe in.
- Ask your kids about their day and really listen to what they're saying. Good and bad.
- Take bullying seriously, you may only have one chance to get involved and help.
- If you see bullying, stop it right away, even if it's your child doing it.
- Encourage your kids to help others that may need it.

Remember, if we all work together, we can accomplish great things.

12.24.060 - Throwing snow and ice on street unlawful.

It is unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to throw or put or cause to be thrown or put any snow or ice from private property into any street, avenue or other public place in the city of Wauwatosa.

Register Your Camera

Do you have a home surveillance system? Costs are dropping and their popularity is higher than ever. Personal surveillance footage has been used to solve several high profile incidents in our city over the last year. The footage alone was enough to prosecute the offenders. Did you know you can register your exterior surveillance cameras with the Wauwatosa Police Department? Don't worry, we can't tap into your surveillance feed, we will merely know you have an exterior camera system and would be willing to show Police images. The Police department encourages citizens to register exterior cameras in case something happens in the neighborhood. If an incident occurs close to your home, we can check an internal map, see which residents have registered cameras, and stop by your home and ask if any images were captured. This is a new initiative brought forth with our new crime mapping program. The information provided is only available to Wauwatosa Police Department staff and is never shared with anyone else. It is a voluntary program that can help in the fight against crime. To register your cameras visit www.crimereports.com and click on "Register your camera."

Buried Fire Hydrants

Snow season has arrived, and everyone is cleaning off sidewalks and driveways. Don't forget fire hydrants that may be in your yard! In an emergency when seconds count, buried hydrants can cause delays in promptly putting out a fire! Please take a few minutes to shovel the snow away from that fire hydrant. It may be your house or a neighbor's that will depend on it.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Saturday, March 10th

The parade starts at 3:30PM, the route will go eastbound from 68th & Bluemound Road to 50th & Bluemound Road.

**NO OVERNIGHT
PARKING
BETWEEN THE HOURS
OF 3:00 AM – 6:00 AM**

**TO REQUEST
PERMISSION TO PARK
OVERNIGHT:
471-8430**

**DECLARED SNOW
EMERGENCY
- NO PARKING ON CITY
STREETS -
AUTOS WILL BE
TICKETED AND/OR
TOWED**

Automobile Safety

Here are a few safety tips to utilize while you're out and about.

- Always park in well-lighted areas.
- Always be alert to people just sitting in their cars.
- If you are alone at a shopping mall, ask a security guard to escort you to your car.
- After checking around your car, enter it quickly and lock all the doors.
- Teach your children to enter and exit the car quickly.
- If your car is bumped into in traffic, don't get out of the car. Use your cell phone to call 911. Many times carjackers use this technique so that they can overpower you and steal your car.
- The last thing you should do is argue or fight with a carjacker. You could be seriously injured or killed. It isn't worth it.
- Never agree to be kidnapped. Either drop the keys or throw them away from the car as far as you can. When the carjacker goes for the keys, get out of there as fast as you can.

Home Security Survey

The Community Support Division continues to offer **free** home security surveys. A specially-trained police officer will come to a residence free of charge and check for security strengths and weaknesses. Areas including lighting, landscaping, and locks will be addressed. For questions or to schedule an appointment, call the Community Support Division at 471-8430.

2017 Crime Stoppers Data

The Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers has had another successful year thanks to you! Crime Stoppers received 18 anonymous tips in 2017 that lead to the arrests of 6 individuals for federal bank robbery and disorderly conduct. Other crimes reported included narcotics possession and distribution, motor vehicle theft, prostitution and suspicious circumstances. As a result of these arrests the Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers paid out \$1,050 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 text your tip to **crimes** (keyword **tosa**). As always, if you witness a crime in progress, dial "911" immediately.

♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥

Snow and Ice Removal

The full width of public sidewalks, crosswalks, and curb ramps must be cleared of snow and ice by 12:00 noon of the day following a snow or ice accumulation. To prevent slippery conditions sprinkle non-movable ice with a de-icing agent or sand. Sidewalks and ramps are to be cleared again after each plowing operation. Sidewalks on major streets are inspected for compliance, and the residential areas are inspected on a complaint basis.

A notice of noncompliance is sent to a property owner if snow and ice is not removed as required. If the work is not completed within the allotted time, city crews will perform the work and charge the property owner. For example, a 60-foot-wide lot would be charged \$140 each time snow and ice are cleared by city crews. If you have questions or need to report a violation, call the Parks and Forestry Department at 471-8420.



Sunday,
March 11, 2018

St. Patrick's Day Information

The Wauwatosa Historical Society's 27th annual Blarney Run/Walk will return for a trek through the streets of Wauwatosa. Join in the fun while getting some healthy exercise after the long winter months!

Date: Saturday, March 10, 2018

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Place: Grand Hall at Hoyt Park and Pool, 1800 N. Swan Boulevard

Cost: Please refer to www.wauwatosahistoricsociety.org for entry fee information.

Registration forms will be available on the web at www.wauwatosahistoricalsociety.org, starting in mid-January. All participants will receive a commemorative, long-sleeve T-shirt.

Children age 10 and under may participate in the 1/8 mile "Twinkle Trot," which will take place on Underwood Parkway at approximately 11:00 A.M. the day of the race. Pre-registration cost is \$6.00 per child and \$8.00 per child on the day of the event. For additional information or to volunteer, call the Wauwatosa Historical Society at 774-8672.

Door Locks are a Must Have

Back in the day we didn't feel the need to lock our doors or windows. But times have changed, and so has the need to use locks for protection. According to the National Crime Prevention Council, most individuals don't have proper security locks and only half of Americans have dead-bolt locks on all of the entry doors to their homes while nearly one in five have none at all.

The Wauwatosa Police Department recommends checking and updating old locks on all doors and windows and replacing them, if possible. In addition, make sure your locks have a long enough bolt so that the door can't be pried open. Installing quality locks is the first line of defense against home burglaries.

Other steps can be taken to increase your security, as well. Here are some tips.

- **Use your locks** - Even the best locks can't protect you if you don't use them.
- **Do some yard work** - Trim hedges and bushes so thieves can't hide out.
- **Know your neighbors** - Neighbors' who look out for each other are an inexpensive defense against neighborhood crime.
- **Secure your spare** - Leave your spare key with a trusted neighbor, don't hide it on the property. Burglars have more experience looking for keys than you do hiding them.
- **Let there be light** - Have good lighting at all outside entrances - front, back and side - this makes it hard for a burglar to hide.
- **Stop mail and paper deliveries** - Remember, a pile of newspapers in the driveway is a clear sign to a thief that you're not home.

Winter Driving Tips

The winter months bring us joy and holiday cheer but they also bring treacherous road conditions. As we travel to visit family and friends please take extra precautions on our snow and ice covered roadways. Here are a few tips that will help ensure safe travel:

- Clear snow and ice from all windows, headlights, taillights and license plates. If possible remove snow from all areas of your vehicle including the hood and roof. Snow blowing off of your vehicle could temporarily distract drivers behind you and cause an accident.
- Make sure that your tires have adequate tread and are rated for all seasons.
- Pay attention to current road conditions and speed limits. Remember that speed limits are set for ideal road conditions and do not take ice and snow into consideration.
- Look farther ahead in traffic than you usually do and anticipate slower traffic patterns.
- Leave room for snow plows and pay attention to plowing patterns. Often times the lanes running parallel to the plow will not be as clear of snow and slush as the one being plowed.
- Look out for children. Kids often play and sled on snow mounds adjacent to the roadway.
- Use your brakes carefully and brake early. Anti-lock brakes are not designed to be pumped. Instead, “stomp and steer” is recommended.
- Don’t get overconfident in four wheel drive vehicles. Four wheel drive will allow you to get going quicker but won’t necessarily allow you to stop quicker.

Winter Safety Tips

During the winter months we often change our daily routine to comply with the inclement weather. With these changes, some safety and security issues must be addressed. Following are several tips to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable season:

- Never leave your car running unattended in your driveway or on the street. This practice of warming up your car increases your chance of becoming a victim of an auto theft.
- Make sure your outside lights are in good operating condition. These lights will allow you to arrive home to a well-lit yard.
- Keep your sidewalk and driveway clear of ice and snow. Ice covered driveways will decrease your braking efficiency and increase your chances of striking a pedestrian on the sidewalk or a passing car.
- Be aware of the danger of ice covered ponds and rivers.
- Tell your children about the dangers of hiding in or playing in snow covered igloos, they can become deadly frozen traps.
- Dress for the weather, clothing should consist of several layers and include gloves, boots and a hat.

Have a Safe and Fun Winter!