TOSA WATCH

Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

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TOSA WATCH - Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter is published quarterly 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 always welcome.**

Tosa's Night Out 2026

SAVE THE DATE

8	5	2026
Month	Day	Year

More information to come in the
July – September edition of the Tosa Watch Newsletter

Or follow updates at
https://tosasnightout.org/

Did You Know?

The Wauwatosa Police Department recently received questions regarding Greenway bike lanes. These were great questions, and we're happy to provide some clarification.

Questions:

- Can I drive in the bike lane if there are no bicyclists present?
- Am I only allowed to enter the bike lane at a dotted (dashed) line?

Answers:
Even if no bicyclists are present, drivers are not permitted to travel in a bike lane unless there is a dashed line indicating that entry is allowed. Similar to passing on a two-lane roadway, this would typically only apply when briefly maneuvering around a turning vehicle that is impeding traffic. Drivers must return to the main travel lane as soon as it is safe to do so. Bike lanes are designated spaces, and it's important to keep them clear and safe for bicyclists.

We also want to clarify proper procedures for making right turns at intersections. When preparing to turn right at a stop sign or traffic signal, drivers should remain in the main travel lane. Before turning, ensure that any bicyclists are continuing straight within the bike lane. Once it is safe, you may complete your turn. Drivers should not merge into or use the bike lane to make a right turn unless clearly marked; doing so may result in a citation.

We hope this helps answer your questions. If you're unsure about a traffic rule, others likely have the same question—so please don't hesitate to reach out. You can submit questions to llaurishke@wauwatosa.net or call 414-471-8430.

Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers

Download P3 Tips available in the Apple Store or on Google Play.

Anonymous tips can be made utilizing either P3 or by calling the Wauwatosa Police Department at

771-TOSA (8672)

Cash rewards up to $1,000.

Wauwatosa Police Department

James MacGillis - Chief of Police

Special Events & Community Outreach Team

Captain Shane Wrucke
Lieutenant Cory Wex
Sergeant Tom Orlowski
Specialist II Dexter Schleis
Specialist I Ashley Trawicki
School Officer Farris Griffin
School Officer Maria Albiter
School Officer Kelsey Pentimalli
Community Support Specialist Laura Laurishke

HARTFEST 2026
BBQ & Music

FRIDAY – JUNE 12
SATURDAY – JUNE 13
HART PARK

Live Music
Nightly

Free Admission

Independence Day Activities

Parade along North Avenue on July 4, 9:00 a.m.

The parade starts at approximately 9:00 am. Over 80 units will leave the staging area near Swan Blvd (92nd Street). The parade will go east on North Avenue, ending near 80th Street.

Road closures:

- N. Swan Blvd. will be closed between W. Meinecke Ave. and the Menomonee River Pkwy.
- Menomonee River Pkwy will also be closed between N. Swan Blvd. and Charles Hart Pkwy.
- W. North Ave will be closed between Menomonee River Pkwy. and Wauwatosa Ave.

Sensory Zone for Parade

Between the blocks of 80th to 81st Street on North Avenue, be on the lookout for our Sensory Zone for the parade. In this section, designated with signage, there will be minimized lights and sounds for individuals with disabilities and those who prefer a less stimulating environment.

This initiative is geared towards individuals who are sensitive to sensory overload, including those with autism, PTSD, or other conditions that make such environments challenging. Our Sensory Zone ensures everyone can join in and enjoy the festivities comfortably.

Handicapped Accessible Parking & Viewing Area for Parade

- Parking - At the Bell Tower Office Bldg. (9200 W. North Ave.)
- Viewing Area - Located at the corner of Swan Blvd. & North Ave.

Afternoon Program on July 4

Details coming soon.

Fireworks on July 4 (Yet to be Determined)

Launch Time: Approximately 9:15 p.m.

Please use this link https://www.wauwatosa.net/discover-tosa/community-events/independence-day-parade for updates on all activities.



THIS MEMORIAL DAY PLEASE REMEMBER ALL OUR COUNTRY'S MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE FALLEN IN THE LINE OF DUTY – CITIZENS OF THIS GREAT NATION WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES TO PRESERVE THE LIBERTIES UPON WHICH AMERICA WAS FOUNDED.



Remember - Pets

Wauwatosa Ordinances require pet owners to make sure the following steps are followed:

The owner or walker of either a dog or cat shall carry a feces scoop/bag and shall be responsible for its acts on either public or private property and is required to clean up debris **immediately.** Bag shall be deposited in a public garbage or the owner's garbage on their own property.

Neither dogs nor cats shall be permitted to **run at large**, and when leashed, the leash may not exceed 10' in length.

All dogs and cats, 6 months or older, are required to be licensed. Licenses are available at the City's Treasurer's Office. Pet owners must offer proof of rabies vaccination for licensing. The license tag shall be attached to a collar, and this collar shall at all times be worn by the dog or cat for which the license is issued.

We Need Your Help – Tosa's Night Out

The Wauwatosa Neighborhood Watch Steering Committee (NWSC) is a group of volunteer citizens who formed a partnership with the Wauwatosa Police Department in 1994. The Mission of the committee is to actively advocate for community safety throughout Wauwatosa.

The NWSC is responsible for planning and making Tosa's Night Out a reality, which they have done for thirty years to date. The NWSC works hand in hand with the Wauwatosa Police Department to create a community / police partnership bond that is imperative to help with community-oriented policing.

At this point in time the NWSC is looking for additional member to join their team. The commitment is only a few hours a month, with the majority of hours being spent at Tosa's Night Out to create an event that runs smoothly. Our meetings are scheduled every month on the 4th Tuesday and meeting time are generally 6p to 7p, or shortly thereafter. On August 5th we'd look for a commitment of 4p to 9p, but will work with you on the hours for that night if necessary.

Once Tosa's Night Out is over for the year, regular hourly meeting will continue, where the group will discuss grant options offered to the community for safety related requests, and continued planning for the following years' event. Be an active participant in choosing a $1,000 scholarship winner for one student at each East and West High Schools that are interested in Law Enforcement related careers each year as well.

Does this sound like something you'd be interested in? We'd love to have you join us and share in the fun, meet new community members and police officers. If you're interested, please reach out to Laura Laurishke at the Wauwatosa Police Department at llaurishke@wauwatosa.net or call 414-471-8430 ext. 5111. We look forward to hearing from you.

Drug Take Back Day

Saturday, April 25th, 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.

The Wauwatosa Police Department will once again sponsor a Drug Take-Back Event. The goal is to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposal of prescription medications. (**NO** syringes accepted) Please stop by and see us at the Wauwatosa Police Department, 1700 N 116th Street, or at the Medical College of Wisconsin, 1100 Blk of North 87th Street (8:00a – 12:00p), no need to get out of your car, we'll come to you.



Hope to see you there!

Block Parties 2026

With block party season fast approaching, we wanted to share a quick update on the block party permit process.

In the near future, block party permit applications will be completed entirely online. Once the new system is finalized, we will share details on the Wauwatosa Police Department's Facebook page and provide the information to Block Watch Captains to distribute to neighbors. The new process is designed to be simple and efficient, with payments made securely online.

In the meantime, please continue using the current process:
Visit the City of Wauwatosa website and search for "Block Party" to access the permit application. Print the form, complete it, and return it to the Wauwatosa Police Department along with your barricade payment, as usual.

A few important reminders:

- **Advance notice:**
  Please submit your application at least **three weeks in advance**. This allows the Police Department to notify other City departments of planned road closures for emergency planning purposes. While we will do our best to accommodate late applications, approval cannot be guaranteed.
- **Neighbor communication:**
  While neighbor signatures are not currently required, we strongly encourage you to notify those who will be affected by the street closure. Consider creating a simple flyer with the date and time of your event so neighbors can plan accordingly. Please make every effort to allow vehicle access in and out of the street if needed.
- **Street closure options:**
  You may choose to close your street using **barricades or banners** (please indicate your selection on the application):
  - **Barricades (preferred):**
    The cost is **$35.00 for two barricades**, payable by check to the City of Wauwatosa when submitting your application. This fee includes delivery and pickup by the Department of Public Works. Additional instructions will be included with your approved permit.
  - **Banners:**
    Banners may be tied to garbage carts (please note: vehicles may not be used as barricades). Banners can be picked up at the Wauwatosa Police Department, Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
    There is no longer a deposit required; however, unreturned banners will result in a replacement fee added to your tax bill.
- **Police & Fire attendance:**
  The Wauwatosa Police Department will make every effort to visit block parties throughout the city, depending on patrol activity levels. Officers enjoy connecting with the community, and we know residents appreciate their visits.
  Please note: the Wauwatosa Fire Department will no longer attend block parties.

We hope this information helps answer your questions and makes planning your block party easier. Applications available on the City of Wauwatosa website, or by searching "Block Party."

If you have any questions, please contact:
Laura Laurishke (414-471-8430, ext. 5111, llaurishke@wauwatosa.net), or
Mary Weger (ext. 5101, mweger@wauwatosa.net), at the Wauwatosa Police Department.

