# TOSA WATCH

Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

**Volume 34, Issue 3** **July - September 2025**


### Inside This Issue


*Tosa's Night Out 2025 ..... 1*

*Tosa Green Summit 2025 ..... 2*

*AI Safety ..... 2*

*Water Safety, What? ..... 3*

*Block Party Banners ..... 4*

*Crime Statistics ..... 4*

**TOSA WATCH - Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter is sponsored by:**

**The Wauwatosa Police Department-Community Support Division**
**1700 North 116th Street**
**Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53226**
**Telephone: (414) 471-8430**
**FAX: (414) 471-8470**

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


## Tosa's Night Out 2025

Tosa's Night Out 2025 will be here before you know it. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, August 6, 2025 from 4p-8p. Our annual event will again take place at Hart Park, 7300 W. Chestnut Street. Tosa's Night Out will be side-by-side with the Tosa Tonight concert series for your listening pleasure! Tosa Tonight concert series will feature "Velocity" with Guests "Rock Revolutionaries" for your listening pleasure. Both Midwest bands will have you singing along and get you up and moving.

Tosa's Night Out is a free event where everyone is welcome. For the first time in our history, t-shirts will only be available for purchase on the day of the event; there is no longer a pre-registration option. Shirts will be $7.50 per person. In addition, the ever-popular tote bags will also be handed out to each family that makes a t-shirt purchase (one per family). Flashlights and other sponsored checkpoint items will also be handed out during the "Flashlight Walk Against Crime" walk route. The walk begins promptly at 8:00 PM at Hart Park on the day of the event. Tosa's Night Out is designed to celebrate and solidify community partnerships that exist in Wauwatosa which help keep our citizens, businesses, and visitors safe and informed. There will be displays from local vendors, the Police K9's, Motorcycle Officer demonstrations, Special Response Team and other specialized units of your Police Department. There will also be a fire department experience, health and wellness exhibit's and consumer protection information. Fingers crossed that the Flight for Life helicopter will make a landing too. Food and refreshments will also be available at family friendly prices.

To the right is the 2025 commemorative design created by our friends at Catral Doyle Creative. The illustrative design for 2025 celebrates the Wauwatosa's Hart Park and our magnificent band shell that draws visitors on Wednesday night throughout the Summer.

**Bring a non-perishable food item for a local food pantry and receive a free raffle ticket.**

Hope to see you there!

# Tosa Green Summit 2025

The Tosa Green Summit returns for its 15th year of recycling and exhibits on
**Saturday, September 13 and Saturday, September 20**

**Saturday, September 13, 8a to 2p:**
Recycling collections for MMSD Household Hazardous Waste (Milwaukee County Residents Only) at the Wauwatosa Public Words Yard. Public Works is located at 11100 W. Walnut Road, please enter at Watertown Plank Road and 113th Street. The Drop Off Center will also be open that day for Wauwatosa residents.

**Saturday, September 20, 9a to 12p:**
Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers Shred-It Event
(Donations accepted for Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers)
Wauwatosa Health Department Medicine Collection
Textiles, Bikes, Scrap Metal collection will take place at the City Hall Parking Lot, 7725 W. North Avenue.
(Tooth Brushes, Toothpaste tubes and donations accepted for Tosa Cares)
Exhibits in the Lower Civic Center from **10a to 1p** featuring land, water, energy, transportation, conservation and more.
Presentations in the Firefly Room from Save our Songbirds and Plastic Free MKE from **11a to 12p.**

Like Tosa Green Summit on Facebook **https://www.facebook.com/TosaGreenSummit**

# AI Safety

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming part of everyday life—especially for teens. Whether it's homework help, social media filters, or recommended videos, AI powers many of the apps your teen uses. While these tools can be fun and helpful, they also come with real risks.

From TikTok and Snapchat to chatbots and filters, teens are interacting with AI daily—sometimes without even realizing it. These tools shape what they see, how they communicate, and even how they think. Take some time to ask your teen what AI-powered apps or tools they use. Learn about the capabilities of AI together, and how it works.

Keep in mind that AI tools often collect personal data—like images, messages, or location. This can lead to unwanted exposure, targeted ads, or even the misuse of your teen's identity online. Talk with your children about using strong privacy settings, and remind them what information should or shouldn't be shared.

AI is smart—so we need to be smarter. AI-generated content can include deepfakes, fake news, or scams that look incredibly real. If it's hard for adults to tell what's true, it's even harder for teens. Be cautious about what content you and your kids choose to trust or share.

**What Are Deepfakes?**

A "deepfake" refers to synthetic media—typically videos, audio, or images—created using deep learning algorithms. These digital manipulations can make a person appear to say or do something they never actually did. The most common type of deepfake is face swapping, where one person's face is superimposed onto another's body in a video or photo.

**What Can You Do?**

Teach your teen to think critically. Talk about how to recognize fake content, and how to avoid suspicious links or messages. A great starting point is this resource:

**ConnectSafely.org**
They offer free, downloadable "Parent Guides" on AI, chatbots, deepfakes, and digital safety for families.

We even tried their quiz on identifying AI-generated images—and our group average was just 33%. Not so great, but a powerful reminder that anyone can be fooled.

You don't need to be a tech expert to help your teen stay safe. Stay involved, ask questions, and keep the conversation going. Supporting and guiding our children is the best tool we have.

## Please, Please, Please

When you're out and about, whether it be at the grocery store or the mall, pumping gas or just walking the dog. Please be aware of your surroundings, pay attention to people, cars and anything that may look suspicious.

It only takes a moment for an incident to occur and for one to become the victim of a crime.

Put your phone away. Once you've gotten to where you need to be, there will be plenty of time to discuss whatever it is that is so important.

**WAUWATOSA CRIME STOPPERS**

**771-TOSA or**
**Text Keyword**
**"Tosa" to "Crimes"**

Cash Reward up to $1,000

**Wauwatosa Police Department**

***James MacGillis – Chief of Police***

**Community Support Division**

***Captain Luke Vetter***
***Lieutenant Bradley Beckman***
***Sergeant Tom Orlowski***
***Specialist II Mike McDermott***
***Specialist I Ralph Salyers***
***School Officer Farris Griffin***
***School Officer Maria Albiter***
***Community Support Specialist – Laura Laurishke***

# Water Safety, What?

## Water Safety in Wauwatosa: A Conversation Worth Having

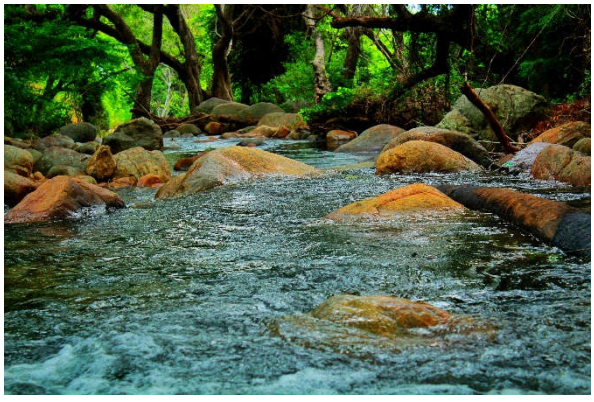
Water safety isn't always on the top of our mind for many in Wauwatosa. But with the Menomonee River running through our parks and parkways, it's important to talk about the precautions and safeguards needed—especially when the river runs high and fast.

Summer rains can raise water levels quickly, and what may seem like innocent fun—such as children playing near the river—can turn dangerous in an instant. While normal water levels are typically not a concern, overflowing rivers and lakes pose serious risks. Fast-moving water can carry hidden currents strong enough to pull someone under in seconds. The murky water makes it difficult, even impossible, to see submerged rocks, tree limbs, or other objects that could cause injury or knock someone unconscious.

As parents, it's vital to keep a close eye on what our children are doing. Parenting is a never-ending responsibility—rewarding, but full of challenges that keep us alert. Here are some helpful tips to support water safety conversations with your kids:

- **Go fishing together.** Visit area parks when water levels are normal and use the opportunity to talk about safety. Use "what if" scenarios to help your children think through real-life situations.
- **Discuss emergencies.** Ask your children what they would do if someone was in danger in the water. Would they try to help? Would they know to call 911? Walk through possible responses.
- **Create an action plan.** Help your kids come up with a clear plan for what to do if they're near water without an adult.
- **Teach good judgment.** Let your children know that while playing near shallow water may be safe at times, there are conditions—like after a heavy rain—when they should stay away from the river completely.

This article isn't meant to scare you or your children—but difficult conversations like these are necessary. Prevention and education are always better than dealing with the consequences of inexperience or poor decisions.



# Block Party Banners

NOW AVAILABLE!
Block Party Street Banners

- Easily attaches to street barricades or garbage carts.
- Prevents traffic flow during a block party.
- Advertises the block party with a 2½' x 10' banner.

Reserve your banners now…there are 16 sets available for distribution. Just check the box at the bottom of the block party application to reserve a set for your party, and remember there is a $50.00 deposit that will be returned when the banners have been returned.

If you have questions, call Maija Ptaszek at 471-8430, ext. 5129. Banners are available for pickup at the Police Department on the Friday prior to a block party. Please return by the following Monday so the banners can be re-distributed.

To have a block party, a permit is required. One can find the Block Party permit at the City webpage, **www.wauwatosa.net**, then type "block party" in the search bar.

Completed applications go to Mary Weger at, mweger@wauwatosa.net, mailing them to, or dropping them off at the Wauwatosa Police Department, 1700 North 116th Street Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Mary Weger can be reached at 471-8430, ext. 5101 for further questions.

# Crime Statistics

Comparative Analysis – City Wide

| Category | 01-01-24 thru 05-31-24 | 01-01-25 thru 05-31-25 | Percentage of Change 2024 - 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Part 1 Crimes* | | | |
| Homicide | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Sexual Assault | 16 | 13 | -18.75% |
| Robbery | 10 | 8 | -20.00% |
| Assault | 60 | 49 | -18.33% |
| Burglary | 25 | 39 | 56.00% |
| Larceny-Theft | 518 | 495 | -4.44% |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 63 | 43 | -31.75% |
| ***Subtotal of Part 1 Crimes*** | ***692*** | ***647*** | **-6.50%** |
| *Other Select Incidents* | | | |
| Fraud | 99 | 94 | -5.05% |
| Vandalism | 41 | 47 | 14.63% |
| Narcotic Law Violations | 33 | 22 | -33.33% |
| Drunken Driving | 47 | 43 | -8.51% |
| Disorderly Conduct | 903 | 812 | -10.08% |
| Fatal MVA | 1 | 0 | -100.00% |
| Personal Injury MVA | 53 | 45 | -15.09% |
| Property Damage MVA | 388 | 426 | 9.79% |
| ***Total of All Calls*** | ***16,176*** | ***14,649*** | ***-9.44%*** |

***Note: The above are incidents that are reported and investigated by the Police Department. Actual crime classifications usually change when the complaints are finally analyzed and dispositions are determined. This may result in different numbers reported to the NIBRS incident-based reporting system at the end of the year.***

To view Crime Mapping from the Wauwatosa Police Department, go to www.wauwatosa.net, search "crime mapping", then click on "Crime Reports (Crime Mapping Program)" and lastly click on "View Crime Map". You can click on data points to get call class information. If you still have questions, feel free to contact Laura Laurishke at 414-471-8430 or at llaurishke@wauwatosa.net.