

Waunakee Police Department Newsletter

April 2017



Waunakee Police Department mourns in the loss of a fellow Wisconsin officer who was killed in the line of duty. On March 22nd, 2017 Everest Metro Police detective Jason Weiland was shot and killed while responding to multiple shootings. Detective Weiland was an 18-year veteran of law enforcement and had served with the Everest Metropolitan Police Department for 15 years. He is survived by his wife and two children. Please keep his family and friends in your thoughts.



WE ARE MOVING OUR NEWSLETTER

We are moving our newsletter access to the Village of Waunakee website! The change allows us to keep pace with the growing number of community members who wish to receive our monthly newsletter. If you wish to continue receiving our newsletter you will need to follow the link below which sends you to the "Notify Me" section of the village website. Once you have reached that page you simply add your email address and select the email option next to the Waunakee Police Department section. Should you no longer wish to receive the newsletter once you have signed up, there are directions on the same page on how to unsubscribe. While we transition over the next few months we will continue to send out the newsletter from our newsletter@waunakeepd.org email address and provided access through the Village of Waunakee website. Starting in May of 2017 we will only send the newsletter out from our website sign up list. <http://www.vil.waunakee.wi.us/list.aspx>



On March 5th, Cub Scout Den #5 came to the Waunakee Police Department for a tour. Sgt. Roger Bartels and Officer Schmidt enjoyed meeting the group and showing them our building and some of the equipment used to perform our duties.



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 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.

We will continue to perform special pedestrian/crosswalk enforcement. Drive carefully!



Parking of Boats, Trailers, Recreational Vehicles

The Police Department would like to remind residents of ordinances concerning the storage of large vehicles, boats and trailers. Waunakee village ordinance 70-123 states:

Any large vehicle, defined as a truck, trailer, boat, snowmobile trailer, truck power unit, tractor, bus, recreational vehicle or any other vehicle or combination thereof that meets any of the following criteria:

- a. Has a weight of more than 12,000 pounds; or
- b. Has a length of greater than 21 feet; or

- c. Has an enclosed area with a height of more than eight feet from the surface upon which it is located.

Cannot be parked upon any street, avenue or public way located in a residential zoning district between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.



Loud Noise

Please remember to respect your neighbors when playing music or engaging in other activities that generate loud noise. It is unlawful for any person to make or continue any noise that would be considered loud and unnecessary noise to a reasonable person. The operation of any set, instrument, phonograph, machine or device between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. in a manner as to be plainly audible at the property line of the building, structure or vehicle in which it is located shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this subsection. Violations can result in citations in the amount of \$124.00- \$187.00 dependent on the number of previous violations.



See the following questions from a reader about WI traffic law. **I have a question about intersections with crossing guards. The specific intersection is Centennial and S. Century Ave, after school. The crossing guard blocks traffic on the south side of the intersection, to allow kids to cross S. Century Ave. I frequently see cars either turn north onto S. Century from school, or occasionally cross century from school to Centennial Pkwy, driving parallel to walking traffic. Are cars permitted to be in the intersection at all when a crossing guard is present?**

It is permissible for traffic to proceed in other directions if they can safely do so, but no one can cross through the crosswalk while the crossing guard is erecting the stop sign and any pedestrian is within the marked cross walk. Here is the state statute that applies; **346.46 (2m)** Every operator of a motor vehicle approaching a school crossing which is controlled by an adult school crossing guard appointed under s. 120.13 (31) or 349.215 shall follow the directions of the school crossing guard. If directed by the school crossing guard to stop, the operator shall stop the vehicle not less than 10 feet nor more than 30 feet from the school crossing and shall remain stopped until the school crossing guard directs the operator to proceed.

My other question concerns traffic behind a car waiting to make a left. Are cars allowed to pass around them on the right when it's single lane traffic, such as along main street? It is permissible to overtake a stopped vehicle that is waiting to make a left turn if it can be done safely without leaving the paved portion of the roadway. Here is the state statute that applies. **346.08 When overtaking and passing on the right permitted.** The operator of a vehicle may overtake and pass another vehicle upon the right only under conditions permitting the movement in safety and only if the operator can do so while remaining on either the roadway or a paved shoulder, and then only under the following conditions:
346.08(1) (1) When the vehicle overtaken is making or about to make a left turn or U-turn; or
346.08(2) (2) Upon a street or highway with unobstructed pavement of sufficient width to enable 2 or more lines of vehicles lawfully to proceed, at the same time, in the direction in which the passing vehicle is proceeding; or
346.08(3) (3) Upon a one-way street or divided highway with unobstructed pavement of sufficient width to enable 2 or more lines of vehicles lawfully to proceed in the same direction at the same time.



You may remember a few months ago there was a newsletter topic on the dangers of inhalants and their use. On March 17th, Waunakee Officers responded to a vehicle crash where the use of an inhalant was the cause of the accident. The driver of the vehicle used an inhalant while driving and lost consciousness. Luckily, there were no injuries. Please be aware that many common household products can be used in harmful ways.

Wisconsin State law prohibits the abuse of a hazardous substance listed in 941.316 (2) (6)



Parent-teen safe driving contract

Teen drivers have the highest crash risk of any age group. Crash risk is higher in the first year of driving than at any other time in a person's driving career.

Why have a written parent-teen safe driving contract? A contract:

- Acknowledges the risks involved in driving and brings safety to the forefront.
- Encourages discussion of safe driving issues and accountability.
- Establishes in writing clear expectations and consequences for breaking the rules.
- Helps enforce Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) restrictions. GDL helps teens gain needed driving experience under lower-risk conditions. And it's the law.

This sample contract can be a starting point to help you and your teen driver reach an agreement that best fits your family and expectations. Use it as a guide. We recommend that you and your teen discuss and decide each issue together. By entering into a written contract, you are bound by your agreement to each other to drive safely. Visit the Wisconsin DOT website listed below for a copy of the safe driving contract.

<http://wisconsin.gov/Pages/dmv/teen-driver/contract.aspx>



Tax Scams:

Phone Scams: Aggressive and threatening phone calls by criminals impersonating IRS agents remains an ongoing threat to taxpayers. The IRS has seen a surge of these phone scams in recent months as scam artists threaten police arrest, deportation, license revocation and other things. The IRS reminds taxpayers to guard against all sorts of con games that arise during any filing season

Phishing: Taxpayers need to be on guard against fake emails or websites looking to steal personal information. The IRS will not send you an email about a bill or refund out of the blue. Don't click on one claiming to be from the IRS that takes you by surprise. Taxpayers should be wary of clicking on strange emails and websites. They may be scams to steal your personal information.

Identity Theft: Taxpayers need to watch out for identity theft especially around tax time. The IRS continues to aggressively pursue the criminals that file fraudulent returns using someone else's Social Security number. The IRS is making progress on this front but taxpayers still need to be extremely careful and do everything they can to avoid becoming a victim.

Fake Charities: Taxpayers should be on guard against groups masquerading as charitable organizations to attract donations from unsuspecting contributors. Contributors should take a few extra minutes to ensure their hard-earned money goes to legitimate and currently eligible charities. IRS.gov has the tools taxpayers need to check out the status of charitable organizations. Be wary of charities with names that are similar to familiar or nationally known organizations

Inflated Refund Claims: Taxpayers need to be on the lookout for anyone promising inflated refunds. Taxpayers should be wary of anyone who asks them to sign a blank return, promise a big refund before looking at their records, or charge fees based on a percentage of the refund. Scam artists use flyers, advertisements, phony store fronts and word of mouth via community groups and churches in seeking victims

For more information on tax scams and how to report them visit, <https://www.irs.gov>



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. Questions submitted may be featured in future newsletters. The person submitting the question will not be identified.