

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**JANUARY 5, 2019**

**ADULT SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD RECOGNITION WEEK:**  
**JANUARY 14 -18, 2019**

Each day dedicated adult crossing guards in our city show up at their assigned crossings to assist students in their journeys to or from school. The City of Marshfield honors our adult crossing guards for their commitment to child pedestrian safety during School Crossing Guard Recognition Week.

Adult school crossing guards play a critical role in keeping students safe as they walk to and from school each day. According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, approximately 1,000 children between the ages 5 and 9 are killed each year in pedestrian accidents. Adult school crossing guards place the children’s safety above their own by ensuring all traffic is stopped before students enter the roadway while facing speeding motorists, cell phone users and others disregarding traffic signals.

As part of the week-long celebration parents, students, teachers and school administrative staff are encouraged to give thank-you cards, or simply say “THANK YOU” to school crossing guards who live by the motto “Safety is First with Us Every Day.”

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**JANUARY 12, 2019**

**CLOTHING FOR STUDENT PEDESTRIANS**

Attention all parents! Many students are NOT dressing appropriately for the cold weather. Although your child may walk just a couple of blocks to school, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- During extreme cold weather, it may take only seconds for exposed skin to freeze.
- The student safety patrol officers are not allowed to cross children if there are any vehicles in the vicinity and this may mean a long wait for your child.
- Your child may be outside for recess twice a day and also after the lunch break.

If your child does not have proper winter garments (winter coats, hats, mittens, boots), please contact the police department or Wood County Human Services at 715-421-8600 for local resources that provide or can assist with obtaining the clothing your child needs during the cold winter months.

As a parent it is your responsibility to ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**JANUARY 19, 2019**

**PASSING SNOWPLOWS AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES**

The majority of crashes involving snowplows and vehicles happen when a snowplow is rear ended or hit while being passed. Snow plows have wing plow blades that can extend anywhere between two (2) and ten (10) feet beyond the width of the truck. This wing plow blade is often not seen because of the snow cloud being kicked up by the snowplow. These wing plows can often weigh as much as a compact car.

You should also know that it is illegal (state statute 346.915) to follow a snowplow closer than 200 feet upon any highway having the posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour if the snowplow is engaged in snow and ice removal. This does not apply when overtaking and passing a snowplow. But if the operator of any vehicle upon a highway having a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour, follows the snowplow more closely than 200 feet for one mile or more or follows more closely than 200 feet when the snowplow is moving at the maximum speed limit of the roadway, this is convincing and legal evidence that the operator of such following vehicle is violating this law.

There are three safety rules that are worth following:

- Give snowplows plenty of room to work. They are big and hard to see around.
- Don't pass a working snowplow—they can throw up a cloud of snow that could cause a whiteout and disorient you.
- Also, it is tough for snowplow drivers to see you. Don't crowd the plow. Make sure when behind a plow that you can see the driver's mirrors so he can see you. Remember, it is the law that you stay at least 200 feet behind a working snowplow.

One of the major hazards emergency workers and road crews face is being struck by passing motorists while the workers are performing their duties, and their emergency vehicle/machinery is parked with its flashing lights activated.

Wisconsin law states that the operator of any vehicle which approaches an emergency vehicle, such as a police squad, ambulance, fire truck, tow truck, or road machinery must do one of the following:

- Move into another lane if the roadway has at least two lanes, or
- Reduce speed until completely past the vehicle or machinery if there is only one lane or if it is unsafe to change lanes.

You can keep emergency workers and road crews safe by reducing speed and allowing as much room as possible as you pass.

For a state-wide road report call 511 or check the internet site <http://www.511wi.gov/web/>

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**JANUARY 26, 2019**

**TAX-RELATED IDENTITY THEFT**

Tax-related identity theft occurs when someone uses a stolen Social Security number to file a tax return to claim a fraudulent refund. A taxpayer's SSN can be stolen through a data breach, a computer hack or a lost wallet. Although identity theft affects a small percentage of tax returns, it can have a major impact on victims by delaying their refunds.

Here are some tips to protect you from becoming a victim and steps to take if you think someone may have filed a tax return using your name and Social Security number:

Tips to protect you from becoming a victim of identity theft:

- File early.
- Don't carry your Social Security card or any documents that include your Social Security number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).
- Don't give a business your SSN or ITIN just because they ask. Give it only when required.
- Protect your financial information.
- Check your credit report often. There is a website available for you to access your report at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com). For free credit reports, rotate checking the following credit report sites once every four months: Experian, Transunion and Equifax.
- Review your Social Security Administration earnings statement annually.
- Secure personal information in your home.
- Protect your personal computers by using firewalls and anti-spam/virus software, updating security patches and changing passwords for internet accounts.
- Don't give personal information over the phone, through the mail or on the internet unless you have initiated the contact or you are sure you know who you are dealing with. Also when on the internet, use websites that start with **https** which means the site is secure.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**FEBRUARY 2, 2019**

**ONLINE CLASSIFIED AD RISKS**

Online classified advertisements on websites like Craigslist, Etsy or eBay Classifieds are a double-edged sword. On one hand they offer a convenient means of setting up transactions like buying or selling goods, posting or finding jobs, and listing or seeking rental properties. But on the other hand, the open nature of these sites that appeals to their users also appeals to scammers. If you are looking online for a rental property and find an unreal deal, be very, very cautious.

Imposter scams are the primary way con artists use these sites to victimize the public. Fraudsters regularly post fake ads for rentals, employment opportunities and products for sale. According to Craigslist’s safety page, most of these rip-offs share a number of common characteristics:

- You are interacting by email or text with someone who is not in your area;
- The transaction begins with a vague initial inquiry, and the back and forth communications are riddled with spelling and grammatical errors;
- You are asked to make a payment by wire transfer, prepaid debit or gift cards, PayPal or another service that provides instant transactions that leave little trace; and
- The other party either refuses to meet or claims to be unable to meet face-to-face to complete the transaction.

Some tips to remember when dealing with another party through an online classified ad:

- If you are making a purchase or selling an item, deal locally and meet face-to-face with the other party in a public place. The Marshfield Police Department has an internet exchange zone located on First Street in front of the building, and some other police departments offer their station lobbies or parking lots as “safe zones” to use for the transactions (call your local police department to inquire before establishing it as the meeting point).
- Always be suspicious of over-the-top claims and too-good-to-be-true prices.
- Never wire funds to strangers or provide the code and PIN from a prepaid debit or gift card.
- Never rent a property sight unseen or provide information for a background check for a rental or a job until you have met a potential landlord or employer in person.
- If someone sends you a check and asks you to cash it and return a portion or send a portion to another person, it is a scam.

For additional information or to file a complaint, visit the Consumer Protection Bureau at <http://datcp.wi.gov>, send an e-mail to [datcphotline@wisconsin.gov](mailto:datcphotline@wisconsin.gov) or call the Consumer Information Hotline toll-free at 1-800-422-7129. You can also connect with Consumer Hotline on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/wiconsumer](http://www.facebook.com/wiconsumer).

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**FEBRYARY 9, 2019**

**INTERNET SAFETY AND CYBER BULLYING**

The internet can be a great tool for obtaining information and communicating with others. As with any tool, there are safety tips to ensure you have a positive experience.

- Never give out personal information online.
- Never respond to messages from someone you do not know.
- Parents should closely monitor their children’s internet use, including online gaming activities.
- Evaluate the web site’s purpose. Are they trying to sell, inform, or persuade.
- Report incidents of online harassment or other crimes to the police.

You can reduce your risk of being victimized online by using common sense.

Cyber bullying involves children who threaten, harass, humiliate, embarrass, or otherwise target another child using the internet, interactive and digital technologies, or mobile phones. The methods used are limited only by the child’s imagination and access to technology.

There are two kinds of cyber bullying: (1) direct attacks, which are messages sent directly to the child; and (2) cyber bullying by proxy, which involves others helping the cyber bully, either with or without their knowledge to attack the victim.

Kids cyber bully for various reasons such as anger, revenge, frustration, boredom, entertainment, or just have too much time on their hands and too many tech toys available to them. Most deliberate cyber bullying is done to torment the victim.

Cyber bullying may result in a person losing their internet or instant messaging provider due to service violations. It may also result in a child being charged with a law violation.

We need to take a stand against cyber bullying. If you or someone you know is being cyber bullied, you need to tell an adult such as a parent, school teacher or other school official, other trusted adult, or a police officer. Cyber bullying is painful—do not ignore that pain or let it build within you. **TELL SOMEONE!**

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**FEBRUARY 16, 2019**

**CITIZENS’ POLICE ACADEMY**

The Marshfield Police Department has revamped its citizen’s police academy program. We will be holding classes on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for seven (7) consecutive weeks, starting in April. Class size is limited to 20 adults.

The goals of the citizens’ police academy are:

- To provide citizens a working knowledge of law enforcement operations, including support staff.
- To strengthen law enforcement/community relations.
- To obtain valued feedback from the community through citizen participation.
- To increase citizen knowledge about police functions.
- To enhance employee’s instructor training skills.

The above objectives are met with the use of hands-on interactive experiences in areas such as crime scene investigations; SWAT tactics; utilization of police department firearms at the police range; and observe firsthand how the K-9 unit performs its duties.

If you are interested in participating, please call Peggy at 384-0800 between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT  
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”  
FEBRUARY 23, 2019**

**RABIES VACCINATION CLINIC  
AND  
ANIMAL LICENSING**

Every year local veterinarians sponsor a rabies vaccination clinic. This is to facilitate pet owners to have their animals (older than five months of age) immunized against this deadly and preventable disease.

**Rabies Clinic**

When: Saturday, March 16, 2019  
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.  
Location: Marshfield Mall (please use the Furniture and Appliance Mart entrance only).  
Cost: \$12.00 per pet.

**Pet Licensing Procedure**

The Marshfield Police Department ordinance officers will also be on hand to issue annual animal licenses (cash or checks only). Dogs and cats residing in the city must be licensed by March 31 of each year after they have reached the age of five months. The cost is \$8 for spayed or neutered dogs and \$6 for spayed or neutered cats. The cost is \$16 for unspayed or unneutered dogs and \$12 for unspayed or unneutered cats. Owners who license their pets after March 31 will have to pay a late fee of \$5 per animal licensed.

Licenses can also be obtained at the city treasurer's office Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The treasurer's office is in the new City Hall building located at 207 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

City ordinance requires the licensing of all cats and dogs inside the city limits of Marshfield on a yearly basis. The license requirement is for your safety to ensure that the animals have had their proper shots. The license is also used for the safe return of your pets if they are lost. Failure to license your pet may result in a fine of \$124.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**MARCH 2, 2019**

**WILDLIFE BABIES IN THE CITY**  
**“If you truly care, leave it there”**

Life in the city can be a bustling adventure for people; imagine what life in the city must be like for wildlife. Every year, especially in the spring, new wildlife appears in the form of trees, leaves, flowers, birds that have migrated back, and newborn animals, particularly newborn fawns.

Every spring deer give birth to one to three fawns. They can be as small as three pounds when they are first born. They are weak, cannot walk well and do not have a scent for the first few days. They are born with spots and those spots along with the lack of a scent help the fawn to hide from predators. The fawns will seek cover after they are birthed. Does will leave their fawns for the better portion of a day to seek out food. The does WILL come back for their fawns; they have NOT been abandoned. If you come across a fawn, leave it alone. Do NOT touch the fawn or bring children by to see it as this creates stress in the fawn and will put it in danger. If a fawn is in obvious danger, such as being in the middle of the road or is injured, leave it there and call the Wood County Dispatch Center at 715-387-4394 and an Ordinance Control Officer will respond. Do NOT pick the fawn up or put it in a box and bring it to the police department.

It is natural to want to help baby animals. But that instinct to help may in fact harm the animal or break up a wildlife family. Baby wildlife may be harmed by human food so do not feed them. They should not be considered pets as they may carry harmful diseases and parasites which can spread to you or your pets. “The best gift you can give baby wildlife is to leave it alone, allow it to live as a wild animal and to be cared for by the one who knows best, its mother.”

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**MARCH 9, 2019**

**ST. PATRICK’S DAY HOLIDAY PERIOD**  
**STEPPED UP IMPAIRED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT**

On the days surrounding St. Patrick’s Day and throughout the year, the Marshfield Police Department strives to prevent motorists from killing and injuring themselves and others on our roadways. Although we try to increase voluntary compliance with traffic laws—not to write more tickets or make more arrests—we will take enforcement action if voluntary compliance fails. Our goal is to reduce preventable traffic deaths to zero in Wisconsin because even one preventable traffic fatality is one too many.

If you go out to celebrate, the Marshfield Police Department recommends the following tips:

- Plan a safe way home before your celebrations begin.
- If you plan to get a ride home with someone else, designate a sober driver before any drinking begins.
- If you’re impaired, use a taxi or call a sober friend or family member so you are sure to get home safely.
- If you happen to see a driver who appears to be impaired on the road, don’t hesitate to contact your local law enforcement or call 911.
- If you know someone who is about to drive while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

The Marshfield Police Department strongly urges the public to help keep the streets safe this St. Patrick’s Day and every day by drinking responsibly and designating a sober driver before heading to the local pub.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**MARCH 16, 2019**

**WISCONSIN CRIME ALERT NETWORK**

The Wisconsin Crime Alert Network from the Wisconsin Department of Justice allows local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement agencies to send out crime alert bulletins to businesses and the public targeting recipients based upon type of business and location. Alerts are sent via email, SMS text, and fax to those signed up to receive alerts.

Alert types may include:

- **Crime Prevention**
- Finding **Stolen Property**
- Identifying **Suspects**
- Locating **Missing Persons**
- Notifying Public about **Police Action**

Help keep Wisconsin Citizens and Communities safe

Go to:

[www.wisconsincrimealert.gov](http://www.wisconsincrimealert.gov)

For questions or more information:

Call: 608-240-3597

Email [info@wisconsincrimealert.gov](mailto:info@wisconsincrimealert.gov)

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**MARCH 23, 2019**

**DOG/CAT LICENSING PROCEDURE**

Your pet must be vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian. The veterinarian will then issue you a rabies certificate explaining the vaccination and the expiration date. Rabies vaccinations are good for one or three years. At the time of vaccination you will also be given a rabies tag. This rabies tag is not a license.

Marshfield city ordinance states all cats and dogs living within the city limits of Marshfield and are five months of age or older must be licensed on an annual basis. The license requirement is for your safety to ensure that the animals have had their proper shots. The license is also used for the safe return of your pets if they are lost.

You will then take the “rabies certificate” obtained from the veterinarian to the city treasurer’s desk located at the new City Hall, 207 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Upon showing your certificate to the person in charge, he/she will issue the proper license. The treasurer’s office is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cost is as follows:

Dog: Neutered/spayed = \$8  
Cat: Neutered/spayed = \$6

Dog: Unneutered/unspayed = \$16  
Cat: Unneutered/unspayed = \$12

If for some reason you cannot make it to the treasurer’s office during business hours, you may have a friend or family member license the pet for you. Remember, however, to have them obtain the license in your name.

The license runs from January 1 through December 31. By law all pets must be licensed by March 31. If licensed after that date, a \$5 late fee is charged. The license must be renewed every year. **THE FINE FOR FAILURE TO LICENSE IS \$124.**

Marshfield also has a City Ordinance 9.52(3)(d)1 which states that a household may not have more than two dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, without a special written permit provided by an ordinance officer, following an inspection of the premises has been conducted and no nuisance will be created.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**MARCH 30, 2019**

**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

The month of April has been designated as Child Abuse Prevention Month. This is a time to remind the public that everyone has a responsibility to report potential child abuse or any other type of child victimization. Each year law enforcement agencies investigate many reports of suspected child abuse and neglect.

If you know of a child that needs help, please call the following numbers:

- If the report is an emergency, please call 911.
- If there is a suspected abuse and it is not an emergency, please contact your local human services department or law enforcement agency.
  - Wood County Human Services Department – 715-421-8600 or 715-387-6374
  - Marathon County Human Services Department – 715-261-7500
  - You can also call the Wood County Dispatch Center at 715-387-4394
- If the suspected abuse is in another jurisdiction, please contact that jurisdiction’s law enforcement agency or department of human services.

Children can’t get help if the incidents are not reported. If you know someone that needs help, please call; you can place the call as an anonymous caller.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**APRIL 6, 2019**

**PROM, CURFEW, AND UNDERAGE DRINKING**

Prom

As high schools in the area prepare for prom events, it is important that students act responsibly. Regardless of where you live, you are required to comply with the Friday and Saturday night curfew enforced in the City of Marshfield.

Curfew

Marshfield’s curfew ordinance is as follows:

- Children, age 12 and under, must be home prior to 9:00 p.m. every day of the week.
- Persons, age 13 through 15, must be home prior to 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.
- Persons, 16 and 17 years of age, must be home prior to 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and midnight on Friday and Saturday.

The only exceptions to the above are:

- If they are accompanied by one of their parents.
- If they are engaged in necessary errands for their parents.
- If they are doing something required by their jobs.
- If they are going to or returning from a school, church, or other approved activity.

Underage Drinking

There are various penalties for underage drinking, depending on age and prior violations. **Anyone cited under the age of seventeen must appear in court with a parent.** Typically this penalty will result in fines of \$187 (first offense) with loss of driving privilege.

Remember, “parents who host, lose the most”. It is illegal and dangerous to provide alcoholic beverages to anyone under the age of 21 who is not your child, no matter the reason or event.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**APRIL 13, 2019**

**SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

The City of Marshfield emergency management has an **outdoor** emergency weather warning system consisting of sirens placed throughout the city. The sounding of sirens is a signal of severe weather approaching the Marshfield area. During a severe weather warning, tune in to local radio and television stations or \*Nixle for further information. **Please avoid calling the police department or central dispatch for weather information.** (Marshfield sirens are tested every Wednesday about 1:30 p.m. to make sure they are in working order.)

**Disaster kit:** Before the storm be prepared by having a disaster supply kit on hand. A disaster kit is a collection of basic items a family would probably need to stay safe and be more comfort-able during and after a disaster. This kit should include the following.

- Three-day supply of nonperishable food and a manual can opener.
- Three-day supply of water (one gallon of water per person per day).
- Portable, battery-powered radio or television and extra batteries.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- First aid kit and manual.
- Sanitation and hygiene items (hand sanitizer, moist towelettes, and toilet paper).
- Special needs items such as prescription medications, eye glasses, contact lens solution, and hearing aid batteries.
- Items for infants such as formula, diapers, bottles, and pacifiers.
- Tools, pet supplies, a map of the local area, and other items to meet your unique family needs.
- Matches or a lighter in a waterproof container.
- Whistle.
- Extra clothing and blankets.
- Kitchen accessories and cooking utensils.
- Photocopies of identification and credit cards.
- Cash and coins.

**If a warning is issued or if threatening weather approaches:**

- Move to a pre-designated shelter, such as a basement.
- If an underground shelter is not available, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture.
- Stay away from windows.
- If caught outside or in a vehicle, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression.
- Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes and should be abandoned.

**Further information can be found by accessing the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) internet website at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov), as well as the American Red Cross at <http://www.redcross.org>.**

\*Nixle is a service that allows you to receive trusted and up-to-date neighborhood information for where you live, work, visit or for where your family and friends are located throughout the country. This service is at no cost to you. You choose how you want to receive the information, whether it is over your cell phone by text message, email, or over the web. This service allows you to stay connected to what is happening in the communities and locations that are relevant to you. To join go to [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) to register.