

Waunakee Police Department

March 2021 Newsletter

Dane County Emergency Order 14

Dane County's new public health order will go into effect on March 10th, 2021 and includes the following requirements:

Indoor gatherings

- A gathering inside where food or drink is offered or provided is limited to one hundred fifty (150) individuals or less, not including employees. Numbers must be limited to ensure individuals maintain six (6) feet physical distancing at all times.
- A gathering inside where food or drink is not offered or provided is limited to three hundred fifty (350) individuals or less, not including employees. Numbers must be limited to ensure individuals maintain six (6) feet physical distancing at all times.

Outdoor gatherings

- A gathering outside is limited to five hundred (500) individuals or less, not including employees. Numbers must be limited to ensure individuals maintain six (6) feet physical distancing at all times.

Face Coverings

- Face coverings are required for most people 5 years of age and older when in an enclosed space with people you don't live with. This includes inside buildings and vehicles where people you don't live with are present. It also includes when standing in a line, when waiting for food and drink outside at a restaurant, and in a park structure (e.g., pavilion).

****In effect as of 12:01am on March 10 and expires on April 7 at 12:01am***

Face coverings continued:

Outdoors while actively participating in sports, where 6 feet physical distancing cannot be maintained at all times, including drills, practices, scrimmages, games, and competitions.

Outdoors while attending a Gathering of more than 50 individuals.

- To receive a complete list of the new changes related to the public health order please visit Public Health of Madison and Dane County's website at <https://www.publichealthmdc.com/blog/whats-allowed-in-emergency-order-14>

If you have any questions regarding the new health order please call Public Health of Dane County at **(608)266-4821**.

Be Careful What You Post!

The COVID-19 vaccine being distributed is cause for celebration for many people and for good reason! With that it has become somewhat of a trend to post a photo of the vaccination record card to social media. While it is great to celebrate this moment please remember that social media is never completely private and the vaccination record card has your vital personal information that can be used by criminals to defraud you. If you feel the need to post the photo to celebrate you should cover your identifying information either by editing the photo (example below) or simply cover it with something. Always remember that no matter how tight you keep your privacy settings on social media what you post is never truly private.



Tax Scams

It's that time of year when Tax Scams become more frequent. Protect yourself from becoming a victim by staying informed on what the IRS will and will not do.

- Aggressive and threatening phone calls by criminals impersonating IRS agents remain a major threat to taxpayers, but now the IRS is receiving new reports of scammers calling under the guise of verifying tax return information over the phone.
- The latest variation being seen in the last few weeks tries to play off the current tax season. Scam artists call saying they have your tax return, and they just need to verify a few details to process your return. The scam tries to get you to give up personal information such as a Social Security number or personal financial information, such as bank numbers or credit cards.
- "These schemes continue to adapt and evolve in an attempt to catch people off guard just as they are preparing their tax returns," said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen. "Don't be fooled. The IRS won't be calling you out of the blue asking you to verify your personal tax information or aggressively threatening you to make an immediate payment."

The IRS will never:

- Call to demand immediate payment over the phone, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you several bills.
- Call or email you to verify your identity by asking for personal and financial information.
- Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone or e-mail.
- Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

If you don't owe taxes, or have no reason to think that you do:

- Do not give out any information. Hang up immediately.
- Contact TIGTA to report the call. Use their "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting" web page. You can also call 800-366-4484.
- Report it to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the "FTC Complaint Assistant" on FTC.gov. Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.

For more information on the various tax scams visit the IRS, Consumer Alert webpage at: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-scams-consumer-alerts>



Unemployment Scams

The Waunakee Police Department has received several complaints over the last month from citizens within the Village reporting their name and social security information being used without their permission to file a claim with the WI Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to collect unemployment benefits.

If this happened to you or someone you know please contact the Waunakee Police Department **(608)849-4523** or visit the WI Department of Workforce Development's website to report the incident.

- <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/ui/fraud/report.thm>

The DWD also recommends the following steps being taken if you are a victim of identity theft:

- File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) online at www.identitytheft.gov or call 877-ID-THEFT.

Scams Continued:

- See the [UI Fraud Consumer Protection Guide](#) from the U.S. Department of Justice. This guide is a resource for Wisconsin residents reporting false UI claims filed on your behalf in other states.

In addition, the FTC recommends that you:

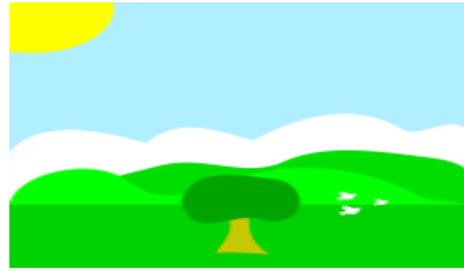
- File a police report. Get a copy of the report to submit to your creditors and others that may require proof of the crime.
- Place a fraud alert on your credit reports and review your credit reports periodically to ensure no new fraudulent activity has occurred.
- Close the accounts that you know or believe have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.
- Request your free credit reports via [annualcreditreport.com](#) and review them for other fraudulent activities



Dangerous Ice Conditions

The Village of Waunakee has several small bodies of water located in neighborhoods, parks and industrial areas throughout the Village. These bodies of water are mostly used as retention ponds to manage storm water run-off. It is not uncommon to see adults and children walking out on the ice during the winter season. Caution, this time of year is a dangerous time for ice travel due to the warming temperatures and the amount of melt water these ponds receive. Parents please have a conversation with your children about the dangers of ice travel and keep them off the ice this time of year.

Spring Ordinance Reminders



Park hours: Except for authorized events and subject to certain exceptions listed in this section, all village parks shall be closed from 10:30 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. the following day, and it shall be unlawful to enter in or be upon any park, playground, or swimming pool after the hour designated.

Littering: No person shall throw any glass, refuse or waste, filth or other litter upon the streets, alleys, highways, public parks or other property of the village or upon property within the village owned by the Waunakee School District or any private person or upon the surface of any body of water within the village.

Curfew: 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 or unless there exists a reasonable necessity therefor. The fact that the juvenile, unaccompanied by parent, guardian or other person having legal custody, is found upon any such public place during the hours mentioned in this section shall be prima facie evidence that the juvenile is there unlawfully and that no reasonable excuse exists therefor.

Exceptions: This division shall not apply to a juvenile: Who is performing an errand as directed by such juvenile's parent, guardian or person having lawful custody. Who is on such juvenile's own premises or in the areas immediately adjacent thereto. Whose employment makes it necessary to be upon the streets, alleys or public places or in any motor vehicle during such hours. Who is returning home from a supervised school, church or civic function.

Animal Running at Large: No person having the possession or ownership of an animal shall, allow the animal to run at large within the village, including village parks. The owner of any animal shall keep the animal on a leash, tied, or enclosed in a proper enclosure so as not to allow the animal to interfere with the public or neighbors. Any animal running at large unlicensed and required by state law or this chapter to be licensed may be seized and impounded by a humane officer or law enforcement officer. An animal shall not be considered to be running at large if it is on a leash and under control of a person physically able to control it, or, in the case of dogs, if the dog is at the Waunakee Dog Park.



Parking Reminders

Our public works department has been working tirelessly to keep the streets of Waunakee clear of snow and safe for driving. You can play a big role in helping their efforts by following our local parking ordinances related to snow removal. Along with our alternate side parking ordinance we also have an ordinance prohibiting parking a vehicle or trailer on any public street for more than 48hrs *Even in areas where alternate side parking is not enforced. 48hrs after a snowfall police officers begin enforcing this ordinance so public works can clear all roads and cul-de-sacs in the Village. Please remember to move your vehicle on any public street or you may be ticketed or towed at your expense.

**Also do not park over sidewalks! This is a \$25 fine.

Alternate Side Parking is enforced Nov. 1-April 1
Ord. 70-122(3)

Unattended more than 48hrs 70-148(b)(1)&(2)
Parking over sidewalk 70-118(a)(2)

Safety Tips

Here in Waunakee as well as the rest of the County, Law Enforcement has continued to see an uptick in theft from autos along with vehicles being stolen. The Waunakee Police Department has taken a proactive approach to combat these crimes by conducting extra patrols and, when time permits, contacting residents within the Village whose garage doors were found open overnight. Here are some things residents can do to also help prevent these types of crimes:

- Ensure your car doors and all doors to your residence are kept locked.
- Leave exterior residence lights on at night or utilize motion detecting lights
- Keep valuables in your garage and home out of sight.
- Remove valuables from your vehicles including garage openers and spare keys if your vehicle is being left outside.
- Keep your garage door closed and double check it is closed at night.
- Report all suspicious activity to the Waunakee Police Department.



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.