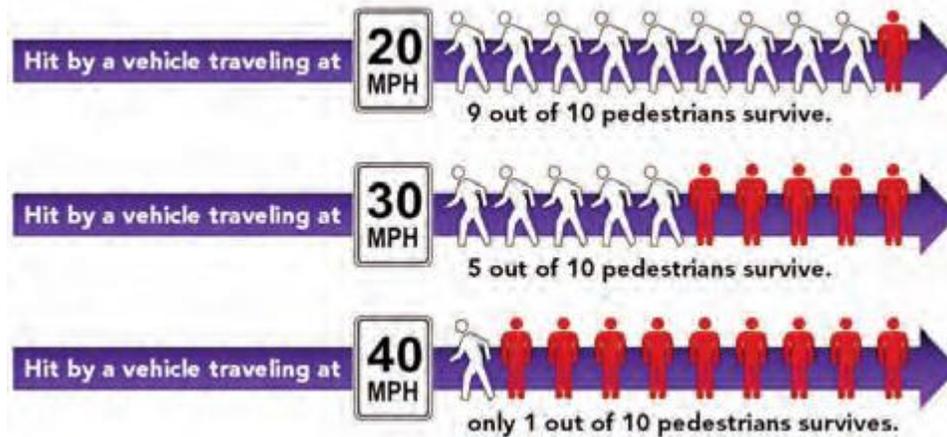


Waunakee Police Department Newsletter October 2014



Pedestrian Safety

You have probably heard the saying “speed kills”. Take a look at the illustration below on the survivability of pedestrians after being hit by a motor vehicle. Please slow down while driving in school zones and other areas with high volumes of pedestrians.



Pedestrians in the crosswalk have the right of way!

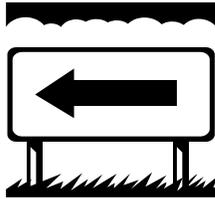




Halloween Safety

Halloween Trick or Treating will be on Friday, October 31 from 5 – 7pm. The following are some safety tips for parents and children:

- If you set jack-o-lanterns on your porch with candles in them, make sure they are far enough out of the way so kids' costumes won't accidentally catch fire.
- Teach your children how to properly cross a street. Only cross streets at crosswalks.
- Help your child pick out or make a costume that has eye holes large enough for good peripheral vision.
- For greater visibility during dusk and darkness, decorate or trim costumes with reflective tape that will glow in the beam of a car's headlights. Bags or sacks should also be light colored or decorated with reflective tape. Reflective tape is usually available in hardware, bicycle, and sporting goods stores.
- To easily see and be seen, children should also carry flashlights.
- Costumes should be short enough to prevent children from tripping and falling.
- If your child is carrying a prop, make sure the tips are smooth and flexible enough to not cause injury if fallen on.
- Check over candy that is collected for any foreign objects.
- Know the route your kids will be taking if you aren't going with them.
- The safest idea is to have an adult accompany kids. If you're not with the kids, be sure to set a time they will be home by. Make sure they know how important it is for them to be home on time.
- Children should not enter homes or apartments unless they are accompanied by an adult.



We need your Help

We continue to receive complaints of unsafe driving at Ripp Park on the West side of the village. The main complaints are speeding and driving the wrong way. The road through Ripp Park is designated and posted as one way.

Ripp Park is used by youth athletic leagues during the evening hours Monday-Friday and on weekends. Officers are patrolling and will be watching for violators. If you see unsafe driving in Ripp Park or elsewhere, please contact the Waunakee Police Department at 849-4523.



Raking Leaves into Streets

In the interests of public safety, health and general welfare, community appearance and efficiency of operation, it shall be unlawful to rake or place fallen tree leaves or grass clippings onto the pavement or into the gutter of any public street. No person shall permit grass clippings from mower swaths to remain upon sidewalks or on abutting property owned or occupied by such person.

Cell Phone Tips for Parents

Recent studies indicate that more than 40 % of 8- to 12-year-olds – and almost 75% of children between the ages of 13 and 17 – have wireless devices. As minors' cell phone usage continues to increase, it is increasingly important that parents understand potential safety concerns.

- Most of the phones are capable of web-browsing and text messaging. For years parents have been monitoring web-content on the home computer. Parents are encouraged to carefully evaluate whether to enable Web browsing or text messaging on their child's cell phone. If you chose to enable web-content please be aware that most cell phone companies offer both free and fee-based services that allow parents to restrict or monitor browsing and texting.
- Teach your child to never respond to text messages from people they do not know. If they receive a message or photo that makes them feel uncomfortable they should tell a parent. Never give out personal information or set up a meeting with someone they do not know.
- Talk to kids about cyber bullying. Text messages on a cell phone are a common method of the cyberbully. Talk to your kids about cyberbullying. If a child receives disturbing, intimidating or harassing text messages they should bring it to the attention of a trusted adult.
- Sharing or posting inappropriate photos. Talk to your children about the problems associated with taking inappropriate photos of themselves or others. One parental intervention that may relate to a lower likelihood of sending sexually suggestive images was parental restriction of text messaging. Teens that sent sexually suggestive, nude or nearly nude images were less likely to have parents who reported limiting the number of texts or other messages the teen could send.



The Roundabout-In Case You Were Wondering

There was one reported accident in the roundabout in the month of September. The accident involved two vehicles and there were no injuries. One driver was cited for Failure to Yield.

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.