

TOSA WATCH

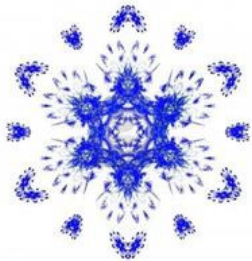
Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

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TOSA WATCH provides useful information for citizens who participate in the Wauwatosa Block Watch Program. Reader comments and contributions are always welcome.

Neighborhood Safety Liaison Opportunity

Do you currently belong to an organized Wauwatosa Neighborhood Association? Are you part of a smaller but organized Wauwatosa neighborhood that communicates through emails or other forms of electronic communication? If you are, please consider becoming more engaged in the safety happenings of your neighborhood. How you ask? By becoming a "Safety Liaison" for the benefit of your neighborhood and your neighbors.

The concept of the Neighborhood Safety Liaison is still new to Wauwatosa. The idea has grown from the cooperative efforts of the Wauwatosa Police Department, the Wauwatosa Neighborhood Association Council, and our Elected Officials.

One identified goal of the liaison position is to enhance neighborhood / police communication and engagement through information sharing. We would like to develop working relationships between key members (aka liaisons) of Wauwatosa's neighborhoods and the Wauwatosa Police Department.

This concept has great potential in that it could someday include the Fire Department, Health Department, and other public entities that affect neighborhood safety and wellness.

By showing interest now, you will have the opportunity to help further define the liaison position and help us make strides toward a better, more informed community.

If you are interested in the Neighborhood Safety Liaison position please contact the Wauwatosa Police Department – Community Support Division at 414-471-8430 ext. 5111 or

communitysupport@wauwatosa.net

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH AREA



Crime prevention begins at home.



**WAUWATOSA
CRIME
STOPPERS**

771-TOSA

Cash rewards up to
\$1,000.

If someone you know is elderly or dependent upon life-sustaining or health-related equipment, check on them during severe weather or power outages. Register them as a special-needs customer with the utility company so they will become a priority customer. Notify others who could provide help such as neighbors, nearby friends and emergency responders, such as the fire department.

We Energies -24 hr

800-662-4797

Electric

800-261-5325

Natural Gas

**Wauwatosa Police
Department**

Barry M. Weber - Chief of Police

**Community Support
Division**

Captain Chris Fox

Lieutenant Paul Leist

Sergeant Brad Beckman

Specialist Mike McDermott

Officer Dan Kane

SRO Joel Kutz

SRO Tracy Burbach

SRO Farris Griffin

SRO Jim Morrill

*Laura Laurishke - Administrative
Support Specialist*

High Profile Incidents

The police use of force has been a widely talked about subject in recent years due to several high profile incidents nationwide. As a result, there have been questions about why certain force is used in one incident and not another. The truth is that every situation is different. Things can go from very routine to very dynamic and fluid. The amount of force used to apprehend a suspect is completely dependent on the suspect's actions and his or her level of compliance.

Wauwatosa police officers respond to a variety of different calls every day throughout the city. Sometimes an arrest needs to be made, whether it is for shoplifting, a warrant or any number of things. In our experience, the overwhelming vast majority of people that get arrested are compliant and cooperative. A simple explanation of what is happening and their available options usually help for the arrest to go smoothly.

There are a small percentage of times when cooperation does not occur and a suspect will decide to resist arrest either out of fear or an attempt to escape or evade arrest. An even smaller percentage of suspects will actually try and fight and attack an officer. In these situations, an officer cannot afford to lose a fight to someone who is intending to do him or her harm. If an officer gets knocked unconscious by a suspect, their own gun may be used against them by someone else. Some of the "tools" that an officer has at his disposal are the following:

Presence – Uniform – Squad
Dialogue - Verbalization
Empty Hand Control
O.C. Spray (Pepper Spray)
ECD (Electronic Control Device)
Baton
Firearm

Some of the questions that come up when police have to use deadly force are "Why did they have to shoot so many times?" "Why didn't they just shoot him/her in the leg or arm?"

The answer to the first question lies in the standards that the officers are trained. The police in Wisconsin are trained to "stop the threat." The question that needs to be posed is, "If someone comes charging at you from 15 feet away with a knife raised, where would you want to shoot them to immediately stop the threat and save your life?" In that situation, would you waste precious milliseconds trying to shoot the suspect in the arm or leg? How many times would you fire?



Notify Me

Did you know the City of Wauwatosa offers a free program that enables anyone to receive email or text notification regarding non-emergency community news? Sign-up is quick and easy. If you're interested in receiving information on up to thirty specific topics, just follow these steps to get started.

Go to: www.wauwatosa.net

Search: Notify Me, then, choose what notifications you're interested in receiving and the method of delivery you prefer. Please know that ALL personal information will be kept confidential.

Examples of specific notification include, but are not limited to:

- Current Construction Projects
- Homepage News
- Hot Topics
- Community Events
- City Newsletter
- Main City Calendar
- Council Meetings & Agendas

For further information on this program you can contact Karen Jaeckels at (414)-479-8915.



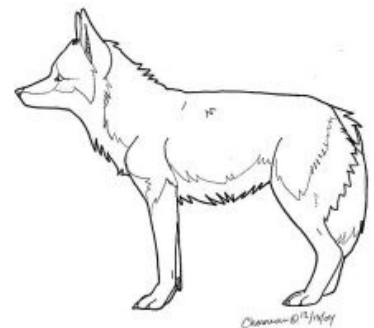
A warm ride or a cold walk?

Even though we have seen record high temperatures throughout the fall of 2015, we can all be certain that at some point winter will strike. With the cold, frosty mornings come the all too inconvenient window scraping expeditions. Last winter, a new trend developed in the Milwaukee metropolitan area where thieves were targeting unoccupied vehicles warming up. Groups of thieves traveled throughout the area and looked for the puffs of exhaust coming from the tailpipes. Even push button start vehicles are susceptible to theft as some auto makers only require the key fob be present when the vehicle is started, and not necessary for the car to be driven away. The thieves will not be able to turn the vehicle off and start it again, but the journey to recover your stolen vehicle will already be underway. Several insurance companies informed victims of stolen vehicles that they would not cover the loss of their vehicle because their cars were left running and unattended. Need one more reason? In the City of Wauwatosa, it is a violation of city ordinance to leave your unattended vehicle running on a city street. Thirty nine of our first forty one motor vehicle thefts in 2015 were preventable thefts of unattended vehicles. Please, never leave your vehicle running and unattended, even if locked.

Coyote Sightings

Over the past several months, the Wauwatosa Police Department has received numerous calls regarding coyote sightings. There appears to be several reasons for this, but the leading cause appears that coyote packs have been displaced due to the development throughout the City. Contact has been made with a DNR wildlife specialist and the following tips and suggestions are being offered:

- ◆ People are safe, with the DNR advising that there has never been a report of a coyote attack on a human in their history.
- ◆ Coyotes have become very adapted at living among people and have no fear of people, as they are not being hunted.
- ◆ Pets can be at some limited risk. Roaming cats are high on the Coyote's menu, as are small dogs. Larger animals may even be viewed as a territorial threat to coyote's and may be attacked.
- ◆ The discharge of weapons **is not** permitted within the city limits. Trapping is permitted on private property and the DNR maintains a list of trappers who will remove a coyote from private property.
- ◆ If you have any questions or concerns regarding coyotes or other wildlife, you can call "Wildlife Concerns" at 1-800-433-0688. They can make suggestions or you may contact the DNR if needed.



Buried Fire Hydrants

Snow season has arrived, and everyone is cleaning off sidewalks and driveways. Don't forget fire hydrants that may be in your yard! In an emergency when seconds count, buried hydrants can cause delays in promptly putting out a fire! Please take a few minutes to shovel the snow away from that fire hydrant. It may be your house or a neighbor's that will depend on it.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Saturday, March 12th

**The parade starts at
3:30PM, the route
will go eastbound
from 68th &
Bluemound Road
to 50th & Bluemound
Road.**

**NO OVERNIGHT
PARKING
BETWEEN THE HOURS
OF 3:00 AM – 6:00 AM**

**TO REQUEST
PERMISSION TO PARK
OVERNIGHT:
471-8430**

DECLARED SNOW EMERGENCY

**- NO PARKING ON CITY
STREETS -
AUTOS WILL BE
TICKETED AND/OR
TOWED**

Social Media or Police

In today's world there is no escaping the substantial impact social media plays in our lives. Millions of people look to their personal computer, tablet, or phone several times a day for the latest update, post, or news story. Information is good...but accurate information is better.

With the popularity of social media access we have also seen an increase in the passing along of crime related information or police happenings. Social media users within Wauwatosa often share information amongst their "group" for the purpose of community safety. This practice has become so popular that the Wauwatosa Police Department now has a Facebook page and Twitter account! Like we said earlier, information is good, but let's talk about inaccurate information for a minute.

Inaccurate information posted about a crime related incident could cause an overreaction or for that matter an under reaction. If you see police activity for yourself or hear of an incident occurring, please consider the following tips before posting the information:

- Do you know all the facts? If not that is ok. Keep your post straight forward and refer to "police activity in the area" or "roads blocked off in the area". This will still be a benefit to your friends and neighbors but will not cause any misunderstanding.
- Do you need a police rumor clarified? Did you see police cars down the block or at the corner business and wonder what occurred? We are here to help and can often clear up rumors about a police incident over the telephone. Contact the Community Support Division at 414-471-8430 or communitysupport@wauwatosa.net for information.

If you see a crime in progress, believe a crime has just occurred, or suspect a crime is about to occur, please dial 911 for immediate assistance. Also take the time to "like" us on Facebook. Although we do not necessarily post "in progress" incident updates all that often, we have posted in the past and will likely post in the future as determined necessary.

2015 Crime Stoppers Data

The Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers has had another successful year thanks to you! Crime Stoppers received 9 anonymous tips in 2015 that lead to the arrest of 8 individuals and the seizure of two firearms, various narcotics and a stolen vehicle. One of those arrested is now facing a federal indictment for narcotics and weapons charges. Other crimes reported included two burglaries, underage alcohol violations and a bomb threat. As a result of these arrests the Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers paid out \$550.00 in reward money. If you have information regarding a crime that has been committed and wish to report it anonymously, please call the Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers at 771-TOSA (771-8672) or text your tip to "crimes" (keyword "tosa"). As always, if you witness a crime in progress, dial "911" immediately.

Snow and Ice Removal

The full width of public sidewalks, crosswalks, and curb ramps must be cleared of snow and ice by 12:00 noon of the day following a snow or ice accumulation. To prevent slippery conditions sprinkle non-movable ice with a de-icing agent or sand. Sidewalks and ramps are to be cleared again after each plowing operation. Sidewalks on major streets are inspected for compliance, and the residential areas are inspected on a complaint basis.

A notice of noncompliance is sent to a property owner if snow and ice is not removed as required. If the work is not completed within the allotted time, city crews will perform the work and charge the property owner. For example, a 60- foot-wide lot would be charged \$140 each time snow and ice are cleared by city crews. If you have questions or need to report a violation, call the Parks and Forestry Department at 471-8420.



St. Patrick's Day Information

The Wauwatosa Historical Society's 25th annual Blarney Run/Walk will return for a trek through the streets of Wauwatosa. Join in the fun while getting some healthy exercise after the long winter months!

Date: Saturday, March 12, 2016

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Place: Hoyt Park Pool – Grand Hall, 1800 N. Swan Boulevard

Cost: Please refer to www.wauwatosahistoricsociety.org for entry fee information.

Registration forms will be available on the web at www.wauwatosahistoricsociety.org, starting in mid-January. All participants will receive a commemorative, long-sleeve T-shirt.

Children age 10 and under may participate in the 1/8 mile "Twinkle Trot," which will take place on Underwood Parkway at approximately 11:00 A.M. the day of the race. Pre-registration cost is \$6.00 per child and \$8.00 per child on the day of the event. For additional information or to volunteer, call the Wauwatosa Historical Society at 774-8672.

Theft from Vehicles

In most cases of theft from vehicle, cars were left unlocked with at least one desirable item inside. Do you remember your school science when they taught us about the fire triangle and how if you took away part of the triangle a fire could not happen? Well we have a crime triangle as well; the three sides are **DESIRE**, **ABILITY** and **OPPORTUNITY**. The one thing we as citizens can and should be taking away from the crime triangle is opportunity.

Please review the following tips in an effort to reduce the opportunity for theft from vehicles to take place:

- Never leave anything of value in your vehicle, even if it's for a short period of time.
- Remove not only your portable electronic devices but everything related to those items.
- Get out of the habit of leaving loose change in your car.
- Always park in a well-lit area, if you park in the driveway at home install sufficient exterior lighting.
- Always lock your car.

Remember, if we take away the opportunity for crime then the criminals will have to find somewhere else to try to commit their crime.

Staying Safe

By David Hoppe, Retired Wauwatosa Police Detective

One of the most concerning issues today is personal safety. News headlines continually detail acts of terrorism, mass shootings, or crimes. This can easily lead to feeling overwhelmed and helpless.

Most people will never be the victim of a violent crime, although it appears the chances of this occurring are increasing. What definitely is on the rise is the fear individuals have of such an event happening to them. Although it is impossible to be safe 100 percent of the time, the following are some actions that can be taken to lower the risk.

Mass Shootings

By their very nature, mass shootings occur where many people are gathered, such as shopping malls, theaters, and schools. The first indication such an event is taking place is usually the sound of gunshots or perhaps a chaotic scene of people running or screaming. How to respond to this depends on multiple factors and the specific circumstances of the event. However, some general guidelines can be established.

The first, and most important, step is to proceed to a location of safety. For example, say one is at a large shopping mall when suddenly, multiple gunshots are heard. The goal would be to move as far away as possible from the location of the shots. This might mean exiting the mall and seeking shelter in another nearby business or other building open to the public. Once safe, a call to 911 should immediately be placed so that law enforcement and emergency personnel can be sent to the scene.

Violent Crimes

The potential to be the victim of certain types of crimes, such as armed robbery, purse snatching, or car-jacking, exists any time one is in a public area. Although living in a safe neighborhood can reduce the chances of victimization, much of our time is spent in a variety of locations, some of which are higher risk than others. Again, the goal is to protect ourselves, no matter where we might be.

Criminals are adept at finding victims and are more likely to choose someone they perceive as an easy target. Present oneself as a “non-victim” by doing the following.

- When walking on public streets, be aware of your surroundings and project an image of confidence.
- Go places, especially those that are unfamiliar, with a group of other people.
- Do not carry unnecessary items, such as a large purse.
- When traveling in a vehicle, lock all the doors. At night, park in well-lit areas as close to your final destination as possible. While returning to your vehicle, watch for suspicious individuals who might be following you.

The above tips are only a brief summary of what can be done. For any course of action to be successful, one must have a pre-determined plan for how to respond. One of the best ways to prepare is to imagine a variety of scenarios that might be encountered during your daily affairs. Think about what actions you could take to help protect yourself and perform these mental reviews on a regular basis. Doing so can help ensure that if your plan ever needs to be put place, your actions will occur more automatically and your chances for a safe outcome will increase.

