

# Waunakee Police Department Newsletter

## March 2018



### Reducing Motor Vehicle Theft

The Dane County area has experienced an increase in motor vehicle theft recently. In 2016, more than three-quarters of a million vehicles were stolen in the United States. Often the vehicles have keys left in the ignition or are left running and unattended.

- When parking, take your vehicle's key; do not leave it in your vehicle.
- Close and lock all windows and doors when you park.
- Park in well-lit areas if possible.
- Never leave valuables in your vehicle, especially if they can be seen from outside the vehicle.

### If you are a victim of vehicle theft, follow these steps:

- Contact the law enforcement agency where the vehicle was stolen immediately to file a report. Be prepared to provide the following information:
  - License plate number;
  - Make, model, and color of your vehicle; and
  - Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) and any identifying characteristics
  - Any suspect information if known



### Tax Scams

Aggressive and threatening phone calls by criminals impersonating IRS agents remain a major threat to taxpayers, but now the IRS is receiving new reports of scammers calling under the guise of verifying tax return information over the phone.

The latest variation being seen in the last few weeks tries to play off the current tax season. Scam artists call saying they have your tax return, and they just need to verify a few details to process your return. The scam tries to get you to give up personal information such as a Social Security number or personal financial information, such as bank numbers or credit cards.

“These schemes continue to adapt and evolve in an attempt to catch people off guard just as they are preparing their tax returns,” said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen. “Don’t be fooled. The IRS won’t be calling you out of the blue asking you to verify your personal tax information or aggressively threatening you to make an immediate payment.”

This January, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) announced they have received reports of roughly 896,000 phone scam contacts since October 2013 and have become aware of over 5,000 victims who have collectively paid over \$26.5 million as a result of the scam. Just this year, the IRS has seen a 400 percent increase in phishing schemes.

### The IRS will never:

- Call to demand immediate payment over the phone, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you several bills.
- Call or email you to verify your identity by asking for personal and financial information.
- Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone or e-mail.
- Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

### If you don't owe taxes, or have no reason to think that you do:

- Do not give out any information. Hang up immediately.
- Contact TIGTA to report the call. Use their "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting" web page. You can also call 800-366-4484.
- Report it to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the "FTC Complaint Assistant" on [FTC.gov](http://FTC.gov). Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.

For more information on the various tax scams visit the IRS, Consumer Alert webpage at: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-scams-consumer-alerts>



## Most common traffic citations in Wisconsin

A newsletter reader asked, what are the most common traffic citations written by WI Law Enforcement officers? The #1 violation is for speeding 11-15 mph over the speed limit. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is responsible for entering the violations on the driver record file after the individual has been convicted of the violation. The following are the top 10 traffic violations entered as convictions in WI (2014).

1. Speeding (11-19 over limit)
2. Operating while Suspended
3. No Insurance
4. Failure to fasten seatbelt
5. No proof of Insurance
6. Speeding (1-10 over limit)
7. Operate an unregistered vehicle
8. Operate without valid driver's license
9. Operate a motor vehicle while intoxicated
10. Failure to obey traffic sign or signal

For a complete list of traffic violations entered in 2014 go to the following website:  
<http://wisconsindot.gov/Documents/dmv/shared/convictions-2014.pdf>



It's a car, not a phone booth.



## Texting While Driving

Take a look at the following statistics on texting while driving and the next time you want to send or receive a text message, “pull over” in a safe location. For more information on texting while driving please visit: <http://www.textinganddrivingsafety.com/>

### Texting while driving causes:

1. 1,600,000 accidents per year – National Safety Council
2. 330,000 injuries per year – Harvard Center for Risk Analysis Study
3. 11 teen deaths every day – Ins. Institute for Hwy Safety Fatality Facts
4. Nearly 25% of all car accidents

### Texting While Driving Is:

1. About 6 times more likely to cause an accident than driving intoxicated
2. The same as driving after 4 beers – National Hwy Transportation Safety Admin.
3. The number one driving distraction reported by teen drivers

### Texting While Driving:

1. Makes you 23X more likely to crash – National Hwy Transportation Safety Admin.
2. Is the same as driving blind for 5 seconds at a time – VA. Tech Transportation Institute
3. Takes place by 800,000 drivers at any given time across the country
4. Slows your brake reaction speed by 18% – HumanFactors & Ergonomics Society
5. Leads to a 400% increase with eyes off the road



Many families will be traveling for the upcoming “Spring Break”. Below are a few tips to avoid ID theft.

1. **Reduce what you carry:** Clean out your wallet or purse and remove all unnecessary cards or other items. Do not carry anything with your social security number.
2. **Pay attention in tourist areas:** These are areas where scammers may have card skimming devices or the standard pick pocket/ purse snatcher.
3. **Avoid using public computers:** They could have information stealing software installed. If you must use one, avoid entering personal information or logging into online bank accounts.
4. **Don't bring your checkbook:** If you have your checks stolen a scammer has your name, address, account number, routing number. Plenty of information to withdraw money and open you up to a host of other scams.
5. **Verify Callers To Your Hotel Room:** A common scam is to call the room and convince the guest that there is a problem with the credit card. Do not give your card number over the phone. Instead go to the front desk to confirm there is a problem.
6. **Watch Out if using public WiFi:** Make sure if you do use a public WiFi network that it is an authenticated network. Some scammers will set up public hotspots that are not secure and others can gain access to a traveler's personal information.



## Spring Ordinance Reminders

**Park hours:** Except for authorized events and subject to certain exceptions listed in this section, all village parks shall be closed from 10:30 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. the following day, and it shall be unlawful to enter in or be upon any park, playground, or swimming pool after the hour designated.

**Littering:** No person shall throw any glass, refuse or waste, filth or other litter upon the streets, alleys, highways, public parks or other property of the village or upon property within the village owned by the Waunakee School District or any private person or upon the surface of any body of water within the village.

**Curfew:** It shall be unlawful for any juvenile under 16 years of age to be on foot, bicycle or in any type of vehicle on any public street, avenue, highway, road, alley, park, school grounds, swimming beach, cemetery, playground, public building or any other public place in the village between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., unless accompanied by such juvenile's parent or guardian or person having lawful custody and control of such person or unless there exists a reasonable necessity therefor. The fact that the juvenile, unaccompanied by parent, guardian or other person having legal custody, is found upon any such public place during the hours mentioned in this section shall be prima facie evidence that the juvenile is there unlawfully and that no reasonable excuse exists therefor.

Exceptions: This division shall not apply to a juvenile: Who is performing an errand as directed by such juvenile's parent, guardian or person having lawful custody. Who is on such juvenile's own premises or in the areas immediately adjacent thereto. Whose employment makes it necessary to be upon the streets, alleys or public places or in any motor vehicle during such hours. Who is returning home from a supervised school, church or civic function.

**Animal Running at Large:** No person having the possession or ownership of an animal shall, allow the animal to run at large within the village, including village parks. The owner of any animal shall keep the animal on a leash, tied, or enclosed in a proper enclosure so as not to allow the animal to interfere with the public or neighbors. Any animal running at large unlicensed and required by state law or this chapter to be licensed may be seized and impounded by a humane officer or law enforcement officer. An animal shall not be considered to be running at large if it is on a leash and under control of a person physically able to control it, or, in the case of dogs, if the dog is at the Waunakee Dog Park.



### Mental Health Crisis assistance

If you or someone you know is going through a mental health crisis and it is not an emergency situation. Call Journey Mental Health 280-2600. They have a 24/7 Suicide Prevention Hotline which provides telephone assistance to Dane County individuals experiencing emotional distress or psychiatric crisis. Visit their website for more information: <https://journeymhc.org/>



### Dangerous Ice Conditions

The Village of Waunakee has several small bodies of water located in neighborhoods, parks and industrial areas throughout the Village. These bodies of water are mostly used as retention ponds to manage storm water run-off. It is not uncommon to see adults and children walking out on the ice during the winter season. Caution, this time of year is a dangerous time for ice travel due to the warming temperatures and the amount of melt water these ponds receive. Parents, please have a conversation with your children about the dangers of ice travel and keep them off the ice this time of year.

# LOST & FOUND

The following pieces of property were found in the Village recently with no owner known at this time. These items are currently in the custody of the Waunakee Police Department. If you or someone you know lost these items please contact Sgt. Bartels at 849-4500 or by email [rbartels@waunakeepd.org](mailto:rbartels@waunakeepd.org). Please provide a complete description of the item you lost so a positive identification can be made. If you find an item please be aware that it may be evidence in a crime. Please call us as soon as possible if you discover items in the Village of Waunakee.

1. On 2-18-18, a cell phone was found in the 200 Block of S. Holiday Dr.
2. On 2-16-18, a wheel chair was found in the 1100 Block of Bluebird Trl.



## Locations that Accept Sharps

We have received questions about where to dispose of Medical sharps, such as needles, syringes and lancets. There are many collection stations throughout Dane County most of which are located in Madison. Below are a few collection stations in or near Waunakee.

1. Walgreen Pharmacy 1725 Northport Dr. Madison WI
2. Walgreen Pharmacy 3700 University Ave Madison WI
3. Shopko Pharmacy 7401 Mineral Point Rd Madison WI
4. UW Health Sun Prairie Clinic 2651 Windsor St Sun Prairie WI
5. Waunakee Home Town Pharmacy 235 S. Century Ave Waunakee (Free with Hometown Container/Patient/ otherwise \$10 fee)

Go to (<https://safeneedledisposal.org/>) you can search for sharps disposal locations throughout the state.

## Correct packaging of used medical sharps

To help reduce the risk of injury, follow these four steps to get medical sharps ready for safe disposal.

1. Clip the needle points with needle clippers, or recap or re-sheath discarded sharps to help prevent needle sticks. Recapping needles is prohibited in healthcare facilities because medical workers might stick themselves with contaminated needles, but individuals who administer their own medications are not at risk from their own needles.
2. Place the sharps in rigid puncture-resistant containers with secure lids or caps. Acceptable containers include commercially available sharps containers or thick-walled plastic detergent or bleach bottles with screw caps. Unacceptable containers include coffee cans (the lids are too easily punctured), plastic milk jugs, plastic bags, aluminum cans and soda bottles.
3. Visibly label the sharps container with the words "biohazard," "infectious waste" or "sharps," or with the bio-hazard emblem. If you have put sharps in a recyclable container, label it "Do not recycle."
4. When the container is full, sealed and labeled, store it out of reach of children and dispose of it properly at a sharps collection station.



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.

<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](mailto:newsletter@waunakeepd.org). Questions submitted may be featured in future newsletters. The person submitting the question will not be identified.