

Waunakee Police Department

January 2021 Newsletter



The New Year is finally here! 2020 has certainly been challenging in many ways for everyone and probably different from how anyone imagined it would be this time last year! The Waunakee Police Department would like to wish you and your family a happy, safe and wonderful 2021! Happy New Year!

New Police K-9 Joins Waunakee PD



We would like to welcome K-9 Izzy as the newest member of the Waunakee Police Department. K-9 Izzy is a 2 year old black Lab trained in narcotics detection, tracking and article searches. Officer Brent Schmidt recently returned from Michigan where he spent 4 weeks training with K-9 Izzy. Officer Schmidt and K-9 Izzy worked their first shift together on November 18th.

Clear your Windows before you drive!



Its winter in Wisconsin and many times that means spending a little more time making sure your vehicle is safe to drive. Every year officers respond to crashes where a driver's view was obstructed by frost or snow on their windows causing them to crash. This is VERY dangerous and also illegal. According to WI statute 346.88(4) the windshield, side wings and side and rear windows of a motor vehicle must be kept reasonably clean at all times. This includes frost and snow. It is not legal to only clear a small gap in the windshield so you can see and drive forward while hoping your defroster will clear the rest of your windows as you drive! This is dangerous! Please plan a few extra minutes before you travel to clear snow and ice for the safety of you and others.

Stay Back from Plows

Another common driving concern in wintertime is driving too close to snow plows. According to WI statute 946.915(2) if a plow is actively engaged in winter highway maintenance you must stay back 200 feet if the speed limit is 35mph or greater and at least 75 feet if the speed limit is less than 35mph. Plows may need to make quick stops or maneuver in ways that can be unpredictable. They also may be throwing snow making visibility hazardous when too close. For your safety – Stay Back!



Shop with a Cop 2020!

In a year full of cancelled events and programs we wanted to make sure we found a way to continue Shop with a Cop. Although the process was changed from years past, we enjoyed taking part in this program. This year Waunakee Police Department picked 4 families to participate. We collected lists and shopped for each family. Each patrol shift selected one of the families, wrapped, and delivered their gifts. Thank you to everyone that helped make this program possible.



Record the Serial Number

As a tip for the holiday season – remember to record the serial number on new electronics or any other serialized items/gifts. If an item goes missing or is stolen the serial number can be very helpful to police when trying to get the item back. Having this number recorded somewhere could solve your case!

Question from a Reader

A reader recently asked about ordinances regarding storing discarded items (“Junk”) on private property and parking/storing large and/or recreational vehicles on private property. Below are the ordinances that address these issues. Each situation is assessed on a case by case basis after receiving a complaint. The person/s found in violation are educated on the requirements within the village and given some time to clean up or correct the violation.

Sec. 26-4. - Storage of junk.

No person shall store junked or discarded property, including automobiles, automobile parts, trucks, tractors, refrigerators, furnaces, washing machines, stoves, machinery or machinery parts, wood, bricks, cement blocks or other unsightly debris without a permit issued by the village board. The provisions of Wis. Stats. § 175.25 shall apply to permits required by this section. The police chief or building inspector may require by written order any premises violating this section to be put in compliance within the time specified in such order and, if the order is not complied with, may have the premises put in compliance and the cost thereof assessed as a special tax against the property.

Sec. 70-123 Large Vehicle Parking (Summarized for Private Property)

A large vehicle may be parked on private property for storage if it meets these criteria:

- is on a driveway,
- is 25 feet or less in length,
- no part extends over a public sidewalk or right-of-way,
- there is not more than 1 on the property,
- it is not used as a dwelling,
- it is not permanently hooked up to water/power (may temporarily be hooked up to charge batteries),
- Shall be owned by the property owner

****To view the entire Large Vehicle Parking ordinance go to:**

https://library.municode.com/wi/waunakee/codes/code_of_ordinances and look up the above ordinance number, or any other village ordinance.

Alternate-Side Parking November 1st – April 1st



Odd-Even side parking in Waunakee runs from November 1st 2020 to April 1st 2021. Alternate-side parking is regulated between 2:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m. on Waunakee Streets. Park your vehicles so it will be on the even numbered side of the street on even numbered mornings and on the odd side of the street on odd numbered mornings unless posted otherwise. The Waunakee Public Works Department works very hard every winter to keep our streets clear of snow and safe for driving. This can be challenging if vehicles do not follow the alternate-side parking ordinance. If your vehicle is found in violation you will receive a \$15 citation and may be towed at the vehicle owner’s expense. If you have questions about alternate-side parking in your area feel free to contact the police department and ask an officer.

Do Not Park over Sidewalks



Sidewalks are for pedestrians to walk on, not for vehicle parking. Even though the sidewalk may pass through a driveway a vehicle may not park over the sidewalk obstructing pedestrian travel. Village of Waunakee ordinance 70-188(a)(2) and WI statute 346.52(1)(d) prohibit this. In Waunakee a vehicle found in violation of this ordinance may receive a \$25 citation.



Winter Driving Supplies

The odds of having a driving emergency are much greater in winter than the other three seasons. The following are some items you may want to consider keeping in your vehicle:

Blanket: If you are stuck with a car that won't start, or has become disabled, and have to wait in cold weather for help, you will want a warm blanket as an extra layer. Pack an extra pair of winter gloves and socks. Be careful not to idle your vehicle too long without proper ventilation as you may subject yourself to harmful levels of carbon monoxide.

Snow shovel: Get a short-handled shovel, to stow in the trunk in case you need to remove snow from around the wheels of your vehicle.

Flashlight: Keep a good-sized, water-proof flashlight with fresh batteries in case your breakdown is at night. Pack emergency candles too, as a back-up.

Whistle: It can be used to either signal for help to someone who can't hear you yell, or to scare someone who may be trying to take advantage of your distress.

Other Items to consider: Bottle of water and a few protein, snack bars, jumper cables/battery jump pack, syphon, tow Strap, small can of kitty litter or sand, basic tools, pen knife, large plastic garbage bag, hand warmers, matches or lighter: You never know when you will have to manufacture heat.

Holiday (Christmas) Tree Pickup

When discarding your tree, place it at the curbside or in the alley trunk side to the street. Please remove all ornaments, lights, and tree stands. Trees in tree bags will not be collected.

Trees will be picked-up the week of and 2 weeks after Christmas. Trees still on curbside will be picked up on regular brush pickup days, which occur every other week.



Animal Licensing

Licensing your animals is easy and can be completed from the comforts of your own home! Licenses are issued on a calendar year basis. A license is required for all dogs and cats over 5 months of age in the Village of Waunakee. For more information, view Wisconsin statutes 174.05 and 174.42 and the Village Code of Ordinances Chapter 14.

All licenses issued after March 31 will be assessed a \$5 per license late fee so don't wait!

To register your pets online go <http://www.petdata.com/> (Right click –open hyperlink) or call toll free 1-855-312-9070. License(s) will be mailed within 10 business days of PetData's receipt of payment and documentation.



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.