

Waunakee Police Department Newsletter January 2016



The Waunakee Police Department wishes everyone a safe and happy 2016!

Shop with a Cop 2015



On December 06, 2015, the Waunakee Police Department participated in our fourth annual "Shop with a Cop" event. Officer Tim Doherty, Officer Asher Torbeck, and Officer Glen Jacob took three kids from the Village of Waunakee shopping for Christmas presents at Target on the east side of Madison.

Each child received \$175, collected through private and corporate donations, to buy gifts for his or her family. After shopping, everybody traveled to the VFW Post 1318 located on Lakeside St. in Madison, where they wrapped presents and enjoyed pizza provided by Little Caesar's. After the presents were

wrapped and everyone was full, the officer and child headed home with a police car full of Christmas presents. Approximately 80 kids and police officers from the Dane County area participated in the event.

Thank you to all of the supporters of this community program! If you would like to see more photos of this event check out our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Waunakee-Police-Department/349673238430794>



A newsletter reader requested we post a review of some traffic laws that need some attention from drivers in the Dane County area. The top three on his list are: 1. Failure to Stop or Improper stop at a stop sign 2. Tailgating 3. Unsafe cutting in when passing

346.46 Vehicles to stop at stop signs.

(1) Except when directed to proceed by a traffic officer or traffic control signal, every operator of a vehicle approaching an official stop sign at an intersection shall cause such vehicle to stop before entering the intersection and shall yield the right-of-way to other vehicles which have entered or are approaching the intersection upon a highway which is not controlled by an official stop sign or traffic signal.

(2) Stops required by sub. (1) shall be made in the following manner:

(a) If there is a clearly marked stop line, the operator shall stop the vehicle immediately before crossing such line.

(b) If there is no clearly marked stop line, the operator shall stop the vehicle immediately before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection.

(c) If there is neither a clearly marked stop line nor a marked or unmarked crosswalk at the intersection or if the operator cannot efficiently observe traffic on the intersecting roadway from the stop made at the stop line or crosswalk, the operator shall, before entering the intersection, stop the vehicle at such point as will enable the operator to efficiently observe the traffic on the intersecting roadway.

Failure to stop or an improper stop at a stop sign will cost a driver in Waunakee, \$98.80 and 3 demerit points.

346.14 Distance between vehicles. (1) The operator of a motor vehicle shall not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of such vehicle and the traffic upon and the condition of the highway.

Following too closely will greatly increase the chances of being involved in an accident and will cost a driver \$124.00 and 3 demerit points.

346.07 Unsafe cutting in when passing. (2) The operator of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left thereof at a safe distance and shall not again drive to the right side of the roadway until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle.

This violation usually occurs on the interstate or county highways. If a violation occurs in Waunakee it will cost \$155.50 and 3 demerit points.



WINTER DRIVING



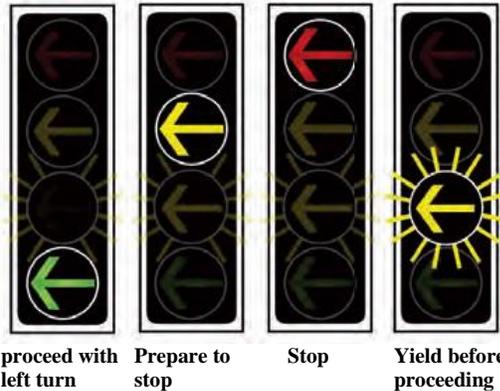
- Plan your travel, selecting both primary and alternate routes.
- Let someone know your travel routes and itinerary so that, if you don't arrive on time, officials will know where to search for you.
- Call 511 or visit 511wi.gov for real-time traveler information, including winter road conditions
- Check latest weather information on your radio.
- Try not to travel alone - two or three people are preferable.
- Travel in convoy (with another vehicle) if possible.
- Drive carefully and defensively. Watch for ice patches on bridges and overpasses.
- Take note of your odometer and coordinate it with exit numbers, mileposts, or crossroads so if you are in a crash or slide off the road you'll better be able to identify where you are and summon law enforcement officers, rescue workers, or tow truck operators more quickly to your location.
- If a storm begins to be too much for you to handle, seek refuge immediately.
- If your car should become disabled, stay with the vehicle, running your engine and heater for short intervals. Be sure to "crack" a window in the vehicle to avoid carbon monoxide build-up.
- Always fill the gasoline tank before entering open country, even for a short distance, and stop to fill-up long before the tank begins to run low. Keeping your tank as full as possible will minimize condensation, providing the maximum advantage in case of trouble.

Check out the following website for traffic information and even links to traffic cameras around the state: <http://www.511wi.gov>



Clear your vehicle Windows!

Whether we are in a hurry or misplaced the scraper, it is a must that we remove the 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. Please take the extra time to clear your vehicle properly.



The Federal Highway Administration has adopted the flashing yellow arrow as a national standard. The flashing yellow arrow is part of a four-arrow arrangement within a signal located over the left turn lane. It provides a more direct message for left turns: left turn is permitted, but driver must first yield to opposing traffic and pedestrians, then proceed with caution. A national study found that flashing yellow left-turn arrows are easier to understand than traditional yield on-green indications, reducing crashes by 24 percent.



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 vehicles 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.



Snowmobiles

Snowmobiles are only allowed to be operated on designated trails or on private property with the owners 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., except when returning home via the most direct route. The speed limit is 15 mph throughout the village.

A map of the Village of Waunakee snowmobile trails can be found at:

<http://www.vil.waunakee.wi.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/490>



Snow removal

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.

No person shall push, shove or in any way deposit any snow or ice onto any public streets or alley, public or private sidewalk.



Please  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.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Waunakee-Police-Department/349673238430794>

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.