

Waunakee Police Department Newsletter October 2016



Halloween Safety

Halloween Trick or Treating will be on Monday, October 31 from 5 – 7 pm. Please drive extra cautious in the neighborhoods and watch out for pedestrians. The following are some safety tips for parents and children:

1. Teach your children how to properly cross a street. Only cross streets at crosswalks.
2. Help your child pick out or make a costume that has eye holes large enough for good peripheral vision.
3. 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.
4. To easily see and be seen, children should also carry flashlights or glow sticks.
5. Costumes should be short enough to prevent children from tripping and falling.
6. If your child is carrying a prop, make sure the tips are smooth and flexible enough to not cause injury if fallen on.
7. Know the route your kids will be taking if you aren't going with them.
8. 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.
9. Children should not enter homes or apartments unless they are accompanied by an adult.
10. Teach your kids about not getting into strangers cars or talking to strangers, no matter what the person says to them. Explain to them as simply as you can that some adults are bad and want to hurt children, that they should never go into a house that they don't know, get into a car or go anywhere with a stranger. Also, tell them what to do should this happen, to scream as loud as they can to draw attention and to run away as fast as they can to someplace safe.
11. Never walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes



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.



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. Hwy 113, Woodland Dr. and Arboretum Dr. are roads where deer are commonly seen crossing the roads in Waunakee.

Wis. Statute 29.349 now allows for the possession and removal of a deer carcass from the scene of an accident once the individual notifies the DNR by calling 608-267-7691 and provides their name and address and carcass location. Tagging vehicle killed deer by law enforcement has been discontinued.



Reckless Driving

Weaving is a form of reckless and aggressive driving. Swerving between lanes and cutting off other drivers in traffic is dangerous and reckless behavior. And it's also illegal.

- The law states that no person may endanger the safety of any person or property by the negligent operation of a vehicle.
- Weaving is just this type of behavior.

A recent survey conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) found that 24% of the people typically encountered cars weaving in and out of traffic when they're on the roads. The people surveyed said they also frequently see cars making unsafe lane changes.

If you see a motorist weaving in traffic or driving in a zigzag (alternately moving toward one side of the road and then the other), studies show there's a 60% chance that motorist may be driving drunk or is under the influence of drugs. If you observe this type of driving behavior call the police to report this behavior. Be prepared to provide a description and plate number if possible.



Scam Alert: Card Skimmers Found in Fuel Dispensers at Wisconsin Stations

It only takes seconds for a criminal to install a credit/debit card skimming device on a fuel dispenser, giving them instant access to future customers' financial information. Inspectors from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's Weights and Measures Bureau have recently become aware of skimmers in gas dispensers at stations throughout Wisconsin. DATCP advises consumers to keep a close eye on their card statements and on the pumps they use to fill their vehicles.

Skimmers take one of two forms at gas dispensers:

- external devices — false card readers that fit over actual card reader on the pump
- internal devices — typically a communications cable with an in-line recording device that is run between the card reader and main board

"A consumer may likely have no indication that they used an altered dispenser until they find a discrepancy on their bank statements," said Frank Frassetto, Division Administrator of Trade and Consumer Protection. "The best defense against card skimmer theft is a strong offense, so we strongly encourage shoppers to pay close attention to their monthly statements and to regularly check their credit reports," said Frassetto. "Report any potential skimmer-related fraudulent activity to the financial institution and to the station where the transaction occurred."

While at the pump, consumers can protect themselves by:

- Lightly wiggling the card reader on the pump. External skimmers may feel loose and come off.
- Looking to see if any security seals have been broken on the dispenser cabinet. If you see any signs of tampering, tool marks or loose card readers, tell the store manager and do not use that pump.

For more information or to report possible skimmers, contact DATCP's Weights and Measures team at 608-224-4942 or via email: datcpweightsandmeasures@wi.gov. Or <https://datcp.wi.gov>



Microsoft Scam

A newsletter reader reported several of his customers have been victims of the Microsoft Scam recently and wanted to spread the word about this scam.

The Microsoft impersonation scam has been around since at least 2009 and has been used on computer users in numerous countries, including the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, and England. The usual setup is for the scammers to call you and identify themselves as technicians from Microsoft (or some Microsoft-related company), then tell you that your Windows-based computer has a virus (or other problem) that is causing it to generate all sorts of error messages on the Internet. They describe all the things that will happen if you don't correct the issue immediately. The handy techs who just called you are ready to step in and solve your problem —and give you many more!

Microsoft does not contact people out of the blue to tell them there's something wrong with their computer. The scammers running this type of fraud pretend they're from the software company's technical support department when they telephone to inform householders that their computers have been infected with a virus. Often the scam pitch begins "I'm calling for Microsoft. We've had a report from your internet service provider of serious virus problems from your computer." The caller warns that if the problem is not solved the computer will become unusable and then offers to repair the problem.

The ultimate goal of the fraud varies, depending upon which con artists are running it. Some scammers set up the victim to buy overpriced (and worthless) anti-virus protection. Others, under the guise of selling a solution to the victim's computer virus obtain bank account info, then make hefty withdrawals once they have it. Yet others look to take remote control of the computers belonging to the victim. **The best course of action is to hang up the phone!**



October is Fire Prevention Month

Here are 10 simple tips to help you avoid fires and reduce the risk of injury should one occur:

- 1) **Smoke Alarms** – Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home and test it monthly.
- 2) **Prevent Electrical Fires** – Don't overload circuits or extension cords. Cords and wires should never be placed under rugs or in high traffic areas. Avoid loose electrical connections by checking the fit of the plug in the wall outlet. If the plug loosely fits, inspect the outlet right away. A poor connection between the plug and the outlet can cause overheating and can start a fire in minutes.
- 3) **Keep Plugs Safe** – Unplug all appliances when not in use. Follow the manufacturer's safety precautions and use your senses to spot any potential disasters. If a plug is overheating, smells strange, shorts out or sparks – the appliance should be shut off immediately, then replaced or repaired.

- 4) **Alternate Heaters** – Make sure there is ample space around any portable heating unit. Anything that could catch fire should be at least three feet away. Inspect your chimney annually and use fire screens to help keep any fires in the fireplace.
- 5) **Fire Safety Sprinklers** – When combined with working smoke alarms, home fire sprinklers greatly increase your chance of surviving a fire. Sprinklers are affordable and they can increase property value and lower insurance rates.
- 6) **Create An Escape Route** – Create and practice your escape plan with your family from every room in the house. Practice staying low to the floor and checking for hot doors using the back of your hand. It's just like a routine school fire drill – but in your home.
- 7) **Position Appliances Carefully** – Try to keep TV sets, kitchen and other appliances away from windows with curtains. If there is a wiring problem, curtains can spread a fire quickly. Additionally, keeping your appliances away from water sources can help prevent wiring damage which can lead to a fire.
- 8) **Clean Dryer Vents** – Clothes dryers often start fires in residential areas. Clean the lint filter every time you start a load of clothes to dry or after the drying cycle is complete. Clean the exhaust duct with a good quality dryer vent brush to prevent blockage & check for lint build up behind the dryer at least twice a year.
- 9) **Be Careful Around the Holidays** – If you fill your home with lights during the holiday season, keep them away from anything that can easily catch fire. Check all of your lights prior to stringing them up and dispose of anything with frayed or exposed wires.
- 10) **Conduct Regular Inspections** – Check all of your electronic equipment and wiring at least once a month. Taking a little time to do this each month can really pay off.

Following these simple tips could potentially save your life or the life of a loved one. Pass this list on to your friends and family and make this fire prevention month count!

For more information go to <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education>



Found Property

The following pieces of property were found in the Village last month with no owner known at this time. These items are currently in the custody of the Waunakee Police Department. If you or someone you know lost these items please contact Sgt. Bartels at 849-4500 or by email rbartels@waunakeepd.org. Please provide a complete description of the item you lost so a positive identification can be made.

1. A Key Fob/Key Chain was found in the 400 block of W Main St on 9-5-16
2. A fall, lawn decoration was located in the 600 block of W. Main St on 9-10-16
3. A jacket was found in Tierney Park on 9-19-16

4. A bicycle was found in the 700 block of W Main St in 9-19-16
5. A bicycle was found in Village Park on 9-21-16
6. A bicycle was found at the Waunakee High School on 9-29-16



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.

<https://www.facebook.com/Waunakee-Police-Department-349673238430794/timeline/>

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.