

Waunakee Police Department

September 2020 Newsletter

Welcome Officer Ben Gerber



Police Officer Ben Gerber is our newest member of the Waunakee Police Department. Officer Gerber started his law enforcement career with us in early August and will be going through the field training process during the next couple of months. If you see Ben around town feel free to say hello!

Back to School

There is no question that this year's start of school will be different than any other we have seen. A recently released mandate from Dane County Public Health now requires grades 3-12 to start the year with virtual instruction. Grades K-2 will have a modified half-day schedule which will also modify and add additional drop-off and pick-up times at our local elementary schools.

Morning instruction will be held from **7:40am-10:20am** and afternoon instruction will be from **12:00pm-2:40pm**. This means there will be drop-off and pick-up 4 times each school day.

The Waunakee Police Department will be conducting focused patrols around the schools during these times as we have in past school years. We would like to bring these additional times to your attention as well as remind you of traffic laws related to school zones (See page 2).

Waunakee Police Department to participate in 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' Campaign

The Waunakee Police Department is joining law enforcement agencies across Wisconsin during the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign from Friday, August 21 through Labor Day (September 7, 2020).

Last year in Wisconsin, there were 6,058 alcohol-related crashes that injured 2,918 people and resulted in 140 deaths (about one-quarter of all traffic fatalities). While alcohol-impaired drivers remain a concern, a growing problem involves drug-impaired drivers - people whose ability to safely operate a motor vehicle is compromised by legal or illegal drugs including prescription and over-the-counter medications. To help combat impaired driving, Wisconsin has:

- 5,223 police officers trained in Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) to help detect and remove impaired drivers from the roadways;
- 310 highly-trained Drug Recognition Experts - among the most in the nation;
- 23 multi-jurisdictional high-visibility enforcement task forces operating throughout the year, across the state.

Citizens can help in several ways:

If you plan to celebrate, identify a sober designated driver or find a safe alternative way home. Never allow someone to get behind the wheel impaired.

Protect yourself and your passengers every time you travel. Ensure everyone is buckled up. Watch your speed and eliminate distractions.

If you suspect a driver is impaired, call 911. Provide as much detail as possible on the driver, vehicle and location.

Download the free "Drive Sober" mobile app from the WisDOT website. The app includes a "find a ride" feature to help locate mass transit and taxi services;

Some taverns and restaurants have programs to provide patrons a safe ride home.

School Starts September 8th

Drivers must be extra cautious when school starts. It is that time of year. Kids will be heading back to school. Please pay attention to pedestrians and watch your speed in and around schools zones.



Vehicles must stop for 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 3 demerit points.**



Passing a school bus

"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.**

Search Warrant Leads to Drug Arrest

On Monday August 3rd, Waunakee Police Department served a drug search warrant on Woodland Drive in the Village of Waunakee. During the course of the search warrant, police located 57 grams of crack cocaine, drug paraphernalia and cash.

43 year old Deandre Bishop of Waunakee was booked into the Dane County Jail on charges of possession with intent to deliver cocaine/crack cocaine and maintaining a drug dwelling. Both charges carry an enhancer for being within 1000 feet of a school. Waunakee Police Department was assisted by the Dane County Sheriff's Office.



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.

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/ForwardDane.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

If We Can't Find You We Can't Help You!

It is a terrible feeling for a police officer, or any first responder when they are called to someone in dire need of help but we cannot figure out where they are on arrival in the area. One big way you can help first responders find you is to make sure your address is visible on the front of your residence. Some residences within the village are confusing to responders and we lose valuable seconds or minutes trying to figure out where your address is. You never know when you may need help quickly. Making sure your address is highly visible now could ensure your safety later. Having your address properly labeled is actually a village ordinance. See Waunakee ordinance 58-9 for more information.

Trouble at a railroad crossing, here's what you do...



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.

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 other emergency situations.
- 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 or an outbreak of infectious disease.

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.

TURN YOUR LIGHTS ON FOR SAFETY!

Dense fog, snow, rain or other environmental factors can significantly reduce visibility. You may be able see where you are going but other vehicles may not be able to see you! The headlight visibility law (effective 2/16) requires drivers to turn on their headlights when weather conditions "limit visibility."

Limited visibility is defined as "objects that are not clearly visible 500 feet from the vehicle." In other words, turn your lights on in heavy rain, snow and fog.

Governor Scott Walker signed into law a bill that requires drivers to turn on headlights when weather conditions limit visibility. Under the previous law, if it was dark outside, drivers were required to activate their headlights. Now if it's raining, snowing, foggy or if there's any condition that limits visibility and prevents you from seeing 500 feet in front of your vehicle, drivers must turn on their headlights. This law can be found in Wisconsin State Statute 347.06(1).



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.