

Waunakee Police Department Newsletter October 2013



Halloween Safety

Halloween Trick or Treating will be on Thursday, October 31 from 5 – 7pm. The following are some safety tips for parents and children:

- If you set jack-o-lanterns on your porch with candles in them, make sure they are far enough out of the way so kids' costumes won't accidentally catch fire.
- Teach your children how to properly cross a street. Only cross streets at crosswalks.
- Help your child pick out or make a costume that has eye holes large enough for good peripheral vision.
- For greater visibility during dusk and darkness, decorate or trim costumes with reflective tape that will glow in the beam of a car's headlights. Bags or sacks should also be light colored or decorated with reflective tape. Reflective tape is usually available in hardware, bicycle, and sporting goods stores.
- To easily see and be seen, children should also carry flashlights.
- Costumes should be short enough to prevent children from tripping and falling.
- If your child is carrying a prop, make sure the tips are smooth and flexible enough to not cause injury if fallen on.
- Check over candy that is collected for any foreign objects.
- Know the route your kids will be taking if you aren't going with them.
- The safest idea is to have an adult accompany kids. If you're not with the kids, be sure to set a time they will be home by. Make sure they know how important it is for them to be home on time.
- Children should not enter homes or apartments unless they are accompanied by an adult.

Fall Ordinance Reminders



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.



OPEN BURNING IN THE VILLAGE

(a) *Restricted.* 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.

(b) *Exceptions.* 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. Outdoor cooking is not permitted at commercial facilities or on commercial property unless prior written approval is obtained from the fire chief or his/her designee.

(2) Dry wood may be burned in a commercially manufactured outdoor recreational fireplace that is certified by a nationally recognized listing agency or in a non-commercially constructed brick fireplace with a chimney that is approved by the building inspector according to applicable building codes, subject to the following conditions:

a. The fireplace must be an assembly that includes a bowl, pit or device for holding the wood and a method of containing embers and sparks.

b. Only dry wood, entirely contained within the device, is permitted to be burned.

c. The fireplace shall not be used within 15 feet of any structure or five feet of any lot line unless the fireplace is a brick fireplace and the location of the fireplace is approved by the building inspector according to applicable building codes.

d. The smoke shall not create a nuisance for other properties, obstruction of vehicle travel, or health concerns of others.

e. No fireplace shall be located or used on a wood deck, porch, or patio.

f. An ABC type fire extinguisher, charged garden hose, or other method of first aid fire control must be readily available.

g. The fireplace must be supervised or attended at all times while in use by a responsible adult over the age of 18. The fire must be completely extinguished before the fireplace is left unsupervised.

h. Use of the fireplace shall be discontinued when atmospheric conditions are unfavorable or make the use of the fireplace hazardous. Such conditions include, but are not limited to, winds in excess of ten miles per hour or excessive dry weather conditions as declared by the fire department. Fireplace operators shall be

responsible for checking with the fire department by phone or other means prescribed by the fire chief or his/her designee to determine whether hazardous conditions exist. No burning shall be allowed if wind conditions cause smoke, embers or other burning materials to be carried toward any building or other combustible material.

i. Burning of dry wood under this subsection (b)(2) shall not be permitted at commercial facilities or on commercial property unless prior written approval is obtained from the fire chief or his/her designee.

(3) With the prior written approval of the fire chief or his/her designee, controlled burning of grass or similar vegetation for environmental management purposes may be permitted. This exception shall not be used for the burning of grass, leaves or other lawn debris.

(4) With the prior written approval of the fire chief or his/her designee, ceremonial campfires or bonfires may be permitted.

(5) With the prior written approval of the fire chief or his/her designee, other occasions of desirable outdoor burning not specified by this subsection (b), but not as an alternative to refuse removal or disposal of which other methods are available, may be granted on single occasions.

(6) Whenever prior written approval is obtained from the fire chief or his/her designee under this subsection (b), the written approval may specify and be conditioned on observance of safety restrictions and insurance requirements set forth therein.

(c) *Authority to prohibit.* The fire chief or his/her designee is permitted to prohibit any or all outdoor fires when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous.

(d) *Burning on streets.* No materials may be burned upon any street, curb, gutter or sidewalk.

(e) *Liability.* A person utilizing or maintaining an outdoor fire shall be responsible for any liability resulting from damage caused by the fire.

Alternate Side Parking

Odd-Even side parking begins in Waunakee November 1st 2013 and will end April 1st 2014. 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.

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. Motor vehicle-deer crashes continue to be cause for concern in highway safety. Deer are the third most commonly struck object in Wisconsin (behind striking another vehicle and striking a fixed object). In 2011, 5 people died in 5 fatal motor vehicle-deer crashes. In addition, 81 people suffered incapacitating injuries; less serious injuries totaled 220; Dane County had the most motor vehicle-deer crashes reported in 2011 with 846 and many of the crashes go unreported.

Identity Theft Prevention

Identity theft occurs when someone uses another person's personal identifying information (name, address, date of birth, social security number) to commit fraud. The following are a few tips which may aid in the identification and protection from ID theft.

Common Signs

- Monthly credit card statements/ bank statements stop being sent to you.
- You are denied credit for no apparent reason
- You begin receiving bills from companies you do not recognize
- Collection agencies begin to contact you about debts you are not responsible for

Protect Yourself

- Do not carry your social security card/number, passport or birth certificate unless necessary
- Never include your address, phone number or driver's license number on a credit card sales receipt.
- Shred documents that contain personal information before placing in the trash.
- Never give identifying information over the phone or internet to someone you do not know.
- Obtain a credit report from the three national credit reporting agencies every year.
- Keep a list of all credit cards, bank accounts including numbers in a safe place such as a lock box or safe.
- Carry only credit cards you plan to use.
- Do not use your mother's maiden name for a password for accounts (It is too easy to learn)
- To opt out of receiving pre-approved credit card or insurance offers call 1-888-5-opt-out

What to do if you are a Victim

- Keep records of all correspondence with creditors and government agencies
- Notify all creditors and financial institutions in writing and by phone, informing them you have been a victim of ID theft.
- Report fraudulent activity to the issuing company as soon as possible. The Fair Credit Billing Act is a federal law that limits a consumer's responsibility for fraudulent charges to \$50.00.
- Contact your local police department and provide them with as much information as possible.
- Contact the FTC (Federal Trade Commission) The FTC collects complaints about ID theft and stores them in a data base and is made available for law enforcement agencies worldwide. Many of the suspects in fraud cases are from other States or Countries. www.consumer.gov/idtheft
- Contact the fraud department at one of the three credit reporting agencies and have an alert placed on your credit report to prevent further fraud attempts. (Equifax, Experian, Trans Union)

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.

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.