

Waunakee Police Department

July 2020 Newsletter

New Police Chief Adam Kreitzman



The Waunakee Police Department is excited to announce our new Chief of Police, Adam Kreitzman!

Chief Kreitzman started with the Waunakee Police Department in 2005 as a Police Officer. A few years into his career Kreitzman started the departments K9 program and became the first K9 handler in the department's history. Kreitzman started the departments Citizen's Academy and is a state certified instructor in Emergency Vehicle Operations, Vehicle Contacts, Defense and Arrest Tactics and Taser. In 2012 Kreitzman was promoted to Sergeant and then Lieutenant in 2017. Kreitzman took over his new position as Chief in late May of 2020.

Promotions and New Hires

With former Chief Kevin Plendl, former Lieutenant Joe Peterson and former Sergeant Geoff Hutchinson all retiring within the last 6 months, there has been a lot of movement amongst the ranks of the Waunakee Police Department. We are excited to announce the following:

- Roger Bartels and Rob Beaudette have been promoted to Lieutenant. Both were formerly Sergeants with the Waunakee Police Department
- Corey Geldernick has been promoted to Sergeant. Sgt. Geldernick was formerly a Patrol Officer with the Waunakee Police Department
- Matt Plendl was hired to fill a Sergeant position. Sgt. Plendl was formerly a WI State Trooper for 13 years and is originally from Waunakee.
- Seth Wahl has been hired as a Police Officer. Officer Wahl was formerly a Police Officer with the Deforest Police Department and has 18 years' experience in law enforcement.
- Ben Gerber has been hired as a Police Officer. Officer Gerber is currently completing the 720hr Police Academy and will be starting the field training process with our department in early August.

Waunakee Police Say Goodbye to K9 Thoro

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Waunakee Police K-9 Thoro. K-9 Thoro had been extremely ill and as a result passed away Monday June 22nd.

K-9 Thoro joined Waunakee Police Department in early 2017. Although his time with our department was cut short, his impact while here was great.

As a member of the police department family and a member of the Houk family, K-9 Thoro will be greatly missed. We would like to thank all of the staff at Waunakee Veterinary Clinic and UW Veterinary Hospital for everything they have done for K-9 Thoro. Our thoughts are with the Houk Family.



® **849-2TIP**

“We want your information, not your name”

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 an arrest.

No Grass Clippings in the Street

Depositing grass clippings on public roadways is potentially hazardous to people's safety and the function of our sewer systems. Grass clippings in the roadway make the pavement slippery and could cause a car or motorcycle to not be able to brake as quickly as expected or safely maneuver around curves. Grass clippings can also clog up the sewer system which could lead to flooding. State law as well as Waunakee Village Ordinance prohibits depositing grass clippings in the roadways or gutters. You can be fined \$25 in the Village of Waunakee.

Sec. 58-8. - Raking leaves into streets.

In the interests of public safety, health and general welfare, community appearance and efficiency of operation, it shall be unlawful to rake or place fallen tree leaves or grass clippings onto the pavement or into the gutter of any public street. No person shall permit grass clippings from mower swaths to remain upon sidewalks or on abutting property owned or occupied by such person.



State law requires drivers to yield to pedestrians

1. Who have started crossing an intersection or crosswalk on a walk signal or on a green light if there's no walk signal. (Please note: drivers do not need to stop for pedestrians waiting on the side of the road/curb and are not in the act of crossing the road)
2. Who are crossing the road within a marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection where there are no traffic lights or control signals.
3. When a vehicle is crossing a sidewalk or entering an alley or driveway.
4. Pedestrians must give a driver enough space to safely yield to the pedestrian before leaving the curb or area of safety.

In the Village of Waunakee, citations range from **\$98.80 - \$250.00** (depending on the violation) and 3-4 demerit points. We have plans to perform pedestrian/crosswalk enforcement in the near future.

Wisconsin Car Seat Laws

Police officers are often asked about the laws regarding child car seats. While there are certain laws that dictate the height and weight requirements of the child and what seat they should be buckled into there are also recommendations that are considered the best safety practices. This is because kids grow and develop at slightly different rates so simply stating a child must be a certain height or weight does not consider all factors, all kids are slightly different regardless of their size.

The best rule of thumb is to keep the child in the most restrictive seat as long as possible based on the manufacturer's recommendations for height and weight.

The chart below gives the recommendations and laws that apply to child car seat laws.

Specific questions about child car seat and booster laws can be directed to:

Nick Maniaci

Wisconsin Child Passenger Safety Coordinator

Phone: 1-855-224-3692

Email: Carseatwi@chw.org

Website: www.safekidswi.org

Wisconsin Child Passenger Safety Law

	Under 1 yr	1-3 yrs	4-7 yrs	8-18 yrs
Less than 20 lbs	Rear-facing car seat			
21-40 lbs	Rear-facing car seat	Rear or Front-facing car seat		
41-80 lbs Under 4'9"	Front-facing car seat	Front-facing car seat or Booster seat + lap and shoulder belt	Booster seat + lap and shoulder belt or seat belt	
80+ lbs	Booster seat + lap and shoulder belt or seat belt			

For info: 866-511-9467 or www.wcpsa.com

Safest Practice

Birth - 12 months
Always ride in a rear-facing car seat, in the back seat.

***Age 1 - 3 years**
Rear-facing in back seat, as long as possible, within the height or weight limit allowed by car seat manufacturer. Then front-facing car seat in back seat.

Age 4 - 7 years
Front-facing car seat used within the height or weight limit allowed by the car seat manufacturer. Then a booster seat using lap and shoulder seat belt in the back seat.

Age 8 - 12 years
Booster seat until seat belt fits properly with lap belt snug across the upper thighs, not the stomach and shoulder belt snug across the chest, not across the neck/face. Keep children in the back seat until age 13.

*American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends a rear-facing car seat until 2 years of age or until they reach the highest height or weight allowed by the car seat manufacturer.



Funded by NHTSA
HS-830

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Forward Dane – Phase 2

According to Dane County health officials, we will remain in phase 2 of the Forward Dane plan for an indefinite amount of time due to a recent spike in COVID-19 cases in the county.

It's important to remember that the dangers of the COVID-19 pandemic are still real. Individuals and businesses must follow these plans and make wise personal choices to slow the spread of the disease and help our county and country get back to normal.

The entire Forward Dane Plan can be found here:

https://publichealthmdc.com/documents/Forward_Dane.pdf



Hosting graduation parties can cost you!

A warning to parents and other adults thinking of hosting a Graduation party that involves alcohol being served to those under 21...don't do it. The Waunakee Police Department often receives reports of underage drinking parties related to the Graduation season. According to the CDC more than 4,300 deaths to underage youth are attributed to alcohol, including but not limited to drinking and driving, accidental falls and fights. These deaths are preventable.

If WNPD officers contact a person under 21 whom has been drinking alcohol they will receive a citation. The citation will range from \$98.80 - \$439.00 depending on the age of the person and number of prior offenses.

If you are an adult who is hosting or procuring the alcohol **you can be fined for each violation**. Each violation is typically the number of underage individuals found to be drinking at the party or provided alcohol. The fines could reach thousands of dollars very quickly. The bottom line is: "the parents that host lose the most", don't be a party to underage drinking. Don't buy alcohol for parties when minors will be attending.

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.

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.

Journey Mental Health has 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/>

Crash Reports

Officers are often asked how a driver involved in a crash can obtain a copy of a crash report. The Waunakee Police Department has a link to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation page where the public can purchase a crash report. Go to the Waunakee Police Department website and enter the records section. This will lead you to the link to the WIDOT page:

<https://app.wi.gov/crashreports> Requests can also be processed at the Police Department.

Please be aware that the reports have to go through a review process and then be uploaded to the system. The reports will not be in the system for up to two weeks. You must have the date of the crash and a driver’s license number involved in the crash. The application is best used on a desktop or laptop computer. Mobile devices such as tablets and smart phones can be used but may not have the proper software or PDF viewers needed to view the crash reports. This application requires your device to be compatible with Adobe Reader/ PDF viewer. Online purchases will not result in the report being emailed, faxed, or postal mailed to you.



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