

Waunakee Police Department Newsletter December 2015



Snow Removal



In Wisconsin, there is a certainty of snow. This brings fun for those who partake of the outdoors. However, it brings dangers which include ice and snow that build up on sidewalks. Every winter we respond to reports of persons who have fallen because of slippery sidewalks. **It is the responsibility of the property owner to clear sidewalks of snow and ice within 24 hours of the end of the snow or ice event.**

Snowmobiles

Snowmobile operation is only allowed on designated trails or private property with the owner's consent while in the village limits. If the snowmobile is being operated on private property and not on a designated trail, the snowmobile cannot be operated between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. The speed limit is 15 mph throughout the village.

For a map of the Waunakee trails go to: <http://www.waunakee.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/490>



Clear your vehicle Windows!

Whether we are in a hurry or misplaced the scraper, it is a must that we remove snow and ice from our windshield and windows properly. Wisconsin Statute 346.88(4) requires: The windshield, side wings and side and rear windows of a motor vehicle shall be kept reasonably clean at all times. Failure to properly clear the ice and snow causes reduced visibility while driving and can often be a contributing factor in a traffic crash. It's also important to clear taillights and headlights. Please take a few extra minutes to clear your vehicle properly.



Alternate Side Parking

Odd-Even side parking is currently in effect and will end April 1st 2016. Alternate side parking is regulated between 2:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m. on Waunakee Streets. Park your vehicle so it will be on the even numbered side of the street on even numbered mornings and on the odd side of the street on odd numbered mornings unless posted otherwise.

Citations not paid within 10 days of issuance result in higher fines. Citations not paid within 28 days of issuance will result in vehicle registration being suspended.

We Need Your Help!

On 11-26-15 at approximately 6:45 p.m. (Thanksgiving night) Waunakee Officers responded an address on Woodbridge Trail for a hit and run accident. A vehicle traveling on Woodbridge left the roadway and struck a portable basketball hoop and garage door of a home. A vehicle in the garage was also damaged. The driver/vehicle fled the scene. If you have any information on this case please call the Waunakee Police Department at 849-4523. Callers can remain anonymous and may be eligible for a cash reward.



Scams

We continue to have Waunakee residents report phone scam attempts. The following are the two most common scams reported to the Waunakee Police Department:

Computer tech support scams:

You receive a call blue claiming your computer has a virus and the caller can get rid of it. Callers often falsely claim to represent Microsoft or a local tech support company to gain your trust. They tell you that

they can remove the (non-existent) virus from your computer for a fee. The caller asks you to download software from the internet that grants them remote access to your system.

If you allow access to your computer, scammers can load any number of malicious software programs and access your files. If you give them your credit card number to pay for their “services,” you can expect to get ripped off too. This is typically a phone-based scam, but also shows up in online pop-up messages saying you have a computer virus and telling you to call a specific phone number for help.

What to do:

- Hang up the phone or close the pop-up.
- A tech support representative (Microsoft or otherwise) will never contact you to tell you that your computer has a virus.
- If you question whether your computer is actually infected, run a system scan using the antivirus protection software on your computer. Keep your antivirus software updated in order to protect you from the latest malware.
- If you need additional help, take your computer to a local, trusted tech support business.

IRS scams:

****Recently, a Waunakee resident lost almost \$4,000 to this scam.**

A scammer falsely claims to be with the Internal Revenue Service advising that you owe back taxes. He demands immediate payment and threatens you jail time, legal action, and in some cases deportation. In other versions of IRS scams, the scammer may email you requesting your IRS e-services portal username and password or may request personal or banking information in order to “update” your e-file records.

The most common IRS scam in Waunakee is one where the caller indicates the Waunakee Police Department will arrest the person if money is not wired to the IRS. The Waunakee Police Department has never arrested anyone on behalf of the IRS.

These are “government impostor” scams – a type of criminal operation that uses the names or “look-alikes” of government agencies in the hopes of adding legitimacy to their ploys. None of the communications mentioned above are actually from the IRS.

What to do:

- Hang up the phone or delete the emails.
- Call local police if you have any doubt if the call is real.
- The IRS communicates with taxpayers by traditional mail. The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by phone or email to request immediate payments or to gather personal or financial information.
- Never click a link or open an attachment in an unsolicited email.
- If you question the legitimacy of a communication from a governmental agency, contact DATCP’s Consumer Protection Hotline (800-422-7128) or call the misrepresented agency directly to inquire.
- The IRS has a webpage that describes and debunks the various tax scams that have been reported to the agency. The page provides a wealth of tips, news releases, and video and podcast links to help you stay informed on these threats: <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Tax-Scams-Consumer-Alerts>.



Project Blue Light

The idea began in 1989 when Mrs. Dolly Craig wrote to C.O.P.S. that she would be putting two blue candles in her living room window that holiday season. One for her son-in-law, Daniel Gleason, who had been killed in the line of duty while serving with the Philadelphia (PA) Police Department on June 5, 1986, and one for her daughter and Danny's wife, Pam, who had been killed in an automobile accident in August 1989. Danny and Pam had 6 children. Dolly Craig is now deceased but her idea is her legacy. Project Blue Light now burns bright in the hearts of the nearly 32,000 survivors of America's fallen law enforcement officers during the holiday season.

C.O.P.S. adopted this idea as a way for everyone to honor the officers who serve and protect us while remembering those who have died in the line of duty. Project Blue Light has grown steadily as a way of remembering our departed law enforcement officers across America. The concept is simple. Place a single blue light in your window or outside light in memory of fallen officers. At this time of year, ornamental light fixtures, such as candlestick replicas, are easy to come by and serve this purpose well. <http://www.nationalcops.org/>



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. Questions submitted may be featured in future newsletters. The person submitting the question will not be identified.