

Waunakee Police Department Newsletter

March 2020



New Police Chief Selected

On February 19th the Waunakee Police Commission met and selected the successor to Waunakee Police Chief Kevin Plendl who is retiring this spring after 33 years with the police department. Waunakee Police Lieutenant Adam Kreitzman was selected by the Police Commission as the next Chief. The Police Commission will meet again in the coming weeks to discuss the terms of employment.



2019 Waunakee Police Stolen Auto Reports



Stolen autos continue to be a problem around the Dane County area, Waunakee is not immune. In the vast majority of these cases the stolen auto could have been prevented by taking simple precautionary measures such as locking the vehicle, closing garage doors, locking doors to the home and by not leaving the keys in the vehicle (Or running unattended). Below is some basic information from the stolen autos reported to the Waunakee Police Department in 2019.

10- Stolen auto reports, 9 of the 10, keys were left inside vehicle or easily accessible

2 – The vehicle was left running and unoccupied

5- The key/fob was left in the vehicle parked in driveway or street

2- Vehicle left unlocked with garage opener/keys in garage in house

1-Unknown access, keys were inside purse in kitchen, overhead garage door found open, vehicle removed from inside garage



Tax Scams

It's that time of year when Tax Scams become more frequent. Protect yourself from becoming a victim by staying informed on what the IRS will and will not do.

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. 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>



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.



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.



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. Questions submitted may be featured in future newsletters. The person submitting the question will not be identified.