

# Waunakee Police Department Newsletter

## April 2016



### Thefts to Vehicles and Burglaries

We have received an increase in the number of thefts to vehicles in the last few months. Two of the thefts involved firearms that were stored in vehicles. We do not recommend storing firearms inside vehicles. Please secure your vehicles by keeping the windows up and locking the doors. Keep valuables in the trunk or out of view to prevent thieves from being attracted to your vehicle. Do not leave your keys inside the vehicle and hide the garage door opener.

We have also received an increase in the number of burglaries reported in the last month. Most of the burglaries occurred while families were away on vacation. Do not post photos on social media sites of your family on vacation until after you have returned home. This goes for your children too. Get to know your neighbors and tell those you trust when you will be out of town so they can be alert if they observe any activity at your residence.

The Waunakee Police Department is offering a cash reward for any information that leads to the arrest of individuals responsible for these crimes. Callers can remain anonymous and can call 849-4523 or the tip line at 849-2TIP. If you see any suspicious persons or vehicles please call 849-4523 or 911 if appropriate.



### State law requires drivers to yield to pedestrians

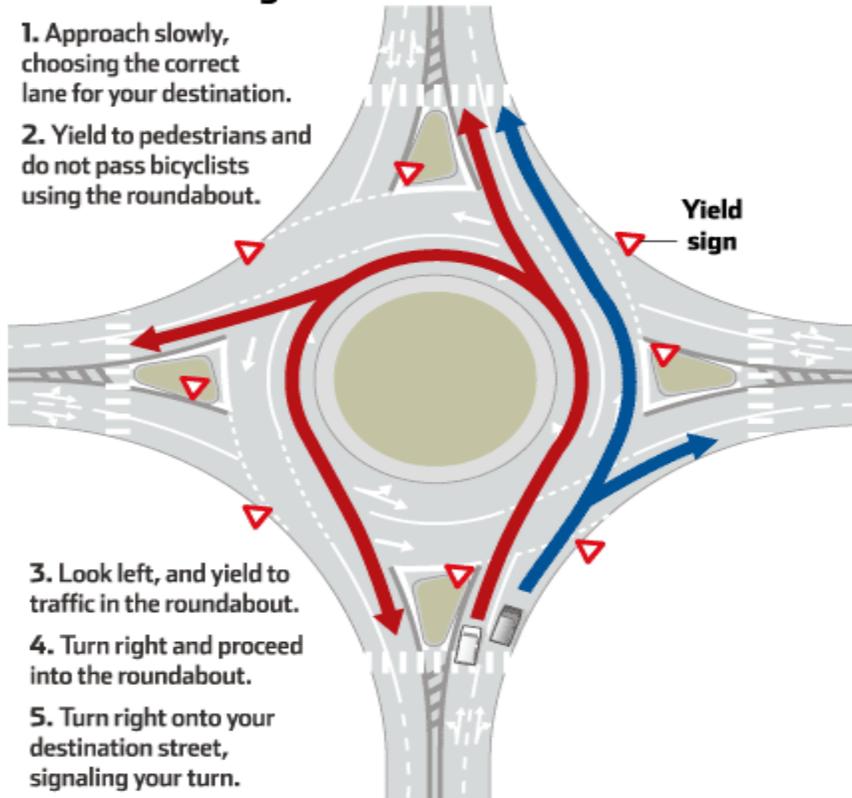
1. Who have started crossing an intersection or crosswalk on a walk signal or on a green light if there's no walk signal.
2. Who are crossing the road within a marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection where there are no traffic lights or control signals.
3. When a vehicle is crossing a sidewalk or entering an alley or driveway.

In addition, drivers may not legally overtake and pass any vehicle that has stopped for pedestrians at an intersection or crosswalk. Drivers who fail to yield the right of way to pedestrians who are legally crossing roadways in the Village of Waunakee may be issued citations in amounts ranging from **\$98.80 - \$250.00** (depending on the violation) and 3-4 demerit points.

On 3-3-16, officers performed pedestrian/crosswalk enforcement on S Century Ave at Fifth St. Officers made 9 traffic stops for failure to yield to a pedestrian. We plan to engage in similar enforcement details in other areas in the future.

## How to navigate a roundabout

1. Approach slowly, choosing the correct lane for your destination.
2. Yield to pedestrians and do not pass bicyclists using the roundabout.



3. Look left, and yield to traffic in the roundabout.
4. Turn right and proceed into the roundabout.
5. Turn right onto your destination street, signaling your turn.

## Common Signs and what they mean.



Roundabout ahead slow down



Guide signs near the entry designations



to a roundabout show lane



## What to do if an emergency vehicle is approaching operating in emergency mode?

Drivers are trained to pull over when an emergency vehicle is coming because it's the law. In the case of roundabouts, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) states that motorists must clear a roundabout if they hear (or see) an emergency vehicle coming. Motorists should immediately exit the roundabout at the next right and pull over. If a motorist has not yet reached the roundabout when the emergency vehicle is heard or seen, pull over prior to reaching the roundabout.



## Spring Time Ordinance Reminders

**Burning** – Open burning of material is not allowed within the village limits. This includes burning materials in the street or on sidewalks. Fires enclosed within fire pits which keep the fire off of the ground are acceptable. Other types of bonfires or the burning of grasses, leaves or vegetation require a permit or prior written approval from the Fire Chief.

**Raking** – Raking leaves in the street or gutter is prohibited per village ordinance.

**Parks** –

- Parks are closed from 10:30 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.
- No fires are allowed. Grills are okay, but are to be used in designated picnic areas.
- No glass beverage containers are allowed.
- No overnight camping allowed.
- The speed limit is 15 mph in all parks



## Spring Cleaning...What to do with Hazardous Household Materials

Clean Sweep is a place to bring hazardous household materials such as Oil-Based Paints and Paint-Related Products, Pesticides & Poisons, Household Products Containing Organic Solvents, Ignitables, and Aerosols, electronics and Rechargeable Batteries. The facility is located at 7102 US Hwy 12; Madison WI 53718, (Beltline/12/18 East toward Cambridge) will be opening. It is located across from the Yahara Hills Golf Course at the Dane County Landfill. See website for more info: <http://danecountycleansweep.com/>

Hours:

Tuesdays - Fridays: 7:00am - 2:45pm Saturdays: 8:00am - 10:45am, Closed Sundays, Mondays and Holidays

# April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month



## Startling Facts

1. More than 3,000 teens die each year in crashes caused by texting while driving
2. Texting while driving is now the leading cause of death among teenagers – surpassing drinking and driving, according to a study by Cohen Children’s Medical Center.
3. More than 50 percent of teens admit to texting while driving
4. Virginia Tech studies show drivers are 23 times more likely to be in an accident while texting
5. 5 seconds is the minimal amount of attention that a driver who texts takes away from the road. If traveling at 55 mph, this equals driving the length of a football field without looking at the road.
6. At any one time, 9% of drivers are talking on cell phones, making them 4 times as likely to crash.
7. Talking on a cell phone while driving requires the brain to multitask—a process it cannot do safely while driving. While a growing number of drivers are turning to hands-free devices, studies show hands-free devices provide no safety benefit. The area of the brain responsible for processing moving visual information—a vital part of driving—has 37% less capacity to gather and process critical driving data and instead focuses on the cell phone conversation.

For more information please visit the following websites:

<http://www.distraction.gov/>

[http://www.nsc.org/safety\\_road/Distracted\\_Driving/Pages/CognitiveDistraction.aspx](http://www.nsc.org/safety_road/Distracted_Driving/Pages/CognitiveDistraction.aspx)

<http://safety.trw.com/texting-while-driving-now-leading-cause-of-us-teen-deaths/0710/>

<https://beta.dosomething.org/facts/11-fact-about-texting-and-driving>

<http://www.fcc.gov/guides/texting-while-driving>



## We Need Your Help!

The Village of Waunakee and the Town of Westport are seeking your input as we jointly update our Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

### ***What is a Comprehensive Plan?***

A Comprehensive Plan is a long-range plan with broad recommendations for future land use and development. The plan establishes development strategies and policies to guide future growth and development in the community.

### ***What is a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan?***

A Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is a long-range plan used to guide annual budget and capital improvement projects by the Village and Town related to parkland acquisition and development; bicycle route and trail development; and pedestrian facility improvements.

### ***How can I be involved?***

It is important that the Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan accurately reflect the needs, opportunities, and desires of our communities. This is why we are asking you to participate in the update of these two plans!

### **We have three ways for you to participate:**

1. ***Mark your Calendar & Attend the Public Kickoff Meeting—Wednesday, April 20, 2016 from 6 to 8 pm.*** The meeting will be held at the Waunakee Village Center. This meeting will be an opportunity to contribute your thoughts and ideas and help plan Waunakee and Westport! Arrive at 6:00 for a short presentation; the remainder of the time will be an open house with opportunities to ask questions and share ideas for the future of our communities.
2. ***Complete the Comprehensive Plan Survey—Available March 28 through April 22.*** The survey can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PlanWaunakeeWestport>
3. ***Complete the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey— Available April 18 through May 13.*** The survey can be found at:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PlanWaunakeeWestportParks>

For more information on our join Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan update, please visit: [www.waunakee.com/plan](http://www.waunakee.com/plan).



**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.

## **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.

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