

Waunakee Police Department

June 2021 Newsletter

New Waunakee Police Officer



We welcome Police Officer Claire LaBahn as our newest member of the Waunakee Police Department. Officer LaBahn comes to Waunakee with over 4 years of experience in law enforcement. She will be going through the field training process during the next couple of months. If you see Claire around town, feel free to say Hello!

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.

National Drug Take Back Day

During the spring 2021 National Drug Take Back Day 249.5 lbs. of unwanted prescription drugs were collected. We would like to thank the Waunakee Cares Coalition for helping with the event on Saturday.

Since October 2020 we have collected a total of 568 lbs. of unwanted prescription drugs at Waunakee PD. As a reminder a Drug Drop Box is always available in the lobby of the Waunakee Police Department.





2021 *Click It or Ticket*

Waukegan Police Department will join thousands of law enforcement agencies for this year's Click It or Ticket seat belt campaign, one of the nation's most important highway safety efforts. From May 24, 2021 through June 6, 2021.

Currently, 89% of Wisconsin motorists wear safety belts. The 11 percent who fail to buckle up accounted for 43% of all the drivers and passengers killed in Wisconsin traffic crashes in 2020.

Wisconsin's primary seat belt law, in place since 2009, allows law enforcement to stop and cite motorists for failing to wear a seat belt. Drivers can also be cited for every unbuckled passenger in their vehicle. Penalties are higher for transporting unrestrained children. Failure to fasten a seat belt is among the most common traffic violations in Wisconsin, resulting in more than 27,000 traffic convictions last year.

Face the Facts

- The national seat belt use rate in 2019 was 90.7%. Wisconsin's 2020 safety belt usage rate is 89%, down from 90% in 2019. Of all the car and light truck occupants killed in Wisconsin traffic crashes last year, 43% were not wearing a seat belt.

Learn more about the *Click It or Ticket* mobilization at www.nhtsa.gov/ciot.

- On Wisconsin roads over the last five years, the highest number of deaths occurred in two age groups:
 - 20 to 24-year-olds – of which 42% were unbelted
 - 25 to 29-year-olds – of which 35% were unbelted
- Nationally, men make up the majority of those killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes. In 2019, 65% of the 22,215 passenger vehicle occupants who were killed were men. Men also wear their seat belts at a lower rate than women do — 51% of men killed in crashes were unrestrained, compared to 40% of women killed in crashes.
- According to the 2020 Wisconsin Seat Belt Survey, those in the state least likely to buckle up are:
 - Drivers and passengers in southeast Wisconsin (Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington and Waukesha counties) (14%)
 - Young drivers and passengers (16 -24) in southeast Wisconsin (22%)
 - Males across the state (13%)
 - Non-white drivers and passengers in southeast Wisconsin (26%)
 - Drivers and passengers in pickup trucks across the state (17%)



Bust the Myths

- Vehicle type: There seems to be a misconception among those who drive and ride in pickup trucks that their larger vehicles will protect them better than other vehicle types would in a crash. The numbers say otherwise: nationally, 58% of pickup truck occupants who were killed in 2019 were not buckled. That's compared to 43% of passenger car occupants who were not wearing seat belts when they were killed. **Regardless of vehicle type, seat belt use is the single most effective way to stay alive in a crash.**
- Seating position: Too many people wrongly believe they are safe in the back seat unrestrained. Forty-five percent of all front-seat passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in 2019 were unrestrained, but 58% of those killed in back seats were unrestrained.
- Rural versus urban locations: People who live in rural areas might believe their crash exposure is lower, but in 2019, there were 11,971 passenger vehicle fatalities in rural locations, compared to 10,187 fatalities in urban locations. Out of those fatalities, 48% of those killed in the rural locations were not wearing their seat belts, compared to 45% in urban locations.

Click It or Ticket — Day and Night

- High-visibility seat belt enforcement is important 24 hours a day, but nighttime is especially deadly for unbuckled occupants. In 2019, 55% of passenger vehicle occupants killed at night (6 p.m.–5:59 a.m.) were not wearing their seat belts.
- *Click It or Ticket* isn't about citations; it's about saving lives. In 2019, there were 9,466 unbuckled passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in the United States. To help prevent crash fatalities, we need to step up seat belt enforcement, day and night.

Open Burning Ordinances



It's that time of year where some get outside for a campfire or get their yard ready for summer! We want to remind everyone of our local ordinance in regards to open burning. Below is the abbreviated ordinance with the accepted practices and restrictions.

Sec. 30-2.

No person shall build or maintain any outdoor fire within the corporate limits of the village except as set forth in subsection (b) of this section. This prohibition on burning includes burning of construction waste and debris at construction sites.

Exceptions to the prohibition stated in subsection (a) of this section are as follows:

(1) Outdoor cooking over a fire contained in a device or structure designed for such use is permissible.

(2) Dry wood may be burned in an outdoor recreational fireplace that is certified by a nationally recognized listing agency and which is screened and which contains a lid or in a non-commercially constructed brick fireplace with a chimney that is approved by the building inspector according to applicable building codes. Open burning of material is not allowed within the village limits. This includes burning materials in the street or on sidewalks. The burning of grasses, leaves, or vegetation requires a permit or prior written approval from the Fire Chief.

See the Open Burning Ordinance at:

https://library.municode.com/wi/waunakee/codes/code_of_ordinances

Wisconsin Car Seat Laws

Police officers are often asked about the laws regarding child car seats. While there are certain laws that dictate the height and weight requirements of the child and what seat they should be buckled into there are also recommendations that are considered the best safety practices. This is because kids grow and develop at slightly different rates so simply stating a child must be a certain height or weight does not consider all factors, all kids are slightly different regardless of their size.

The best rule of thumb is to keep the child in the most restrictive seat as long as possible based on the manufacturer's recommendations for height and weight.

The chart below gives the recommendations and laws that apply to child car seat laws.

Specific questions about child car seat and booster laws can be directed to:

Nick Maniaci

Wisconsin Child Passenger Safety Coordinator

Phone: 1-855-224-3692

Email: Carseatwi@chw.org

Website: www.safekidswi.org

Wisconsin Child Passenger Safety Law

	Under 1 yr	1-3 yrs	4-7 yrs	8-18 yrs
Less than 20 lbs	Rear-facing car seat			
21-40 lbs	Rear-facing car seat	Rear or Front-facing car seat		
41-80 lbs Under 4' 9"		Front-facing car seat	Front-facing car seat or Booster seat + lap and shoulder belt	Booster seat + lap and shoulder belt or seat belt
80+ lbs	Booster seat + lap and shoulder belt or seat belt			

For info: 866-511-9467 or www.wcpsa.com

Safest Practice



Birth - 12 months

Always ride in a rear-facing car seat, in the back seat.

*American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends a rear-facing car seat until 2 years of age or until they reach the highest height or weight allowed by the car seat manufacturer.

*Age 1 - 3 years

Rear-facing in back seat, as long as possible, within the height or weight limit allowed by car seat manufacturer. Then front-facing car seat in back seat.

Age 4 - 7 years

Front-facing car seat used within the height or weight limit allowed by the car seat manufacturer. Then a booster seat using lap and shoulder seat belt in the back seat.

Age 8 - 12 years

Booster seat until seat belt fits properly with lap belt snug across the upper thighs, not the stomach and shoulder belt snug across the chest, not across the neck/face. Keep children in the back seat until age 13.



Funded by NHTSA
HS-830

Originally developed by GA Dept. of Public Health



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.



Find us on
Facebook

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.