

Waunakee Police Department Newsletter February 2016



Our Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Waunakee Police Department to protect and serve all people with respect, fairness and compassion. We are committed to preserving peace, order and safety. We enforce laws and ordinances, safeguard constitutional rights and maintain efficient delivery of police services.



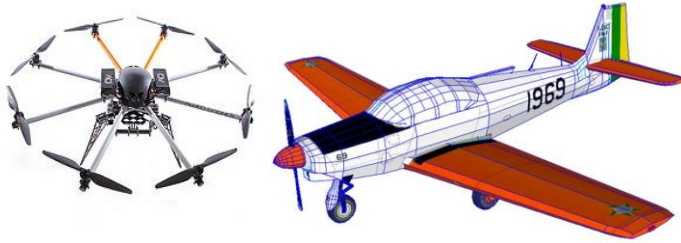
The Waunakee Police Department is hiring a full time police officer in 2016. If you or someone you know would be interested please go to: <https://wilenet.org/html/employment/index.jsp> Qualifications, responsibilities and other necessary information is contained in the posting. Applications must be received by 4:00 PM, 02/19/2016.

2015 Wisconsin Crash Fatalities

Wisconsin traffic related fatalities increased in 2015 to a total of 561. This is up 61 from 2014. Dane County had 30 traffic related fatalities which is below the five year average for the county and the same total as 2014. Milwaukee County had the most traffic related fatalities (83).

Please remember to buckle up, pay attention, slow down and drive sober!

<http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/about-wisdot/newsroom/statistics/countyfatality.aspx>



All owners of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) greater than .55 lbs, must register their UAS with the Federal Aviation Administration's UAS Registry. A federal law effective December 21, 2015 requires unmanned aircraft registration, and owners are subject to civil and criminal penalties if they do not register. As part of the registration process, UAS owners will be issued a Unique ID Number by the FAA that must be marked on their UAS. There is evidence of a considerable increase in the unauthorized use of small, inexpensive UAS by individuals and organizations, including companies. The FAA retains the responsibility for enforcing Federal Aviation Regulations.

Model Aircraft

An unmanned aircraft that is 1) capable of sustained flight in the atmosphere, 2) flown within visual line of sight of the person operating the aircraft, and 3) flown for hobby or recreational purposes. Must be operated within ALL of the following parameters:

1. Strictly for hobby or recreational use
2. Must give way to manned aircraft
3. Less than 55 pounds ²
4. Operated in accordance with community based set of safety guidelines ³
5. If within 5 miles of airport, must notify airport operator and control tower (if tower)



Suspicious Activity

The Waunakee Police Department has received several calls reporting suspicious activity in the area surrounding the covered bridge located in the Savannah Village neighborhoods. Recently officers contacted an individual reported to be acting suspicious in the area. Officers discovered he just visited a Geocach located in the area. This is likely he source of several of the suspicious person complains.

What is Geocaching? Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity, in which participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver or mobile device and other navigational techniques to locate hide and seek containers, called "geocaches". These containers are hidden all over the world and there are several located in the Waunakee area. There are numerous websites devoted to this hobby if you want to check it out.



Stay Back!

WI state statute 346.915(2) "Following a snowplow too close on highway." Drivers must follow snowplows (who are actively plowing) 200 feet back if the speed limit is over 35, and 75 feet back if the speed limit is under 35 unless you are passing or overtaking. At intersections, the distance is 20 feet back. The fine for violating this Statute in Waunakee is \$98.80 and 3 demerit points.



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.



Be Aware of Tax Scams:

Phone Scams: Aggressive and threatening phone calls by criminals impersonating IRS agents remains an ongoing threat to taxpayers. The IRS has seen a surge of these phone scams in recent months as scam artists threaten police arrest, deportation, license revocation and other things. The IRS reminds taxpayers to guard against all sorts of con games that arise during any filing season

Phishing: Taxpayers need to be on guard against fake emails or websites looking to steal personal information. The IRS will not send you an email about a bill or refund out of the blue. Don't click on one claiming to be from the IRS that takes you by surprise. Taxpayers should be wary of clicking on strange emails and websites. They may be scams to steal your personal information.


Identity Theft: Taxpayers need to watch out for identity theft especially around tax time. The IRS continues to aggressively pursue the criminals that file fraudulent returns using someone else's Social Security number. The IRS is making progress on this front but taxpayers still need to be extremely careful and do everything they can to avoid becoming a victim.

Fake Charities: Taxpayers should be on guard against groups masquerading as charitable organizations to attract donations from unsuspecting contributors. Contributors should take a few extra minutes to ensure their hard-earned money goes to legitimate and currently eligible charities. IRS.gov has the tools taxpayers need to check out the status of charitable organizations. Be wary of charities with names that are similar to familiar or nationally known organizations

Inflated Refund Claims: Taxpayers need to be on the lookout for anyone promising inflated refunds. Taxpayers should be wary of anyone who asks them to sign a blank return, promise a big refund before looking at their records, or charge fees based on a percentage of the refund. Scam artists use flyers, advertisements, phony store fronts and word of mouth via community groups and churches in seeking victims

<https://www.irs.gov>



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.