

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT  
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”  
JANUARY 6, 2018**

**CITIZENS’ POLICE ACADEMY**

The Marshfield Police Department has revamped its citizen’s police academy program. We will be holding classes on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for six (6) consecutive weeks, starting in April. Class size is limited to 15 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.

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**JANUARY 13, 2018**

**NATIONAL ADULT SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD RECOGNITION WEEK**

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.”

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**JANUARY 20, 2018**

**VEHICLE WARMING DANGERS**  
**WINTER DRIVING TIPS**

A common Wisconsin practice is to allow vehicles to run during the coldest winter months, even when no one is in them. While it is advisable to warm the vehicle enough to clear the windows of frost and snow, there are dangers associated with doing this.

- Running an unlocked vehicle invites some people to not only steal your vehicle, but any valuables you may have inside it as well. We recommend you use a second set of keys or keyless entry (if equipped) to keep your vehicle secure at all times.
- Poisonous carbon monoxide gases can leak into parked vehicles and affect the driver and passengers without any warning.
- Never leave a vehicle running in a garage. Back completely out and close the garage door. This is the only way to ensure that carbon monoxide does not enter your home.

Motorists are reminded that during the winter months you need to remove snow and frost from your vehicle before driving. This includes brushing the snow away from the windows, headlights, rear taillights, and license plate area. Failure to do this is not only unsafe, but illegal and could result in a citation.

Don't drive your vehicle until the windshield, side windows, and rear window are snow and frost free so that you have a clear view of the road. Your own child, friend, or relative may be the person you fail to see if your car windows are not clear.

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**JANUARY 27, 2018**

**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:

- 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).
- 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.