

Waunakee Police Department Newsletter

September 2018



Waunakee Police Department Office Manager, Sheryl Helleis will retire this month after 38 years of employment at the Waunakee Police Department. We thank her for her service and wish her the best in the future retirement!



Lock your doors, close your garage doors and lock your vehicles!

The WNPD continues to receive periodic reports of thefts to vehicles and stolen vehicles.

Always close your garage

This one might seem all too obvious, but take a drive through your neighborhood and notice how many garage doors are left open during the day or night.

All thieves need is a few minutes of you not noticing to get out what they want or to enter your home

Don't leave your garage door remote in your car

Simply using your remote is one of the easiest ways for a thief to get into your garage.

Thieves can easily enter your garage by taking the remote out of your car while your car is left unlocked in front of your home. Once the thieves have your remote, they have access to your garage and are that much closer to breaking into your home.

Prevent Theft /Lock Your Vehicle. The majority of vehicle break-ins occur outside private homes in driveways or on the street in front of the victim's home. Thefts from vehicles would be drastically reduced if people would lock their car doors and stop leaving valuables inside their vehicles. Do not leave your keys in your vehicles.



Emergency Notification System (ENS) signs

A blue Emergency Notification System sign is posted at every railroad crossing. If you see a problem at a Railroad crossing, call the number listed on the sign as soon as possible and provide the posted crossing number.

Following these few, simple safety tips to help keep yourself and others safe

Always expect a train at each highway-rail intersection. Freight trains don't travel at fixed times and schedules for passenger trains change.

- **Cross train tracks only at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings**, and obey all warning signs and signals posted there. If you cross at any other place, you are trespassing and can be ticketed or fined.
- All train tracks are private property. **Never walk on tracks; it is illegal to trespass and highly dangerous.** By the time a locomotive engineer sees a trespasser or vehicle on the tracks it's too late. It can take a mile or more to stop a train.
- **Trains overhang the tracks** by at least three feet in both directions; loose straps hanging from rail cars may extend even further. If you are in the right-of-way next to the tracks, you can be hit by the train.
- **Stay alert** around railroad tracks. No texting, headphones or other distractions that would prevent you from hearing an approaching train; never mix rails and recreation.

National Night Out



Thanks to all who helped make National Night Out, August 8th 2018 a big success!

School Starts September 4th

Drivers must be extra cautious when school starts

It is that time of year. Kids will be heading back to school with morning and afternoon traffic increasing. Please pay attention to pedestrians and watch your speed in and around schools zones.



Vehicles must stop for adult school crossing guard

Every operator of a motor vehicle approaching a school crossing which is controlled by an adult school crossing guard shall follow the directions of the crossing guard. If directed by the school crossing guard to stop, the driver must stop the vehicle not less than 10 feet or more than 30 feet from the school crossing and remain stopped until directed by the crossing guard to proceed. **A violation in Waunakee will likely result in a forfeiture of \$111.40 and three demerit points.**



Passing a school bus

Under a new state regulation, school buses in Wisconsin built after January 1, 2005 must have amber lights to alert drivers that the bus is about to activate its flashing red warning lights while coming to a stop. The new regulation goes into effect on August 16, 2016.

“Flashing amber lights are a signal that the school bus is preparing to stop, so drivers need to slow down, pay attention and proceed carefully. Drivers are allowed to pass a moving bus with flashing amber lights, but they should do so cautiously. However, once the bus displays flashing red warning lights, drivers both in front of and behind the bus must stop at least 20 feet from the bus and remain stopped until the red lights are turned off or the bus resumes travel. Drivers must stop even if the red stop-sign arm on the side of the bus is not extended.

A vehicle owner can be cited when the driver of a car passes a school bus illegally. A law enforcement officer need not witness this violation if the school bus driver reports it to the law enforcement agency within 24 hours. **If the violation occurs in Waunakee the forfeiture is \$250.00 and 4 demerit points.**



Dane County Emergency Warning System

Sign up for the Dane County Emergency warning system by going to the Dane County Emergency Management website: <https://em.countyofdane.com/warning>

Dane County has the capability to do a mass notification to citizens by an emergency telephone notification system. This system is commonly referred to as Reverse 911. When will the system be used?

Possible uses include:

- Hazardous materials release. An airborne hazardous materials release or potential for a release where there is a need for residents to evacuate or shelter-in-place.
- Community policing. Local police departments and the Dane County Sheriff's Department may use the system for a variety of community policing situations, such as missing children alerts or missing endangered adults or an outbreak of infectious disease.
- Public health alerts. Dane County and the City of Madison public health departments may use the system to disseminate public health information such as boil water alerts.

Please Note: The telephone notification system is **NOT** used to disseminate weather alerts and severe weather warnings. The warning areas are typically too large, and the time durations too short for an effective delivery of the message.

Dane County also has an email warning system is an Internet service that automatically converts National Weather Service "Watches" and "Warnings" to an email message. An email message is distributed to all subscribers on the list the instant the National Weather Service issues a severe weather "Watch" or "Warning". This service is available on your computer as well as through wireless devices such as your smart phone, pager, or Blackberry.

LOST & FOUND

The following pieces of property were found in the Village this summer 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. Please provide a complete description of the item you lost so a positive identification can be made.

On 8-29-18, a Mountain Bike was found abandoned at 301 Community Dr.

On 8-24-18, a key was found at W. Main St@ N. Klein Dr.

On 8-20-18, a key and fob were found on Arboretum Dr. @ Moravian Valley Rd



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.

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.