

# Waunakee Police Department Newsletter

## December 2012



### Response from November 2012 Newsletter

We always welcome questions or comments from our newsletters. Here is a comment from a reader after our November 2012 newsletter worth further discussion.

**I have to comment on the burglary article. Kudos to the woman that "got involved". The problem is that people don't want to get involved. If you could put something in the next newsletter about callers being anonymous, or even if they do call, the "bad guys" aren't going to know who called it in. The "bad guys" rely on people not wanting to get involved and that's how they commit more of the stuff that they do.**

As always, if you call the police and do not want to "get involved" you can tell the call taker that you wish to remain anonymous. You may be asked to leave a phone number so an officer can contact you if more information is needed.

There are times, however, when it's critical to a case that the witness provides their name. It is not uncommon that witnesses to crimes tell us they fear retaliation for cooperating with police. In the last ten years, of the hundreds of complaints reported to us, there have been only a couple instances of harassment toward a witness by a suspect after the fact. It just does not happen here, and the couple times it did the suspect was charged with a felony for intimidation.

The success of the Police Department depends greatly on support and cooperation from the community.

## Shop with a Cop

The Waunakee Police Departments "Shop with a Cop" event is scheduled for Sunday, December 2, 2012. Four local youths will be shopping with Waunakee Police Officer Glen Jacob.

"Shop with a Cop" is a program to assist economically disadvantaged youth during the Holiday Season. The basics of the program include an officer picking up a child and accompanying them to Target (East) where each child receives a credit of approx. \$150 to spend in the store. The primary goal is to allow children the opportunity to shop for their families and to also buy a gift for themselves. After shopping, everybody travels to the Lakeside Street VFW in Madison, where they wrap presents and enjoy pizza from Little Caesar's. After the presents are wrapped and everyone is full, the officer and child head home with a police car full of Christmas presents.

This event allows children to interact with the Officers in a positive environment, and it also gives them a sense of satisfaction to be able to give gifts to their family for the Holiday.

If you have any questions or would like to make a donation to the "Shop with a Cop" program, please contact Officer Glen Jacob of the Waunakee Police Department at 608-849-4832 ext 4606 or [gjacob@waunakeepd.org](mailto:gjacob@waunakeepd.org).

## Secure Your Home Before Leaving For The Holidays

Things you should consider before you leave on your holiday break

1. Secure all windows latches and exterior doors using all locking options available. This is a primary opportunity for a suspect to enter your home, and is sometimes overlooked by residents before their departure. Make sure that you utilize your window coverings so that personal property is not visible from the exterior of your home. Items of value should be secured and not readily accessible.
2. If you have an attached garage, make sure you secure the door that leads into the house from the garage, as this has been a focal point of burglars in the past.
3. Keep the perimeter of your home well lit and free from excessive foliage/shrubbery near entryways to your residence.
4. Create the illusion that your home is occupied by using timers on lights, radios and TV's. These small indicators are sometimes enough to discourage someone

from attempting to enter your home.

5. While it is a good idea to tell a trusted neighbor(s) that you will be out of town, be cautious about having your travel plans known by the general public (via Facebook or other social media options). Never leave messages on your phone that you are on vacation, or will be gone for a prolonged period of time. It is also a good idea to have postal mail collected by a trusted person if your departure will be extended.

Also, remember the Waunakee Police Dept. offers a free vacation watch service. We will walk around your vacant home while you are away looking for unlocked doors or security issues. All you have to do is stop by the Police Station and fill out a one page form requesting the service.

## Booze and Belts Mobilization

The Waunakee Police Department will partake in this event again this year for several reasons listed below. Most of all we want everyone to have a safe Holiday Season.

- Law enforcement agencies throughout the state will mobilize for the *“Booze and Belts”* traffic crash prevention effort from December 7 to 16, 2012.
- If motorists are not concerned about protecting their own lives, they at least should be concerned about saving their loved one and friends from experiencing a tragic holiday season.

### **Our goal is to save lives and prevent injuries—not to write more safety belt tickets or make more drunken driving arrests.**

- Last year, alcohol-related crashes killed 225 people in Wisconsin and injured nearly 3,000.
- We cannot tolerate the needless deaths and injuries caused by drunken drivers, so our message is simple—if you’re driving while impaired, we will arrest you.
- Our roadways are dangerous this time of year, and consistent safety belt use is the single most effective way to protect yourself from being ejected from a vehicle or thrown around violently inside it—and possibly hitting another vehicle occupant—during a crash.

- We must continue our traffic safety enforcement and education efforts, like the Booze and Belts mobilization, until we attain our ultimate goal of “zero preventable traffic deaths” in Wisconsin.

Questions can be sent to [newsletter@waunakeepd.org](mailto:newsletter@waunakeepd.org) Questions submitted may be featured in future newsletters. The person submitting the question will not be identified.