

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
APRIL 25, 2015

PREVENTING THEFT FROM VEHICLES

The police department responds to numerous complaints of personal property being stolen from vehicles each year with a marked increase during the summer months. These types of thefts commonly occur when cars and garages are left unlocked. Property stolen from unlocked vehicles include: GPS units, MP3 players, radar detectors, expensive stereo equipment, cell phones, lap tops, power tools, spare change, sunglasses, cameras, purses, hand tools, and firearms.

- Thieves will break into any vehicle if they think there is something of value to be stolen from it. Lock your vehicle and put the valuables out of sight, preferably in the trunk or bring them into the house at night.
- Outdoor security lighting left on from dusk to dawn or motion detection lighting is inexpensive and helps to deter crimes such as theft, vandalism, and burglary.
- You can increase the chances of your property being recovered if it is stolen by recording the make, model, and serial number. Simply taking a picture of the item may also help in its recovery.
- Report suspicious activity while it is happening. This could save you or your neighbor from being victimized. Call 9-1-1 and stay on the line if you see or hear something that seems unusual or suspicious. Try to get a description of the suspects and their vehicle. And most importantly, do not confront the suspects.

The Marshfield Police Department strongly encourages you to always lock your garage as well as your vehicle when it is left parked outside to prevent these types of thefts from happening to you or someone you know.

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MAY 2, 2015

ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND WORK ZONES

With spring and summer comes road construction and repair. This means there will be road closures, detours, one-lane traffic, rough roads, and construction crews and equipment in the city of Marshfield and throughout the state of Wisconsin.

It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle in a barricaded road-closed area. Drivers are not allowed to pass over or beyond any barricade by moving it or driving around it. A driver not only can be issued a ticket for this, but they are also responsible for any damage that may occur while operating in the road-closed area.

We urge motorists to use alternate routes of travel and to allow yourself more time to arrive at your destination. A reminder that fines double in construction zones and that you should be aware of changing conditions in these zones.

For work zone/road condition reports throughout the state of Wisconsin, you can call 1-800-ROADWIS (762-3947) or you can access their internet at www.dot.state.wi.us/travel/road/workzones.

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MAY 9, 2015

POLICE MEMORIAL WEEK

In 1963 President John Kennedy proclaimed May 15th of that year and each proceeding year as Peace Officer’s Memorial Day, and the week in which the date falls as National Police Week. This proclamation is to honor all officers killed in the line of duty and to give recognition to the dedicated service of the men and women in law enforcement today.

Annually, an average of 155 law enforcement officers die in the line of duty and more than 58,000 are assaulted, resulting in approximately 15,000 injuries. We ask that you remember them and their families during this time and throughout the year.

This year the Marshfield Police Department will celebrate Police Memorial Week with a service on Monday, May 11, 2015 at Beell Stadium at 6:30 p.m. All members of the community are welcome to attend the service and the brief reception which follows.

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MAY 16, 2015

GRADUATION AND UNDERAGE ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION
SOCIAL HOSTING ORDINANCE

As all area high schools and families prepare for graduation, it is important that both students and family members act responsibly. Persons below the age of 21 are not allowed to consume alcoholic beverages outside the presence of their parents or legal guardians. Adults should be aware that providing alcohol to a minor is against the law.

The City of Marshfield social hosting ordinance states no adult may knowingly permit, host, or fail to take action to prevent the illegal consumption or possession of alcoholic beverage by an underage person on premises owned by the adult or under the adult's control. A person who commits a violation may be required to forfeit not more than \$700 plus court costs for the first offense. Forfeitures may go as high as \$6,000 plus court costs for 3 or more previous violations of this ordinance.

For the underage offenders, the penalties vary depending on age and prior violations. Anyone under the age of 17 years who has been cited for this offense must appear in court with a parent, and the judge will determine an appropriate penalty. Violators will be issued forfeitures and suspension of driving privileges from two months to one year.

If anything should happen to a child who has consumed alcohol provided by an adult/parent, that adult/parent may be held both criminally and civilly responsible.

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MAY 23, 2015

MOTORCYCLE AND MOPED LAWS

Motorcycles:

No person may operate a Type 1 motorcycle, which is a motorcycle capable of speeds in excess of 30 miles per hour (mph) while carrying a 150 pound person, unless the person possesses a valid operator's license specifically authorizing the operation of Type 1 motorcycles. All operators must wear approved eye protection, and if you are under the age of 18 or have a motorcycle instruction permit, you must also wear a helmet.

- No person may accompany the permittee except a person with at least two years of licensed driving experience and whose license is endorsed for Type 1 motorcycle operation may ride as a passenger-instructor.
- The permittee may not operate a cycle during hours of darkness unless accompanied by a licensed person 25 years of age or more who has at least two years of licensed driving experience and whose license is endorsed for Type 1 motorcycle operation may ride as a passenger-instructor.

A motorcycle, moped, motor bicycle, or bicycle facing a red signal light at an intersection may, after stopping as required for not less than 45 seconds, proceed cautiously through the intersection before the signal turns green if no other vehicles are present at the intersection to actuate the signal and the operator of the motorcycle, moped, motor bicycle, or bicycle reasonably believes the signal is vehicle actuated. The operator of a motorcycle, moped, motor bicycle, or bicycle proceeding through a red signal light shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicular traffic, pedestrian, bicyclist, or rider of an electric personal assistive mobility device proceeding through a green signal at the intersection or lawfully within a crosswalk or using the intersection.

Mopeds:

A moped is a motorcycle whose engine may not exceed 50 cubic centimeters (CC) in size with an automatic transmission.

Generally, anyone with a valid driver's license may operate a moped. However, it is not legal to operate a moped with only a valid instruction permit.

Mopeds are subject to all traffic laws just like any other motor vehicle. You must obey traffic signals and stop signs, yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and slow down in school zones.

On roads where the speed limit is 25 mph or less, two mopeds may operate side-by-side if both riders agree. On roads where the speed limit is more than 25, mopeds must ride single file. On

roads with two or more lanes in each direction, mopeds must operate in the right lane except when turning left.

You may ride your moped on any roadway except freeways or roads where mopeds are specifically prohibited. You may not operate a moped on sidewalks, along fence lines or off the traveled surface of the roadway.

Mopeds are entitled to a full traffic lane but may not impede traffic. Don't operate a moped on private property without the property owner's permission. Mopeds may park in spaces designated for other motor vehicles, in bicycle racks or on sidewalks, unless otherwise prohibited.

Mopeds are designed for only one person. It is illegal to carry a passenger on a moped.

Mopeds must have brakes, lights and turn signals which must be maintained in safe working order.

Wisconsin does not require moped drivers to wear helmets, but be aware that a moped offers the rider almost no protection in case of a crash. Even at relatively slow moped speeds, head injuries in moped crashes are common. A United States Department of Transportation approved helmet is the best protection against serious injury.

Mopeds must use headlights when driving at night, but unlike motorcycles, there is no requirement for headlight use during the day. However, headlights turned on during the day can greatly improve moped visibility to other motorists, and it is a very good safety practice.

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MAY 30, 2015

PETS IN CITY PARKS

As nicer weather approaches so does the desire to take our pets to the city parks. Before you take on such a responsibility, it is best to know where you can and cannot go within a city park system.

As per our city ordinance 10.38(2) No person, except persons with assistance animals as provided in Wisconsin State Statute 174.056., shall allow dogs or other animals to enter any:

- public building
- picnic grounds
- playgrounds
- athletic facilities or
- the zoo within the city park

This does not apply, however, to personal assistance animals or animals escorted by a police officer or ordinance control officer as provided under Wisconsin State Statute 174.056.

In public areas where pets are permitted, they shall at all times be effectively restrained or under the owner's control as provided in section 10-34 of the city ordinance code.

Nonresidents who are patrons of the city-owned camping facilities may have pets, provided they are within the camping section, leashed or in enclosures.

You must also pick up all pet waste left behind by your pet as per city ordinance 10.34(1)(c).
Violations of the aforementioned ordinances could result in a fine amount of \$124.

All city park hours are 6:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. year round.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
JUNE 6, 2015**

**DOGS IN VEHICLES
SUMMER SHELTER FOR DOGS
BARKING DOGS**

Your pet can suffer from brain damage or death if it is in kept in a vehicle for a short period of time during warm weather. Even with the windows slightly open on an 85-degree day, the temperature inside a car can climb to 102 degrees in 10 minutes and 120 degrees in 30 minutes. A dog can withstand a body temperature of 107 to 108 degrees for only a very short time before suffering brain damage or death.

More people today are aware of this potentially serious problem and calls to the Marshfield Police Department have increased significantly for an officer to respond to the area and see if the pet is safe. We recommend that if you plan on being gone for any period of time, whether it is to shop or a doctor's appointment, the best way to keep your pet safe is to leave it at home.

Wisconsin law states dogs kept outdoors must have ready access to shelter. During the summer months this protects the dogs from the hot sun or inclement weather. A shade tree is not a proper shelter. Shelter should consist of a doghouse or access to a garage. Also make sure your dog has access to clean water on a daily basis when it is kept outside.

It is important to keep your dog's barking to a minimum. Regardless of the season or time of day or night, it is annoying to hear a neighborhood dog bark incessantly. If a dog is reported to be barking, attempts will be made to contact the owner to correct the problem. If the problem cannot be corrected, a citation may be issued to the dog's owner. In situations where there is an occasional bark or the dog stops barking before the officer arrives, the complaint will be evaluated, and if warranted, further action may be taken. Be a good neighbor and take your dog inside.

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JUNE 13, 2015
PERSONAL SAFETY AND HOME SECURITY

Below are some basic personal safety and home security tips to keep in mind when at home or traveling.

- Avoid walking alone after dark.
- When walking, wear reflective vests or clothing and remember your “Rules of the Road.”
- When traveling, always tell someone your plans and check in with them periodically.
- If you are going on vacation, you can talk with your neighbors to help keep an eye on things. Leave lights on timers, and if it is an extended time away, have your mail and paper held.
- Never pick up hitchhikers!
- Keep your vehicle doors locked at all times to protect your valuables and help deter criminals from getting your personal information—even if you are leaving your vehicle for a short period of time. Do you have a garage door opener in your car? If you do and do not lock your car, your home is not secure.
- Keep your doors and windows locked at your home or apartment, including your garage service entry, even when you are home.
- If you should find your home or apartment door “entered”—do not go inside as a burglar may still be in the residence. Move to a safe location, call 911, and stay on the line with the dispatcher until the police arrive.
- If you believe someone has entered your home while you are there, leave if at all possible. If you cannot leave, go to a room where you have a phone, lock the door and call 911. Stay on the line with the dispatcher until the police arrive.
- If you are elderly or live alone, Lifeline or LifeAlert are options that should be considered in case you need emergent assistance and are unable to reach a telephone. For more information about Lifeline or LifeAlert, call 211.
- Project Lifesaver is a non-profit program that provides safety, security, and rescue support services for adults or children who wander due to Alzheimer’s, autism, or other related “at risk” individuals with cognitive disorders. More information about Project Lifesaver can be found at www.projectlifesaver.org or call the Marshfield Police Department at (715)384-3113.