

# Waunakee Police Department Newsletter

## April 2015



### April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month



In recognition of April's National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, NHTSA has planned a number of activities. The Agency is also kicking off its second national highly visible enforcement campaign for distracted driving: *U Drive. U Text. U Pay.* The focus is on the idea that "If you're texting, you're not driving."

Wisconsin State Statute 346.89 makes it illegal to drive any motor vehicle while composing or sending an electronic text message or an electronic mail message. If cited in Waunakee a driver could face a fine of \$111.40 and 4 demerit points off your driver's license.

#### Startling Facts

1. More than 3,000 teens die each year in crashes caused by texting while driving
2. Texting while driving is now the leading cause of death among teenagers – surpassing drinking and driving, according to a study by Cohen Children's Medical Center.
3. More than 50 percent of teens admit to texting while driving
4. Virginia Tech studies show drivers are 23 times more likely to be in an accident while texting
5. 5 seconds is the minimal amount of attention that a driver who texts takes away from the road. If traveling at 55 mph, this equals driving the length of a football field without looking at the road.
6. At any one time, 9% of drivers are talking on cell phones, making them 4 times as likely to crash.
7. Talking on a cell phone while driving requires the brain to multitask—a process it cannot do safely while driving. While a growing number of drivers are turning to hands-free devices, studies show hands-free devices provide no safety benefit. The area of the brain responsible for processing moving visual information—a vital part of driving—has 37% less capacity to gather and process critical driving data and instead focuses on the cell phone conversation.
8. It's the conversation, not the device, which creates the danger.
9. Engaging in visual-manual subtasks (such as reaching for a phone, dialing and texting) associated with the use of hand-held phones and other portable devices increased the risk of getting into a crash by three times.
10. Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. When traveling at 55mph, that's enough time to cover the length of a football field blindfolded

For more information please visit the following websites:

<http://www.distraction.gov/>

[http://www.nsc.org/safety\\_road/Distracted\\_Driving/Pages/CognitiveDistraction.aspx](http://www.nsc.org/safety_road/Distracted_Driving/Pages/CognitiveDistraction.aspx)

<http://safety.trw.com/texting-while-driving-now-leading-cause-of-us-teen-deaths/0710/>

<https://beta.dosomething.org/facts/11-fact-about-texting-and-driving>

<http://www.fcc.gov/guides/texting-while-driving>



## Motorcycle Safety Facts

The Wisconsin DOT completed a 2012 Wisconsin Motorcycle Safety Facts book. The following are some interesting statistics found in the book.

- Since 1996, cyclists in the 45 and older age group experienced the largest increase in the number of fatalities of any age group. In 2012, 71 cyclists in this group were killed compared to eleven in 1996. This represents over a six-fold increase.
- Alcohol and/or speed were the primary contributing factors in 56% of fatal single unit motorcycle crashes in 2012 and in 31% of all single unit crashes.
- There were 233 alcohol-related motorcycle crashes in 2012. Of these, 191 or 82.0% occurred between 4 p.m. and 4 a.m.
- In 2012, only 13.6% of passenger car/deer crashes and 7.5% of utility truck/deer crashes resulted in death or injury to a motor vehicle occupant. 69.9% of motorcycle/deer crashes resulted in death or injury to a motorcyclist.
- Motorcycle helmets were known to have been worn by 25 (22%) of the 112 motorcyclists killed in traffic crashes in 2012.
- Motorcycle helmets were known to have been worn by 38% of all motorcyclists involved in crashes in 2012.
- Nine out of 10 motorcycle crashes occurred on dry pavement in 2012.  Approximately eight out of 10 Wisconsin residents who hold regular motorcycle endorsements are male.
- Saturday and Sunday are the two most common days for alcohol-related and non-alcohol-related motorcycle crashes. More than half of the alcohol related crashes occurred on these two days.
- More motorcycle crashes occur between 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. than any other six-hour time period.  In general, more fatalities occur in the more densely populated southeast area of the state than in any other region in Wisconsin.
- The five most frequent possible contributing circumstances in both fatal and non-fatal motorcycle crashes in 2011 were: 1) Failure to control, 2) Inattentive driving, 3) Speed too fast/conditions, 4) Driver condition, 5) Exceeding speed limit



## Spring Time Ordinance Reminders

**Burning** – Open burning of material is not allowed within the village limits. This includes burning materials in the street or on sidewalks. Fires enclosed within fire pits which keep the fire off of the ground are acceptable. Other types of bonfires or the burning of grasses, leaves or vegetation require a permit or prior written approval from the Fire Chief.

**Raking** – Raking leaves in the street or gutter is prohibited per village ordinances.

**Parks** – ● Parks are closed from 10:30 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

- No fires are allowed. Grills are okay, but are to be used in designated picnic areas.
- No glass beverage containers are allowed.
- No overnight camping allowed.
- The speed limit is 15 mph in all parks.



## Spring Cleaning...What to do with Hazardous Household Materials

Clean Sweep is a place to bring hazardous household materials such as Oil-Based Paints and Paint-Related Products, Pesticides & Poisons, Household Products Containing Organic Solvents, Ignitables, and Aerosols, and Rechargeable Batteries.

The facility is located at 7102 US Hwy 12; Madison WI 53718, (Beltline/12/18 East toward Cambridge) will be opening. It is located across from the Yahara Hills Golf Course at the Dane County Landfill. See website for more info: <http://danecountycleansweep.com/>

Hours:

Tuesdays - Fridays: 7:00am - 2:45pm

Saturdays: 8:00am - 10:45am

Closed Sundays, Mondays and Holidays



## April is Tornado Awareness Month

Wisconsin averages 23 tornadoes annually, according to the National Weather Service. The National Weather Service is planning a statewide tornado drill April 16. The weather service will issue a statewide mock tornado watch at 1 p.m. and a statewide mock tornado warning at 1:45 p.m. Many radio and TV stations will participate in the drill. In addition, NOAA weather radios, also known as emergency weather radios, will issue mock alert messaging.

Please keep in mind the emergency alert sirens used to signal a tornado warning in Waunakee, are designed to alert individuals who are outside of their homes. Every year we receive inquiries from individuals who cannot hear the sirens from inside their homes. If you cannot hear the sound of the emergency siren when you are inside your home you may want to purchase an emergency weather radio. There are also applications for cell phone users that will send weather related emergency alerts directly to your cell phone. For more information check out the following website. [http://www.noaa.gov/features/03\\_protecting/wireless\\_emergency\\_alerts.html](http://www.noaa.gov/features/03_protecting/wireless_emergency_alerts.html)



## Waunakee Bike Rodeo

The Waunakee Police Department will be hosting its annual Bike Rodeo on **Wednesday May 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm to 5:30pm at Heritage Elementary School**. The Bike Rodeo is designed to promote safe riding habits and skills needed for young bike riders, ages 5-12. Free helmet fitting, free bike licensing and a bike technician will be on hand to help identify mechanical issues of the kid's bikes. An activities checklist will be provided and if completed all participants will receive a prize! Prize tickets will be drawn after the event and prizes delivered to the child's school. No need to register or sign up. This is a free event, just show up and enjoy!

If you have any questions please contact Officer Asher Torbeck at 849-2109.



## Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying

Please save the date for an important after school presentation on **Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying**. Asher Torbeck, School Resource Officer, and Alex Garcia, School Social Work Intern, will present on April 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30pm in the PAC at Waunakee Community High School. The goals of the presentation are to:

- Provide education on the latest apps/websites that students are using
- Discuss the potential dangers that can be associated with these apps/websites
- Understand the consequences when these apps are used inappropriately
- Discuss how to talk to your student(s) about internet safety and cyber bullying

Due to the content being discussed this presentation is designed for parents only and not students and/or children. We are tailoring this presentation to Middle and High school parents but all parents who are interested are welcome.

## 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.

## Newsletter ideas or topics

If you have a topic or idea you would like us to consider for future Waunakee Police Newsletter, please email the idea for consideration to the address below.

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.