

Waunakee Police Department

October 2020 Newsletter

K9 Thoro Remembered



It has been a few months now since the unexpected passing of Waunakee Police K9 Thoro. Waunakee Police Officers and staff joined together to present Thoro's handler, Officer Mitch Houk with a gift to commemorate their service. Above is a photo of Officer Houk and the gift.



A group of Dane County Police K9 handlers, all who trained with Officer Houk and K9 Thoro along with Memorial Pet Services also presented Officer Houk with a few gifts to remember and honor K9 Thoro.

Big Rig Gig 2020



Officer Jacob participated in the annual Big Rig Gig event held at Ripp Park on Sunday 9/27. The event was a little different this year because of COVID-19 but they made to most of it! Attendees were able to drive past the many specialized Big Rigs for an up close look!

Back to School

Reminder that school is back in session!

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 and remind you of traffic laws related to school zones (See page 2).



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.**



State law requires drivers to yield to pedestrians

The Waunakee Police Department frequently receives complaints about crosswalks throughout the village with drivers not obeying the law to yield right-of-way to pedestrians. Officers pay close attention to this on patrol and also conduct crosswalk operations with a plain clothed officer using the crosswalk with additional officers waiting to stop violators. Not yielding to pedestrians is very dangerous especially with youth pedestrians. Please read and understand the crosswalk laws below:

State law mandates that drivers must yield right-of-way 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/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



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.



October is Fire Prevention Month

Here are 10 simple tips to help you avoid fires and reduce the risk of injury should one occur:

- 1) **Smoke Alarms** – Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home and test it monthly.
- 2) **Prevent Electrical Fires** – Don't overload circuits or extension cords. Cords and wires should never be placed under rugs or in high traffic areas. Avoid loose electrical connections by checking the fit of the plug in the wall outlet. If the plug loosely fits, inspect the outlet right away. A poor connection between the plug and the outlet can cause overheating and can start a fire in minutes.
- 3) **Keep Plugs Safe** – Unplug all appliances when not in use. Follow the manufacturer's safety precautions and use your senses to spot any potential disasters. If a plug is overheating, smells strange, shorts out or sparks – the appliance should be shut off immediately, then replaced or repaired.
- 4) **Alternate Heaters** – Make sure there is ample space around any portable heating unit. Anything that could catch fire should be at least three feet away. Inspect your chimney annually and use fire screens to help keep any fires in the fireplace.
- 5) **Fire Safety Sprinklers** – When combined with working smoke alarms, home fire sprinklers greatly increase your chance of surviving a fire. Sprinklers are affordable and they can increase property value and lower insurance rates.
- 6) **Create An Escape Route** – Create and practice your escape plan with your family from every room in the house. Practice staying low to the floor and checking for hot doors using the back of your hand. It's just like a routine school fire drill – but in your home.

7) **Position Appliances Carefully** – Try to keep TV sets, kitchen and other appliances away from windows with curtains. If there is a wiring problem, curtains can spread a fire quickly. Additionally, keeping your appliances away from water sources can help prevent wiring damage which can lead to a fire.

8) **Clean Dryer Vents** – Clothes dryers often start fires in residential areas. Clean the lint filter every time you start a load of clothes to dry or after the drying cycle is complete. Clean the exhaust duct with a good quality dryer vent brush to prevent blockage & check for lint build up behind the dryer at least twice a year.

9) **Be Careful Around the Holidays** – If you fill your home with lights during the holiday season, keep them away from anything that can easily catch fire. Check all of your lights prior to stringing them up and dispose of anything with frayed or exposed wires.

10) **Conduct Regular Inspections** – Check all of your electronic equipment and wiring at least once a month.

Taking a little time to do this each month and following these simple tips could potentially save your life or the life of a loved one. Pass this list on to your friends and family and make this fire prevention month count!

For more information go to:
<http://www.nfpa.org/public-educationh>

Be Aware of Scams!

Scams are an ever present danger to your financial wellbeing. Scams become more complex and unique every day. A common tactic of these criminals is to call and threaten that you must pay them money or face legal consequences with law enforcement. A police agency would never call you and make such a threat or demand money (Or gift/ iTunes cards etc.). If something seems off by the call it probably is. Ask another person if you're not sure or call your local police department.



Watch out for Deer

The end of September kicks off a flurry of deer activity. Please make sure you watch for deer when driving especially during the early morning and late evening. Hwy 113, Woodland Dr. and Arboretum Dr. are roads where deer are commonly seen crossing the roads in Waunakee.

Wis. Statute 29.349 now allows for the possession and removal of a deer carcass from the scene of an accident once the individual notifies the DNR by calling 608-267-7691 and provides their name and address and carcass location. Tagging vehicle killed deer by law enforcement has been discontinued.



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.