

Waunakee Police Department Newsletter February 2017



2016 Wisconsin Crash Fatalities

Wisconsin traffic related fatalities increased in 2016 to a preliminary total of 592. This is up 35 fatalities from 2015. Dane County had 39 traffic related fatalities, the highest number in the last 5 years. Milwaukee County had the most traffic related fatalities, 75.

Please remember to buckle up, pay attention, slow down and drive sober! For a complete list of traffic related fatalities follow the link to the WI DOT webpage below.

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



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 the village of Waunakee is \$98.80 and 3 demerit points.



Waunakee Police Department Statistics

(Answers on last page)

1. How many citizen contacts did the members of the WNPDP have in 2016?
a. 2,000 b. 5,000 c. 11,000 d. 17,000
2. How many non- emergency phone calls did WNPDP staff receive at the WNPDP in 2016?
a. 3,000 b. 6,000 c. 4,000 d. 10,000
3. How many walk-ins did WNPDP staff handle in 2016?
a. 1,100 b. 220 c. 555 d. 800



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.



Headlight Visibility Law

The recently enacted Wisconsin headlight visibility law requires drivers to turn on their headlights when weather conditions “limit visibility.” Limited visibility means any time that weather conditions limit visibility such that objects are not clearly visible 500 feet from the vehicle. In other words, turn your lights on in heavy rain, snow and fog. In the past five years, more than 300 people in Wisconsin have been injured in crashes where drivers didn’t have their headlights turned on, according to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.



Consumers Warned of New Surge in IRS E-mail Schemes

We are entering the 2017 tax season. This is the time of year to on the alert for tax scams. A tactic on the increase used by scammers is the use of fraudulent e-mails. These emails are designed to trick taxpayers into thinking they are official communications from the IRS or others in the tax industry, including tax software companies. The phishing schemes can ask taxpayers about a wide range of topics. E-mails can seek information related to refunds, filing status, confirming personal information, ordering transcripts and verifying PIN information.

Watch out for fraudsters slipping these official-looking emails into inboxes, trying to confuse people at the very time they work on their taxes. Do not click on these emails or attachments. When people click on these email links, they are taken to sites designed to imitate an official-looking website, such as IRS.gov. The sites ask for Social Security numbers and other personal information. The sites also may carry malware, which can infect people's computers and allow criminals to access your files or track your keystrokes to gain information.

Please take a look at the IRS webpage on how to report phishing and online scams at:
<https://www.irs.gov/uac/report-phishing>

You will be given instructions on how to identify and report an e-mail or online scam as well as see examples of fraudulent e-mails used in the past. **Remember, the IRS does not initiate taxpayer communication through e-mail.**



Waunakee Police Department TIP Line

The Waunakee Police Department maintains an anonymous tips line, 849-2TIP (2847). Callers can leave a message about criminal activity including drug information. The caller may report the information they have and can remain completely anonymous. Tipsters may be eligible for a cash reward if the information results in arrest.

Callers should provide the date and time of their call, as this will become your identifying number. For example, if you call on January 1, 2017, at 10:30 your ID number would be 010120171030. If callers do want to obtain a reward they must follow up with the Tip Line coordinator, Lt. Joe Peterson at 850-4510. You will only be asked to provide your identifying number. From there, arrangements will be made to pick up the reward at a specific location.

If you are calling about a crime in progress, call 911. If it is NOT an emergency but would either like to speak with an officer or have an officer respond, please call the non-emergency number at 849-4523.



Parent Alert! Inhalants

While on patrol a couple of weeks ago I noticed a couple of cans of whipped cream dumped in the park parking lot. I seemed an odd place for such an item. When you think about drugs that threaten the health of teens, whipped cream is likely one of the last things that comes to mind. Unfortunately pressurized containers used to store canned whipped cream contain a propellant gas called nitrous oxide, which can be inhaled quickly by mouth to get a brief but intoxicating high. Inhaling nitrous oxide from whipped cream canisters can deprive the brain of oxygen, potentially causing unconsciousness, seizures or death. Many deaths from nitrous oxide occur when the user loses consciousness and strikes his/her head on the ground or a sharp object. Please be aware of this fact and take notice if you observe these canisters in your teen's bedroom or vehicle.



WE ARE MOVING OUR NEWSLETTER!!!!!!!

We are moving our newsletter access to the Village of Waunakee website! The change allows us to keep pace with the growing number of community members who wish to receive our monthly newsletter. If you wish to continue receiving our newsletter you will need to follow the link below which sends you to the "Notify Me" section of the village website. Once you have reached that page you simply add your email address and select the email option next to the Waunakee Police Department section. Should you no longer wish to receive the newsletter once you have signed up, there are directions on the same page on how to unsubscribe. While we transition over the next few months we will continue to send out the newsletter from our newsletter@waunakeepd.org email address and provided access through the Village of Waunakee website. Starting in May of 2017 we will only send the newsletter out from our website sign up list. <http://www.vil.waunakee.wi.us/list.aspx>



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>

Answers: 1. d, 2. b, 3. a