

Waunakee Police Department Newsletter

April 2013



Bike Rodeo

On Monday, May 6, 2013 from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. the Waunakee Police Department will be hosting our annual bike rodeo. It will be held in the Heritage Elementary School parking lot, 501 South Street in Waunakee.

A bicycle safety check will be performed by Budget Bicycle Center. A member from Dean Care Health will be completing helmet checks. There will be a skills course, bicycle safety information, and free bicycle registration. Kids will also be able to sign up for fantastic giveaways. A parent or adult should accompany children attending the event.

If you have any questions please contact Police School Liaison Officer Dustin Lybeck at (608) 849-2109.

Bike Safety Tips & Facts

Young children are especially at risk when riding during high traffic periods. In Waunakee this is often before and after school. Children are at risk because:

1. They expect others to look out for them
2. They have difficulty comprehending complicated traffic situations
3. They overestimate their knowledge and physical strength
4. They often get tunnel vision
5. They assume if they can see a car the driver can see them
6. They think cars, trucks and buses can stop instantly
7. They are not adept at estimating speed of vehicles
8. They have a field of vision 1/3 narrower than adults
9. They have difficulty determining the direction of sounds

Teach your children to ride defensively, wear a helmet and to follow the rules of the road.

1. 85% of all head or brain injuries could be avoided if cyclists wore bicycle helmets.
2. 85% of all bicycle accidents occur within five blocks of home
3. 47% of all bicycle accidents occur off the roadway (on sidewalks or driveways ect)
4. **90% of all traffic accidental deaths to children on bicycles occur when they dart into traffic from a driveway or when they do not stop for a stop sign.**

(Source: WI DOT Office of Transportation Safety)

The National Click it or Ticket Campaign is May 20 to June 2

The Waunakee Police Department is once again participating in the National Click it or Ticket campaign. Below are some National statistics which reveal the importance of traffic safety/ seat belt use. Data Source: Crime FBI 2011, Crash NHTSA 2011

Crime/Crash

2011

Crime	Crash
1 Murder every 36 Minutes	1 Fatality every 16 minutes
1 Violent Crime every 26.2 seconds	1 person injured every 14 seconds
1 Property Crime every 3.5 seconds	1 Property Damage Crash every 8 seconds
1 Burglary Every 14.4 Seconds	1 Law Enforcement-reported crash every 6 seconds

Wisconsin's seatbelt usage is at 80%. This is an all-time high; however we are still under the National average of 86% and have some work to do. The goal of Click it or Ticket is to increase seatbelt usage. An increase in seatbelt usage can reduce in the number of vehicle related fatalities and injuries.

Protect Your Valuables and Help Recover Stolen Property

The Waunakee Police Department receives reports of stolen property on a regular basis. Quite often the stolen property is taken from vehicles. In order to combat this crime, it is recommended to always lock vehicle doors even if the vehicle is parked inside a garage. It's also strongly urged that valuable items are removed from the vehicle or kept out of plain view. Many thieves are opportunists and if a valuable item is not seen or effort needs to be used to get into a vehicle; thieves will move on to an easier, more promising target.

In many cases of stolen property reported to the Waunakee Police Department; the victims are unable to provide officers with detailed descriptions of the item/s that have been stolen. Here are a few tips which will aid officers in recovering lost or stolen property:

- Take a picture of your valuable item.
- Engrave your name or initials on it.
- Write down the serial number and keep it in a safe place.

The serial numbers and model numbers are very important. If an officer is provided with a serial number of the stolen property, the serial number is entered into a nationwide law enforcement database (NCIC). This database is used to assist officers from other jurisdictions in identifying stolen property they come into contact with during their course of work. The more detail we get the better the odds we will be able to return the property or identify suspects.

Teen Driving Deaths Increased in 2012

Teens are involved in three times the amount of fatal vehicle accidents as all other drivers. In the United States the leading killer of 15-20 year olds is traffic crashes. Fatalities involving teen drivers have declined over the past decade from 8,224 in 2000 to 5,021 in 2010 (NHTSA) New Data released recently from the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) indicates a rise in the number of teen deaths nationwide.

It is important for parents/guardians to have regular discussions with teen drivers about driving safely. Constantly remind them to wear their safety belts, follow GDL restrictions as to the number of passengers and time of day restrictions, inattentive driving and never getting behind the wheel if they have been drinking or using drugs.

New Records Management System

In December of 2012 we began the process of updating our Records Management System. Our old system was outdated and needed to be upgraded. The new system holds a large amount of data including, police reports, property records, names, addresses ect. We are still in the process of the transition and working on the unexpected problems that seem to occur when transitioning to a new system. The new program is designed to allow officers to complete and submit reports by using their squad computers. When the new system is fully implemented, Officers will be able to process their reports quicker and spend more time in their cars and patrolling the streets and neighborhoods. The new system will also increase our capacity to manage data and improve the level of service we provide.

Free Car Seat Check

Motor Vehicle incidents are the number one cause of death and/or serious injury of children ages 0 – 14! Did you know that 95% of child restraints and car seats are installed or used incorrectly? Do you know if your child's seat is????

Thanks to the Madison Area Safe Kids, you can have your car seat checked by a certified technician here in Waunakee. The event will be held on Wednesday, June 19, 2013 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Waunakee Fire Station (401 W. Second St.) This event is BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

To schedule an appointment call 608.890.8999 or email safekids@uwhealth.org

****If you can't make the event the WisDOT has developed a 15-minute instructional video on the correct use of child safety seats, starting with infants and progressing to children in booster seats. Each section can be viewed separately. You can view the videos at:

<http://www.zeroinwisconsin.gov/ChildSafetySeats/>

Newsletter Ideas

If you have any ideas you would like us to consider including in a future Waunakee newsletter, please send the idea to the below listed address.

Questions can be sent to newsletter@waunakeepd.org. Questions submitted may be featured in future newsletters. The person submitting the question will not be identified.