

# Waunakee Police Department

August 2020 Newsletter

## Officer Brehmer Retires

After more than 27 years



Officer Duane Brehmer started with the Waunakee Police Department in June of 1993 and has patrolled the streets of our community until July 28<sup>th</sup> 2020. Prior to working for the Waunakee Police Department Officer Brehmer served in the U.S. Air Force, meaning he has spent nearly his entire adult life in service to others. Officer Brehmer helped to develop the Field Training Program for new officers at the department in the mid-90's and has been a field training officer ever since. Nearly every officer currently employed by Waunakee PD had their first day on the job with Officer Brehmer and he's really set the tone for our department. Officer Brehmer also had been one of the organizers of the department's annual National Night Out community event since its inception. Up to his last day in uniform Officer Brehmer led by example, held a high energy for the job and exemplified professionalism. We're going to miss you, Duane! Enjoy a well-deserved retirement!



Auto thefts and burglaries have unfortunately been happening throughout Dane County and surrounding areas for the last few years. Recently this criminal activity has been increasing in the Waunakee area again so we'd like to remind our citizens of some simple things you can do to protect your property.

- -Always lock your car doors when you cannot monitor them
- -Never leave your car keys in the vehicle when you are not
- -Do not leave your car running unattended (Even to warm up or "run-in quick")
- -Do not leave valuables in your car – if you must, hide them so they are out of sight
- -Close your garage doors when you cannot monitor your garage –even during the day!
- -Keep doors to your home locked and double check before you go to bed
- -Talk with your kids about these tips so they follow the routine also

Nearly all recent auto thefts and burglaries were simply a target of opportunity for the criminal. Their tactics are typically driving around a neighborhood looking for open garage doors. Once an open garage door is located they will enter the garage to look for keys left in the vehicle, if none are found they may open the interior service door looking for the keys hanging there. If keys are there your vehicle could be gone in seconds.

Another tactic is to pull on car doors left parked outside. If the doors are unlocked they look for garage door openers and can then access your garage. They also may take the door opener and come back at a later time.

We hear citizens talk about “Break-ins” happening in Waunakee. The term “Break-in” implies force was used to make entry into vehicles or homes. While this is possible, the tactics used by these criminals are simply to look for open/unlocked doors and they typically do not use any force to make entry. The best way to keep your property safe is to LOCK IT UP!

If you see suspicious activity, call the Waunakee Police Department immediately at 849-4523 or call 911 if you actively see criminal activity happening. This will get officers in the area as fast as possible.



® 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.

\*\*It's important to note that **if there is an active situation call police immediately, not the tip line**. You may still remain anonymous but active situations require a faster police response.



## 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.



## How to Call Police

Occasionally we have citizens comment on not knowing if they should call 911 or a non-emergency number for police assistance. Here are some simple tips to help with this as well as the numbers to call.

- If there is an imminent threat to someone's safety, property, or an active crime in progress **Call 911**
- If you want to file a complaint or speak with an officer about something that isn't an imminent threat call **Non-Emergency 608-849-4523**

\*If you call Non-Emergency after normal business hours and there is no officer at the police department to answer the phone, stay on the line and you will be transferred to dispatch who can contact an officer for you.



*Healthy people. Healthy places.*

## 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](https://publichealthmdc.com/documents/Forward_Dane.pdf)

Complaints regarding the compliance with this public health order should be directed to Dane County Public Health as they are the authority on this issue. Complaints can be sent to the below email address:

[compliance@publichealthmdc.com](mailto:compliance@publichealthmdc.com)



## 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.

## Waunakee Emergency Services Citizens Academy

This year's citizen academy has been canceled due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. We hope to host this great program again in 2021. Keep an eye on this newsletter and our Facebook page for announcements of the 2021 class.



## Park Safety

This time of year we often receive traffic/vehicle related complaints in our larger parks (Ripp, Centennial and Village Parks). Please drive slowly and safely in the park and obey all traffic signs. The speed limit is 15 mph inside the parks. Please park in the designated parking areas and not on the grass. Park hours are from 5:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

## 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. 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.

## Bike Safety



There were 857 Bike Related Deaths in the US in 2018. Bike riding is a great way to get out and travers the Village! The Waunakee Police Department encourages the safe and responsible use of bicycles. Below are 10 tips for safe riding:

1. Wear a Helmet
2. Ride defensively and alert
3. Ride predictively – No swerving or abrupt stops or turns
4. Watch for pedestrians
5. Pass pedestrians safely – “Passing on your left” or ring a bell
6. Allow at least 3 feet when passing other bikes or pedestrians
7. Ride the same direction as traffic
8. Slow and look for traffic when crossing streets
9. Watch for cars backing out of driveways
10. Use of lights and reflectors at night

## Be Aware of Scams

Scams get more and more intricate every day. Always be mindful of potential scams and fraud and NEVER give our personal information without verifying who you are sending it to. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

For more information on how to identify and protect yourself from scams go to the below link:

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0060-10-things-you-can-do-avoid-fraud>

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