

Waunakee Police Department

Newsletter

September 2013



School Starts September 3rd

Drivers must be extra cautious when school starts

With the end of summer vacation, drivers will once again need to watch for children and teens walking, biking or riding buses to and from school and follow laws designed to protect them. The following are violations which are common during the school year.



State law requires drivers to yield to pedestrians:

- Who have started crossing an intersection or crosswalk on a walk signal or on a green light if there's no walk signal.
- Who are crossing the road within a marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection where there are no traffic lights or control signals.
- When a vehicle is crossing a sidewalk or entering an alley or driveway.

In addition, drivers may not legally overtake and pass any vehicle that has stopped for pedestrians at an intersection or crosswalk.

Drivers who fail to yield the right of way to pedestrians who are legally crossing roadways in the Village of Waunakee may be issued citations in the amounts ranging from \$88.80 to \$240.00 (depending on the violation) and 3-4 demerit points.



Vehicles must stop for adult school crossing guard

Every operator of a motor vehicle approaching a school crossing which is controlled by an adult school crossing guard shall follow the directions of the crossing guard. If directed by the school crossing guard to stop, the driver must stop the vehicle not less than 10 feet or more than 30 feet from the school crossing and remain stopped until directed by the crossing guard to proceed.

A vehicle owner can be cited when the driver of a vehicle fails to stop for the adult school crossing guard. A law enforcement officer need not witness this violation if the adult school crossing guard reports it to the law enforcement agency within 24 hours. If the violation occurred in Waukegan the forfeiture amount is \$101.40 and 3 demerit points.



Drivers must stop on the street or highway 20 feet or more from any school bus that has stopped and is flashing red warning lights.

- This applies both to vehicles approaching from the rear and from the opposing lanes.
- All lanes of traffic must stop for the school bus, except in opposing lanes if the highway is divided with a center median.
- No vehicle may proceed until the bus resumes motion and has turned off the red warning lights.

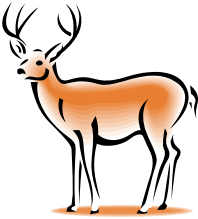
A vehicle owner can be cited when the driver of a car passes a school bus illegally. A law enforcement officer need not witness this violation if the school bus driver reports it to the law enforcement agency within 24 hours. If the violation occurs in Waukegan the forfeiture is \$240.00 and 4 demerit points.



Students biking to school

When drivers are passing bicycles in the roadway traveling in the same direction, they must leave a safe distance of no less than 3-feet of clearance and must maintain that clearance until they have safely passed the bicycle.

Watch out for Deer



The end of September kicks off a flurry of deer activity. Please make sure you watch for deer when driving especially during the early morning and late evening. Motor vehicle-deer crashes continue to be cause for concern in highway safety. Deer are the third most commonly struck object in Wisconsin (behind striking another vehicle and striking a fixed object). In 2011, 5 people died in 5 fatal motor vehicle-deer crashes. In addition, 81 people suffered incapacitating injuries; less serious injuries totaled 220; Dane County had the most motor vehicle-deer crashes reported in 2011 with 846 and many of the crashes go unreported.



Animal Complaints

Please remember the Village of Waunakee does not allow animals to run at large. The owners of animals shall keep the animals tied or enclosed in an appropriate enclosure so as not to interfere with the passing public or neighbors. A dog or cat on a leash is not to be considered running at large as long as it is under control of a person physically able to control it.

Animal Feces

The owner or person in charge of any dog or other animal shall not permit solid fecal matter of such animal to deposit on any street, alley or other public or private property, unless such matter is immediately removed.

Protect Your Valuables Against Theft

The Waunakee Police Department has received several reports of thefts to vehicles and open garages in the last few weeks. In order to combat this crime, it is recommended to always lock vehicle doors parked on the street, driveways and even if the vehicle is parked inside a garage. It is also strongly urged; valuable items are removed from the vehicle or kept out of plain view. Please keep the overhead garage doors closed overnight and garage service doors locked.

In many cases of stolen property reported to the police department; the victims are unable to provide officers with detailed descriptions of the item/s that have been stolen. Here are a few tips which will aid officers in recovering lost or stolen property: (1) Take a picture of your valuable item (2) Put your initials on the item (3) Write down the serial number and keep it in a safe place.

If an officer is provided with a serial number of the stolen property, the serial number is entered into a nationwide law enforcement database. This database is used to assist officers from other jurisdictions in identifying stolen property they come into contact with during their course of work.

If you observe any suspicious activities or suspect someone is committing a theft please call the Waunakee Police Department as soon as possible so we can investigate. We have officers working 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

Facebook

Please “like” our Waunakee Police Department Facebook page. We provide information regarding local events, safety tips and press releases for major incidents. You can also send us your questions through private messages and tips on any recent crimes that have taken place.

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