TOSA WATCH

Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

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

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Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53226
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TOSA WATCH **provides useful information for citizens who participate in the Wauwatosa Block Watch Program. Reader comments and contributions are welcome.**

October Is Substance Abuse Month

Answers to frequent questions about substance use
Understanding substance use is critical in knowing how to prevent it.

Why are some people more likely to use substances?
People report using substances for a wide variety of reasons. Some people use substances to feel pleasurable, stimulating, or relaxing effects. Others who experience anxiety, stress, depression, or pain may use substances to try to feel better. Some people use substances to try to improve their focus in school or at work or their abilities in sports. Many people—especially young people—use substances out of curiosity and because of social pressure. The age at which people start using substances—and whether they continue—depends on many different individual and societal factors across a person's life.

Why are some people more likely to develop a substance use disorder?
While many people try substances at some point in their lives and even continue to use them, only some people develop substance use disorders. No single factor determines whether a person will develop a substance use disorder. These chronic but treatable health conditions are the result of many factors across a person's life. Here are a few examples:

Age at substance use initiation: Substance use at a young age can influence brain development and behavior in ways that increase the likelihood of going on to use a variety of substances and developing a substance use disorder. Consequently, people who start to use substances as children and young adolescents are more likely to develop a substance use disorder than are those who first use substances in late adolescence or young adulthood. For this reason, most prevention programs focus on preventing or delaying substance use in youth.

Genetics: Inherited biological factors can play a significant role in a person's likelihood of using substances and of developing a substance use disorder.

Mental health issues: People with mental illnesses like depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder, and many other psychiatric conditions are also more likely to use substances and to develop substance use disorders.

For referrals to treatment programs, call 211 or 833-944- 4673 for the Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline or visit addictionhelpwi.org.

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.



If you know someone that may be interested in receiving this newsletter, please have them contact Laura Laurishke at llaurishke@wauwatosa.gov or by calling 414-471-8430 ext. 5111. We'd like to get them on the email address list for distribution.

If you know someone that is elderly or disabled and has no access to a computer or the ability to connect to the internet, please have them call the police department and we will set-up arrangements for a newsletter to be sent to them.

The Wauwatosa Police Department will have a limited number of copies of the Tosa Watch newsletter at our department, the Wauwatosa Library and the Hart Park Senior Center.

Suspicious Activity: When to Call the Police

Suspicious calls to the police department generally fall into three categories: circumstances, persons, and vehicles.
Recognizing suspicious activity can be as simple as asking yourself: Could the person or vehicle I am observing:

- Be about to commit a crime?
- Be in the act of committing a crime?
- Have just committed a crime?

In your neighborhood, you can rely on your personal knowledge of the area. Do you recognize the person or vehicle as a frequent visitor? Do you know that a particular house is vacant? This is where knowing your neighbors and being familiar with your surroundings can be especially helpful. Use your knowledge of the neighborhood to help determine whether something appears suspicious or out of the ordinary.

If you see a suspicious vehicle, can you tell whether it is occupied? Do you recognize the vehicle? Does it appear to be in the area for a specific purpose, or is it simply sitting there? Whether the vehicle is occupied or unoccupied, if you feel that something is suspicious or you feel threatened, you should call the police.

Reporting a suspicious circumstance to the police is always something you should consider. Call 911 immediately if you believe a crime is in progress or if you suspect that you or someone else is in immediate danger. Calling 911 will ensure the quickest police response.

The non-emergency number for the Wauwatosa Police Department is 414-471-8430. This number should be used for incidents that are not in progress. When someone answers, simply ask for Dispatch.

The bottom line: Never hesitate to call the police if you are concerned about a suspicious circumstance, person, or vehicle. Err on the side of caution. There have been many instances in which a concerned citizen's call based on suspicious activity has helped prevent a crime, interrupt a crime in progress, or assist police in making an arrest after a crime has occurred.

Remember…

Fall brings cooler temperatures, changing weather, shorter days, and changing road conditions. Simple precautions can help keep you and others safe on the road.

- ✓ A layer of leaves on the roadway can be especially slippery when wet and may hide potholes, lane markings, or other hazards.
- ✓ Bridges, overpasses, and shaded areas can freeze before other road surfaces. Slow down and use extra caution when temperatures approach freezing.



Trick or Treat

The City of Wauwatosa's Trick-or-Treat hours are **Sunday, October 25, 2026 from 1-4pm**.

Please contact your Neighborhood Associations directly for information on their events.

Again, the Wauwatosa Police Department will partner with the Wauwatosa Recreation Department for **Trunk-or-Treat**. The event will take place on **Saturday, October 17th** from **11am – 1:30pm** at the Fisher Administration Building, East Parking Lot, 12121 W. North Avenue.

There will be plenty of candy, food trucks, popcorn, music and face painting with Life's a Party.

For further details, please follow the Wauwatosa Police Department on Facebook, we will post updates at that location.



Wauwatosa Police Department

James MacGillis - Chief of Police

Community Engagement Team

Captain Shane Wrucke
Sergeant Thomas Orlowski
Specialist II Dexter Schleis
Specialist I Ashley Trawicki
School Resource Officers:
Farris Griffin
Maria Albiter
Kelsey Pentimalli
Evan Olson
Community Support Specialist
Laura Laurishke

Crime Statistics

Comparative Analysis – City Wide

Category	02-01-25 thru 08-31-25	02-01-26 thru 08-31-26	Percentage of Change 2025 - 2026
Part 1 Crimes			
Sexual Assault	12	15	25.00%
Robbery	13	19	46.15%
Assault	79	87	10.13%
Burglary	44	33	-25.00%
Larceny-Theft	754	737	-2.25%
Motor Vehicle Theft	66	65	-1.52%
Subtotal of Part 1 Crimes	***968***	***956***	**-1.23%**
Other Select Incidents			
Fraud	152	150	-1.32%
Vandalism	70	68	-2.86%
Narcotic Law Violations	42	58	38.10%
Drunken Driving	54	45	-16.67%
Disorderly Conduct	1,230	1,162	-5.53%
Fatal MVA	0	0	-
Personal Injury MVA	94	82	-12.77%
Property Damage MVA	632	638	0.95%
Total of All Calls	***21,267***	***21,684***	***1.96%***

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.

If there is something you'd like addressed in this newsletter, please contact Laura Laurishke at 414-471-8430 ext. 5111 or email llaurishke@wauwatosa.gov. We will do our best to accommodate your request.

Drug Take Back

Saturday, October 24th
9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.

The Wauwatosa Police Department will once again sponsor a National 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 1700 N 116th Street, or at Medical College of WI Health Research Center, 8701 Watertown Plank Road. No need to get out of your car, we'll come to you.

Hope to see you there!



On behalf of the Wauwatosa Police Department, we wish you and your families



Tosa's Night Out – Thank You

The Wauwatosa Police Department and the Wauwatosa Neighborhood Watch Committee would like to send a big "THANK YOU" to everyone that participated in Tosa's Night Out Against Crime on Wednesday, August 5th.

The weather was questionable, but it did stay dry for family and friends to gather and enjoy all Hart Park had to offer at this years' Tosa's Night Out.

To our Sponsors and Participating Groups, your commitment to support this community event does not go unnoticed. Tosa's Night Out happens because of you, so, **Thank You!**

Monetary Sponsors:

WaterStone Bank
Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin
Action Law * Bunzel's Meat Market and Catering
Current Electric * Meijer * Kiwanis Club of Wauwatosa
Catral Doyle Creative * Fast Signs

Raffle Sponsors:

Balistreri's Italian American Ristorante * Breadsmith
Colonel Hart's * Green Bay Packers * Idyll Coffee Roasters
Jacobus Energy LLC * Kwik Trip
Ono Kine Grindz * Ristorante Bartolotta * Ruckus & Glee
Ultimate Confections * Yo Mama

Participating Groups:

Action Law * Ascension – Tosa Urgent Care * Bunzel's Meat Market
Bureau of Consumer Protection * Children's Wisconsin – Foster Care
Current Electric * Ebenezer Child Care Center
Friends of Hoyt Park & Pool * Froedtert Health Community Outreach
Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast * Jest for Fun – Waukesha
Kiwanis Club of Wauwatosa
Milwaukee County Department Human Resources
Milwaukee County Probation & Parole
Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office – Bomb Squad
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
National Alliance on Mental Illness, Southeast Wisconsin
Pour, Inc. * Scouting America – Three Harbors Council
Scheels Sporting Goods * Sojourner Family Peace Center
Target * The Ability Center * United States Coast Guard
WaterStone Bank * Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers
Wauwatosa Department of Public Works * Wauwatosa Fire Department
Wauwatosa Health Department * Wauwatosa Lion's Club
Wauwatosa Police Accident & Investigation * Wauwatosa Police Bureau Services
Wauwatosa Police Crisis Assessment Response Team
Wauwatosa Police Dispatch * Wauwatosa Police Motor Patrol *
Wauwatosa Police Special Response Team
Wauwatosa Police Training & Personnel * Wauwatosa Public Library
Wauwatosa Recreation Center * Wauwatosa Sustainability Committee
Wauwatosa Veteran's Memorial Committee
Wraparound – Milwaukee County Health & Human Services