

# Waunakee Police Department

June 2020 Newsletter

## Police Chief Plendl Retires

After more than 3 decades in law enforcement



Chief Kevin Plendl started with the Waunakee Police Department on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1987. He was promoted to Patrol Sergeant in December 1995, Lieutenant in October of 1999; he became the acting Chief in January of 2000 and was officially sworn in as the Chief of the Waunakee Police Department on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2000. When Chief Plendl started, the Waunakee Police Department had 6 officers who served a population of fewer than 6,000 residents. As Chief Plendl retires, the police department's current roster is 21 sworn officers, 2 clerical staff and a police K9. The department currently serves more than 14,000 residents; officers respond to over 8,000 calls for service and have contact with over 20,000 individuals annually. Chief Plendl has been a great leader of this department and will be dearly missed. The Waunakee Police Department staff wishes him the best in his retirement.

Waunakee Police Lieutenant, Adam Kreitzman has been promoted to Chief of Police and assumed the role at the end of May 2020.

## Dane County Reopening – Phase 1

Public Health issues new order effective May 26<sup>th</sup>

Waunakee Police have received many questions in these uncertain times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Dane County Public Health has issued a memo which outlines the newest guidelines and the first phase of opening up our county.

### Phase 1 Includes:

- Reopening all businesses – such as restaurants, gyms, and retail establishments to 25% capacity with certain requirements and physical distancing
- Salons, tattoo parlors and spas can be open by appointment only
- Indoor gatherings at commercial facilities of 50 people or fewer are allowed, with physical distancing
- Indoor gatherings at a private residence of 10 people or fewer are allowed with physical distancing
- Outdoor gatherings of 50 people or fewer are allowed, with physical distancing
- Select businesses and activities with high risk for disease transmission are still closed
- Park courts and fields are open, individuals must maintain physical distancing

At this point Phase 1 will be a minimum of 14 days but will be assessed frequently and if certain criteria are met, Public Health will issue a Phase 2 order.

It's important to note that the dangers of the COVID-19 virus have not changed and individuals must continue to follow protective measures such as physical distancing and frequent handwashing.

## Open Burning Ordinances



It's that time of year where some get outside for a campfire or get their yard ready for summer! We want to remind everyone of our local ordinance in regards to open burning. Below is the abbreviated ordinance with the accepted practices and restrictions.

### **Sec. 30-2.**

*No person shall build or maintain any outdoor fire within the corporate limits of the village except as set forth in subsection (b) of this section. This prohibition on burning includes burning of construction waste and debris at construction sites.*

*Exceptions to the prohibition stated in subsection (a) of this section are as follows:*

- (1) Outdoor cooking over a fire contained in a device or structure designed for such use is permissible.*
- (2) Dry wood may be burned in an outdoor recreational fireplace that is certified by a nationally recognized listing agency and which is screened and which contains a lid or in a non-commercially constructed brick fireplace with a chimney that is approved by the building inspector according to applicable building codes. Open burning of material is not allowed within the village limits. This includes burning materials in the street or on sidewalks. The burning of grasses, leaves or vegetation require a permit or prior written approval from the Fire Chief.*

See the Open Burning Ordinance at:

[https://library.municode.com/wi/waunakee/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/wi/waunakee/codes/code_of_ordinances)

## Fireworks

*Know your fireworks laws*



Fireworks in Wisconsin are strictly regulated by state law WI Stat. 167.10

Very few fireworks are actually legal in Wisconsin, without having a permit.

Those "fireworks" are; sparklers, stationary cones and fountains, toy snakes, smoke bombs and caps, noisemakers and confetti poppers with less than ¼ of a grain of explosive mixture. These "fireworks" are the type usually found in convenience and grocery stores.

Possessing or using any other fireworks such as firecrackers, roman candles, bottle rockets and mortars, without a valid permit is illegal.

**A general rule of thumb is if the device leaves the ground or explodes it is illegal.**

Almost all fireworks permits held by users of the fireworks are not valid. Valid fireworks permits can only be issued by a mayor, village president, or a municipal employee they have designated. If a valid permit is issued it is only valid within the city, village or town where it was issued. Therefore, permits issued by fireworks vendors are not valid.

## WaunaFest 2020 Canceled

The dangers of the spread of COVID-19 are still real and precautions to slow the spread are essential. Due to these essential precautions many large crowd functions nation-wide are being canceled. In Response to these concerns the annual WaunaFest celebration has been canceled for 2020.

## Roundabouts and Safe Use



One thing is certain about roundabouts; they are here to stay and will only become more common.

Studies show, roundabouts:

- Are proven to reduce the number of severe injury crashes and deaths
- Provide a good economic value
- Reduce delay and improve traffic flow
- Are a greener alternative with less vehicle idling, lower fuel emissions and less wasted fuel

A common misconception about roundabouts is that they increase the risk of a crash. In reality a roundabout significantly reduces the risk of serious injury crashes and do make our roads safer. Crashes in roundabouts can be easily avoided if drivers take the time to learn the concept of their use and pay attention to the road signs leading up to them. The road signs will tell the driver what lane they should be in to travel in the desired direction, the recommended speed while navigating the roundabout and most importantly, the Yield sign.

The most common crash in a roundabout is simply that the driver entering the roundabout fails to yield to the vehicle navigating the roundabout to their left. The second most common crash relates to drivers not knowing the direction they can travel in the lane they occupy, for example they think they can turn left in a lane which can only go straight or turn right.



The sign above represents the lane sign leading up to the roundabout in Waunakee at W. Main Street and Century Avenue. The arrows show the legal use options for each lane.

**The arrow on the left** represents the inner most lane within this roundabout. The arrow formation means the driver in this lane may go straight through, may turn left or complete a U-turn (represented by the circle).

**The arrow on the right** represents the outer most lane within this roundabout. The arrow formation means the driver may go straight or turn right. At this roundabout **making a left turn from the outside lane is illegal** and is the cause of common crashes as the vehicle traveling on the inside lane may continue to go straight resulting in a collision. The driver in the outside lane would be at-fault for this collision.



The most common crash in a roundabout is simply the driver approaching the roundabout fails to yield to a vehicle to their left that is already in the roundabout. Remember, any vehicle to your left has the right of way.

For more information on roundabout use see the Wisconsin Department of Transportation website at:

<https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/safety/safety-eng/roundabouts/works.aspx>

The below graphic was obtained from the WI DOT website and explains the laws regarding large vehicles and roundabout use.

## Navigating with Large Vehicles at Roundabouts

### Along the 40-foot line

This graphic gives a rough idea of where larger vehicles fall along the 40-foot line, but keep in mind that not every vehicle is designed exactly the

same so sizes will vary. Use good judgement and always drive safely.

Passenger Car



Moving Van



Delivery Truck



Garbage/Recycling Truck



School Bus



Fire Truck



Coach Bus



Combination of Vehicles



Tractor trailer



### Roundabout Rule Basics

- All vehicles, large and small, must yield to traffic already in the roundabout.
- Be cautious, courteous and aware of other traffic.

#### Give space - It's the law!

When approaching a roundabout alongside or closely adjacent to a larger vehicle (such as a tractor-trailer, bus, fire truck or farm equipment), drivers of smaller vehicles (such as sedans, pickup trucks or motorcycles) must provide space by yielding or slowing down, allowing the larger vehicle first entrance and space through the roundabout. 2015 Wisconsin Act 139 defines "large vehicles" as those measuring at least 40 feet long (including combinations of vehicles) or 10 feet wide. It's important for drivers of all vehicles to remember that, even with the new law's additional right-of-way language, **every driver must yield** at a roundabout's entrance until it's adequately clear of traffic.

#### Large vehicle yielding

If two large vehicles approach a roundabout at the same time, the vehicle on the right must yield right-of-way to the vehicle on the left. Large vehicles also must yield to all traffic, no matter vehicle size, that's already in the roundabout.

#### Why this law?

The law was passed in the interest of safety, as commercial trucks can weigh up to 80,000 pounds, and most larger vehicles have an expanded turning radius.



## CURFEW for children under 16

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.



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.

Send questions 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.