

TOSA WATCH

Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

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TOSA WATCH - Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter is published quarterly by:

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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.

Seventy Five Years of Police Reserves

2017 will mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Wauwatosa Police Reserve program. The Wauwatosa Reserve program is one of the oldest and most active reserve units in the United States. The unit started during WWII as air raid wardens. The wardens were responsible for patrolling their neighborhoods at night making sure all residents complied with the blackout restrictions so homes were not visible to enemy bombers. As soon as WWII ended, the Cold War kicked in and the Police Reserves were tasked with similar duties, but now with the threat of a nuclear attack. The Milwaukee metro area was a high value target in the 1950's due to the manufacturing output that was taking place. Due to this threat, the first block wardens were introduced. These block wardens were similar to today's block captains but their focus and intelligence was geared towards responding to a nuclear attack. These block captains, which later become Reserve Officers were given manuals on how to triage and care for victims of radiation.

The number of reserve officers peaked at approximately 150 in the 1960's and 1970's. Today, our optimal number of Reserve Officers is approximately forty. Today's Reserve Officers are involved in the many special events that take place in our city throughout the year. You see them directing traffic at parades, assisting with Holiday mall patrols, and helping with charitable work. The Reserve Officers "donate" approximately 4,000 hours of labor each year to the City of Wauwatosa. I say donate as the Officers are not paid for their time. Continue to check each newsletter this year for different updates and historical notes about our Police Reserve program as we help them celebrate seventy five years.

**Town
of
Wauwatosa**

... Civil Defense ...

BLOCK WARDEN MANUAL



**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 Jack Morrison

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*

The Community Support Division

Many of you know the officers of the Community Support Division from home security surveys, block watch meetings, or neighborhood functions, but do you know what else they do? The Community Support Division is composed of one supervisor, two Community Policing Officers, four School Resource Officers, and an Administrative Support Specialist. In addition to the things mentioned above, our division is involved in a wide variety of tasks and events.

Many of the programs that we are involved with are educational and community building functions. Our Officers are involved in various committees and groups throughout the city, including the Civic Celebration Commission (4th of July planning), Youth Commission, Crime Stoppers, Block Watch, the Wauwatosa Neighborhood Watch Committee, and the Police Reserves to name a few. Our Community outreach programs continue to grow each year and we held several successful Coffee with a Cop events throughout 2016. For those that couldn't make an early morning coffee run, we introduced Pizza with the Police giving everyone a chance to meet with officers on a one on one basis. We delved into the sporting world and introduced Cops N Bobbers, giving Wauwatosa kids a chance to spend a day fishing with our officers, including the Chief of Police! I'm sure many of you saw our officers at your block party or trick or treating with the kids this year. Of course Tosa's Night Out is our biggest event of the year and thousands of people joined us at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

As we turn the page on 2016, we are always looking at new and fun ways to engage the community. Look for some new and exciting things in 2017 including Dog Walkers Watch, an increased emphasis on crime prevention, increased bike patrols, and an exciting block watch captain appreciation event. If you don't know who your block watch captain is, or don't have one, now is the perfect time to sign up! If you have any suggestions of what you would like to see from the Police in your community, we are always open to ideas.

Wauwatosa Senior Commission

The Senior Commission is a citizen lead group that works to help seniors within the Wauwatosa community to lead a full and productive life. The commission focuses on getting useful and pertinent information to seniors, caregivers and family members that may be in need of additional daily living services.

A new program is in the planning stages and will be introduced to Wauwatosa community members in January or February of 2017. This vital program will be known as the Senior Liaison program. At this point members of the Senior Commission are still finalizing steps that will be taken and outlining achievements that will be sought for this initiative.

Please pay close attention to the Neighborhood Association NAC Blast for further details and when our first presentation will take place.

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.



It's Cold Outside

With a new winter season, comes another reminder to keep your wheels in your driveway. The cold is already here and with frosty mornings come the all too inconvenient window scraping experience. Last winter the trend continued 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. One thing to keep in mind is that 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. So, please, never leave your vehicle running and unattended, even if it is locked.

A New Face in Community Support

Beginning in January of 2017 the Community Support Division will be under the command of Lieutenant Jack Morrison. Lt. Morrison is a 21 year veteran with the Wauwatosa Police Department and was recently promoted from his position as an Administrative Sergeant where he specialized in open records, civilian services, information technology, equipment, and fleet.

Lt. Morrison will be replacing Lt. Paul Leist who is currently in command of the Community Support Division. Lt. Leist will be retiring from the department in January of 2017 after nearly 29 years of service.

Congratulations to Lt. Morrison on his new assignment and many thanks to Lt. Leist for his dedicated service!

CodeRED

Code RED is a high-speed notification system. Based in part on an existing reverse 911 database, the system also gives individuals and businesses the ability to add additional phone number(s) directly into the system. CodeRED is a geographically based rapid notification system, so, physical Wauwatosa street addresses are required to ensure emergency notification calls are received by the proper individuals in a given situation. Wauwatosa's Police, Fire, Health, and Public Works Departments are allowed to communicate time sensitive personalized messages via voice, email, and text in a quick manner.

To register click on CodeRED at the home page of the City website, www.wauwatosa.net, then click on the words Subscribe Now, you will be directed to the registration page of CodeRED. It's that easy, no internet, no problem, call Laura Laurishke at 414-471-8430 with the Wauwatosa Police Department for assistance.

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 11th

**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**

Charitable Donations?

From time to time the Wauwatosa Police Department receives calls in regard to charitable donations, but not all calls are legitimate. Don't pledge money to an unknown charity over the phone or click on a link in an e-mail. Scam artists make phone calls, send e-mails and create fake Web sites posing as charities, and they often use news stories about recent disasters as their hook. Some crooks won't just steal your money; if they get your credit card number, bank information or Social Security number, they could steal your identity.

Several Web sites make it easy to check whether a charity is legitimate and to find reputable ones that are doing similar work. Most of these sites also analyze charities' financial situations and rate their effectiveness. Check out CharityNavigator.org, the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance (www.give.org), CharityWatch.org and GiveWell.org.

The Better Business Bureau of Milwaukee is located at, 10019 W. Greenfield Avenue, and can be reached at 414-847-6000.

Operation Identification

This is a program supported by most police agencies. They recommend that you engrave your drivers' license, not your social security number, on televisions, stereos, computers, and small electronic appliances. They suggest this so they can identify and locate you if your stolen items are recovered. If you would like to be part of Operation Identification or would like more information about this free program, call the Community Support Office at 471-8430 ext. 5111.

2016 Crime Stoppers Data

The Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers has had another successful year thanks to you! Crime Stoppers received 18 anonymous tips in 2016 that lead to the arrest of 4 individuals for serious crimes including armed robbery, carjacking, bomb threats and possession of child pornography. Other crimes reported included narcotics possession and distribution, theft and suspicious circumstances. As a result of these arrests the Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers paid out \$950.00 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 26th 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 11, 2017

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Place: Grand Hall at Hoyt Park and Pool, 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.wauwatosahistoricalsociety.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.

Winter Street Smarts

Cold weather is here and we find ourselves doing whatever is necessary to stay warm. This means layering clothing, wearing hats and gloves, and digging out our warmest boots. As we wear more clothing however, we can affect some of our physical abilities.

Hats and jacket hoods can reduce our peripheral vision and hearing. Layered clothing can reduce our ability to feel a pickpocket in action. Bulky footwear may affect our ability to run away if necessary.

Although there may be no way around wearing the extra layers to keep warm there are ways to stay safe while bundled up. Consider these options:

- Keep layered clothing loose to allow for best mobility.
- Avoid hoods or hats that affect your vision. Instead, wear headbands and earmuffs.
- If wearing boots that affect your ability to run, be aware of others around you and give yourself increased reaction time.
- If your hearing is affected by wearing headwear, use your vision to be more aware of your surroundings.
- Continue to pay attention to your surroundings when shoveling or snow blowing.

All activities involve a level of risk. You can greatly reduce your level of risk by considering the safety tips offered here. If you would like additional information or would like a Wauwatosa Police Officer to speak to your group about personal safety, please call the Community Support Division at 471-8430.

Security at Tax Time

With tax season upon us, don't be a victim of fraud. By taking a few simple steps, you can better protect your personal and financial data online and at home.

Please consider these steps to protect yourselves from identity thieves:

Keep Your Computer Secure

- Use security software and make sure it updates automatically; essential tools include:
 - Firewall
 - Virus/malware protection
 - File encryption for sensitive data
- Treat your personal information like cash, don't leave it lying around
- Check out companies to find out who you're really dealing with
- Give personal information only over encrypted websites – look for “https” addresses.
- Use strong passwords and protect them
- Back up your files

Avoid Phishing and Malware

- Avoid phishing emails, texts or calls that appear to be from the IRS and companies you know and trust, go directly to their websites instead
- Don't open attachments in emails unless you know who sent it and what it is
- Download and install software only from websites you know and trust
- Use a pop-up blocker
- Talk to your family about safe computing

Protect Personal Information

- Don't routinely carry your social security card or documents with your SSN.
- Do not overshare personal information on social media. Information about past addresses, a new car, a new home and your children help identity thieves pose as you.
- Keep old tax returns and tax records under lock and key or encrypted if electronic.
- Shred tax documents before trashing.
- Avoid IRS Impersonators. The IRS will not call you with threats of jail or lawsuits. The IRS will not send you an unsolicited email suggesting you have a refund or that you need to update your account. The IRS will not request any sensitive information online. These are all scams, and they are persistent. Don't fall for them.

Forward IRS-related scam emails to phishing@irs.gov and report IRS-impersonation telephone calls to www.tigta.gov.

Additional steps:

- Check your credit report annually; check your bank and credit card statements often;
- Review your Social Security Administration records annually: Sign up for My Social Security at www.ssa.gov.

This information was obtained from the Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service. For additional information go to www.irs.gov.