

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
APRIL 20, 2019

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY
SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019

The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day addresses a crucial public safety and public health issue. According to the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, **6 million Americans misused controlled prescription drugs**. The study shows that a majority of abused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet.

In collaboration, federal, state and local agencies are working together with the public to provide an opportunity for all Americans to help prevent drug addiction and overdose deaths while protecting our environment from the effects of improper disposal of medications by providing a safe, convenient, and responsible way to dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs.

This year the Wal-Mart Store located at 2001 North Central Avenue in Marshfield will be hosting the event between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Bring:

- Prescriptions (controlled and non-controlled) *remove personal information from bottles*
- Over-the-counter medications
- Creams*
- Inhalers
- Non-aerosol sprays*
- Liquids*
- Ointments
- Patches
- Pet medications
- Vials

Do Not Bring:

- Aerosol cans
- Bio-hazardous materials (anything containing a bodily fluid or blood)
- Household hazardous waste (paint, pesticides, oil, gas)
- Illegal drugs
- Needles/sharps**
- Mercury thermometers
- Personal care products (shampoo, soaps, lotions, sunscreens, etc.)

**Must be in original packaging; any without the original packaging will not be accepted.*

***Sharps disposals located at Aspirus Riverview Hospital main entrance, Marshfield Clinic Health System emergency room entrance, and Marshfield Police Department main lobby.*

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APRIL 27, 2019

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 dial 511, and you can access their internet at www.dot.state.wi.us/travel/road/workzones.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK
MAY 4, 2019

PREVENTING THEFT FROM VEHICLES:
LOCK IT OR LOSE IT

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: vehicle electronics, cell phones, lap tops, power tools, money, sunglasses, cameras, purses, hand tools, firearms, and garage door openers.

- 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.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
MAY 11, 2019

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 scheduled for May 16, 2019. All members of the community are welcome to attend the service and a brief reception which follows at Wildwood picnic shelter (Wildwood Pavilion in case of rain).

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
MAY 18, 2019

GRADUATION PARTIES -
UNDERAGE ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

As all area high schools and families prepare for graduation, it is important that both students and family members act responsibly. Persons under the age of 21 are not allowed to consume alcoholic beverages outside the presence of their parents or legal guardians and legal guardianship ends at 18. Adults should be aware that providing alcohol to a minor and underage person is against the law.

The City of Marshfield 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. Failure to do so puts the adult at risk for being cited.

Underage Alcohol Consumption

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.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
MAY 25, 2019

PET WASTE
PETS IN CITY PARKS
JUNK AND GARBAGE

Pet Waste

It is a violation of city ordinance to leave your pet’s defecation on any property other than your own. The waste must be picked up immediately, and it must be disposed of in your garbage. There have been many complaints of sidewalks, city parks, wooded areas, bike and walking paths, and schoolyards containing animal waste. Not only is this unhealthy and unsanitary, but you should think of others who may want to play or walk where your pet has defecated.

It is also important that pet owners keep their property clear of pet waste.

Pets in City Parks

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. *If you let your animal defecate on property other than your own, per city ordinance it is must be picked up immediately or it may result in a fine of \$124 for the first offense, and \$187 for a second offense.*

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

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

Junk and Garbage

City residents are reminded that municipal code prohibits the unsightly accumulation of junk or garbage in your yard. Examples of this would be unlicensed/non-running vehicles, tires, appliances, and other unsightly debris. Weekly garbage containers shall not be set out more than 12 hours prior to day of collection and shall be removed no later than 24 hours after collection. The penalty for this is \$187.

Let us all work together to show visitors the pride we have in our city.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
JUNE 1, 2019

CURFEW

The City of Marshfield enforces year round the following curfew ordinance:

- Children age 12 and under must be home prior to 9:00 p.m. every day of the week.
- Persons ages 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 are:

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

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
JUNE 8, 2019

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.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
JUNE 15, 2019

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.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
JUNE 22, 2019

IMPAIRED DRIVING

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.

Impaired driving is dangerous. It is the cause of more than half of all car crashes. It means operating a motor vehicle while you are affected by

- Alcohol
- Legal or illegal drugs (to include over-the-counter medication)
- Sleepiness
- Distractions such as using a cell phone or texting
- Having a medical condition which affects your driving.

For your safety and the safety of others, do not drive while impaired. Have someone else drive you or take public transportation when you cannot drive. If you need to take a call or send a text message, pull over.

If you plan to go out to celebrate or socialize, we recommend you follow the tips below:

- 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 use common sense when drinking. An evening's celebration is not worth the risk of injury or a costly “operating while impaired” driving arrest.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
JUNE 29, 2019

FIREWORKS
OUTDOOR CAMP FIRES
GRILL SAFETY

Fireworks

Fourth of July celebrations with family outings and fireworks could end in serious injury or death if illegal fireworks are used. Fireworks that explode or move under their own power are illegal to use or possess regardless of where they are purchased. Legal fireworks include caps for cap guns, toy snakes, sparklers, and devices that spray confetti or streamers. Contact the police department at 384-0800 (Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) if you have any questions.

Outdoor Camp Fires

The Fourth of July is also a time for outdoor parties which include grilling and camp fires. Camp fires are considered open outdoor fires used solely for personal enjoyment and/or food preparation. Camp fires shall be in a fire pit or other metal containment no larger than 36 inches in diameter. The fire department may prohibit/extinguish any fires when atmospheric conditions, hazardous situations, unreasonable gatherings, and smoke complaints become a concern.

For specific questions please contact the Marshfield Fire and Rescue Department at 715-384-3118 or you can access their website at http://ci.marshfield.wi.us/departments/fire_and_rescue and review Sec. 61 Outdoor fires and Sec. 62 Fireworks, firework shows and storage or use of explosives.

Grill Safety

Apartment dwellers need to remember that no charcoal burners or gas grills shall be kindled or maintained on combustible balconies or within ten feet of combustible patios on ground floors. As a general safety practice, it is highly recommended that outdoor grilling not be done within ten feet of a residence. Remember, these cooking appliances become extremely hot during use and an unattended child can easily walk into or touch a hot grill causing a painful injury, turning an otherwise festive occasion into a visit to a medical facility

By following the above guidelines and laws, you can prevent serious injury from occurring as a result of poor safety practices while using fireworks, charcoal or gas grills.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
JULY 6, 2019

LOST PETS AND REPORTING DOG BITES

It happens...you open the door to your house and your pet (cat or dog) races out and runs away, and, unfortunately, it will not come back when called. Now what should you do?

If you are unable to get your pet back, call the Wood County Dispatch Center at 715-387-4394 as soon as possible with a description of your pet, its name, and the area where it became lost. By notifying dispatch, officers will be made aware of the situation and keep an eye out for the pet.

Procedure for lost pets

Cats and dogs are taken to the Marshfield Area Pet Shelter (MAPS). Please contact ordinance control at 387-4394 to see if your pet has been picked up and taken there. Or you can check MAPS on their Facebook account or their website www.marshfieldpetshelter.org to see if your pet is there.

Our officers and the MAPS staff are trained to scan all pets for a microchip with a microchip scanner. The microchip will contain your contact information and is placed under the pet's skin. The microchip is an electronic name tag for the pet and it is linked to a database. When the pet is picked up, it will be scanned and you will be notified soon after that your pet is in our custody.

Before your pet can be returned to you by a police or ordinance officer, you will be responsible to pay all impound fees that may have been incurred. If you are unable to pay the impound fee, a contract agreeing to pay the impound fee will be reviewed and signed by the owner. Following this, arrangements will be made to retrieve your pet from the impound facility and reunite you with your pet.

We would like to remind all residents that your pet must be licensed in the city as per state statutes (174.05) and city ordinance (9.51). It is also a state statute to have the tag on your pet's collar (174.07(c)). By displaying the tag on your pet's collar, it will be much easier and timelier in returning your pet to you, and perhaps, saving you unnecessary impound fees if we are able to contact you directly.

Reporting dog bites

Nationwide every year, there are more than 4.5 million dog bites with more than 750,000 victims requiring medical treatment. Being bitten by a dog is a very frightening experience for both adults and children.

If a dog or cat bites you, the wound should be thoroughly cleaned immediately with soap and water, and a doctor should see the victim. All dog/cat bites and cat scratches that break the skin should be reported to your local law enforcement agency. The owner of the animal will be required to show proof of current rabies shot, and the animal will then be put in quarantine as required by state law.

Reporting a dog bite may prevent further dog-bite incidents.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
JULY 13, 2019

EXCESSIVE VEHICLE NOISE AND ILLEGAL USE OF RADIO

The Marshfield Police Department continues to address concerns related to “excessive noise” from vehicles. Loud stereos, loud exhaust on cars, trucks, and motorcycles along with squealing tires are of typical concern. Modified exhaust systems are illegal. Enforcement action will be taken to address violations of state statutes and municipal code.

During warm weather, motorists drive with their windows down and the radio turned up. What you may not know is that if the music is too loud, you may be in violation of the law. Wisconsin statute states that no one may operate, park, stop, or leave a motor vehicle in which a radio or other electronic sound device is audible from a distance of 75 feet or more. Violation of this noise ordinance may result in a fine.

Do yourself and everyone else a favor by keeping your radio down and your exhaust system in good working condition.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
JULY 20, 2019

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY
AND RIGHT OF WAY
WHITE CANE TRAFFIC LAW

Pedestrian Safety and Right of Way

Pedestrians have the right of way when in a crosswalk. However, as a pedestrian always use caution when entering the crosswalk whether it is with a traffic light or not to make sure the motorists see you and are coming to a stop to allow you to cross safely.

Parents can do their part in keeping their kids safe by training them to use and obey crosswalk signs and to look both ways, checking for traffic before attempting to cross a street.

Pedestrians may, based on the condition or lack of sidewalks, choose to walk or run on the roadway. The law says for your safety, you must always use the left side of the road, allowing you to see the closest oncoming traffic. Also if you have decided to use the road, you should wear flashing lights visible from front and back along with brightly colored and/or reflective clothing to make you plainly visible to passing traffic.

Motorists, when approaching or turning into a marked or unmarked crosswalk, must always check for and yield the right of way to pedestrians, coming to a full stop when necessary. (Unmarked crosswalks are an extension of the sidewalk across the street even though painted lines are absent.) Motorists must always use extreme caution when another vehicle is stopped at a crosswalk, because they may be allowing a pedestrian to cross.

White Cane Traffic Law

The Wisconsin White Cane Traffic Law has been enforced since 1947 and applies to totally or partially blind persons. It states

- An operator of a vehicle shall stop the vehicle before approaching closer than 10 feet to a pedestrian who is carrying a cane or walking stick which is white in color or white trimmed with red and which is held in an extended or raised position or who is using a service animal. The vehicle operator shall take such precautions as may be necessary to avoid accident or injury to the pedestrian. The fact the pedestrian may be violating any of the laws that apply to pedestrians does not relieve the operator of a vehicle from the duties imposed.
- Nothing in this law shall be construed to deprive any totally or partially blind person not carrying the white or the red and white cane or walking stick or not using a service animal of the rights of other pedestrians crossing highways, nor shall the failure of such totally or partially blind pedestrian to carry such cane or walking stick or to use a service animal be evidence of any negligence.
- No person who is not totally or partially blind shall carry or use on any street, highway or other public place any cane or walking stick which is white in color or white trimmed with red.

As we share our highways and streets with people walking, running or bicycling, it is everyone's responsibility to be cautious, patient, and courteous so that all of us can stay safe.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
JULY 27, 2019

UNPAID PARKING TICKETS
AND
VEHICLE REGISTRATION SUSPENSION

In the event that you have an unpaid parking ticket, Wisconsin State Statute 345.28 allows the City of Marshfield to request the department of transportation (DOT) to suspend the registration of the vehicle involved and refuse registration of any vehicle owned by you. The department of transportation will send you a letter notifying you of the registration suspension, and the agency you need to contact to pay the fine. There is also an additional administrative fee of \$10 incurred by the vehicle owner, which must be paid along with the parking ticket(s) before the suspension can be lifted.

The Marshfield Police Department will send out notifications of unpaid parking tickets to the registered owner of the vehicle. If the parking ticket(s) is not paid within the timeframe noted in the letters, the DOT is then notified that they are to suspend the registration of the involved vehicle and owner.

We strongly encourage you to pay your parking tickets in a timely manner. This will save you the \$10 administrative fee, as well as the anxiety of going through the process of getting the registration suspension lifted.

Parking tickets will not go away just because they are being ignored, they just become more expensive and more work to resolve.

If you have any questions about parking tickets, please contact the police department ordinance enforcement division at 715-384-0814.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
AUGUST 3, 2019

SEXTING

“Sexting” refers to the sending and/or receiving of electronic messages with text and/or pictures that are sexually suggestive in nature. It is known that teens and adults today are sexting at an alarming rate. Much of this increase is due to the availability of electronic devices and cross platform software programs that allow electronic devices to communicate with each other and the prevalence of cameras on these devices. These devices can include, but not limited to, computers, cell phones, and other tablet devices. The ability to engage in these types of conversations can now easily be done in a discreet manner, oftentimes in the privacy of bedrooms and bathrooms. Unfortunately, people do not always comprehend the potential damage that one picture can have on their lives; it can destroy them and their reputation. Parents must begin the difficult conversation about sexting before there is a problem and introduce the issue as soon as a child is old enough to communicate with their peers through these types of devices.

Talking to your children and teens:

- Use examples appropriate for your child’s age. For younger children with cell phones who do not yet know about sex, alert them that text messages should never contain pictures of people--kids or adults--without their clothes on, kissing or touching each other in ways that they’ve never seen before. For older children, use the term “sexting” and give more specifics about sex acts they may know about. For teens, be very specific that “sexting” often involves pictures of a sexual nature and is considered pornography.
- Make sure kids of all ages understand that sexting is serious and considered a crime in many jurisdictions. Sexting can have serious consequences, such as suspension from school or extracurricular activities, notes on a permanent record that could hurt their chances of getting into college or getting a job, and possibly police involvement.
- Make sure your kids understand that messages or pictures they send over the Internet or on their cell phones are never truly private or anonymous. Also, make sure they know anyone can--and often will--forward their pictures or messages to others. (Ask your daughter what her boyfriend will do with those pictures once they break up). Check up on what your kids are communicating to their peers.

Some of the most popular mobile social networking apps utilized by kids include: Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, Tumblr, WhatsApp, Tik Tok, Facebook Messenger, and Kik Messenger

If concerning messages or photographs are found, there should be consequences, such as temporarily banning/increased monitoring of the device until trust can be restored. If your child is ever being pressured or made to feel uncomfortable by someone trying to get them to engage in sexting, please contact your local law enforcement.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
AUGUST 10, 2019

ARCHERY PERMITS, HUNTER SAFETY LAWS
AND
BOW HUNTING IN MARSHFIELD CITY LIMITS

Archery Permits

Archery is a popular sport in Wisconsin, and archery practice within the city limits of Marshfield is only allowed if you have the proper permit. To obtain an archery permit, call the police department ordinance division at 715-384-0814 to have your archery range inspected and approved.

Permit requirements:

- All arrows used in practicing **MUST** be equipped with practice tips.
- There is a 25-yard shooting maximum.
- You must have a target that is capable of stopping an arrow, such as compressed cardboard, store-bought targets, Styrofoam, etc.
- There must be a sufficient backstop capable of stopping an arrow, such as a garage, shed, or in some cases an open field.
- The property being used for shooting must be the permit holder’s property, or if a rental property, the landowner’s permission must be obtained.
- After obtaining a permit, the permit must accompany you while shooting.
- And most importantly, this permit is a privilege, not a right, and it can be revoked after issuance if the permit holder is found to be negligent or reckless in practice techniques.

Hunter Safety Laws

A few basic hunter safety laws to remember:

- It is illegal to hunt or discharge any firearm within the city limits of Marshfield.
- It is illegal to hunt within 50 feet from the center of any roadway. (There are certain exceptions for hunters possessing a disabled permit.)
- It is illegal to shoot a firearm within 100 yards of a building devoted to human occupancy, without permission of the occupants.
- A copy of the Wisconsin Hunting Regulations booklet can be obtained from the DNR website (www.dnr.wi.gov).

Bow Hunting in Marshfield City Limits

Archers can bow and crossbow hunt within city limits during valid Department of Natural Resources (DNR) deer hunting bow seasons. The City of Marshfield adopted the amended City Code regarding bow hunting as indicated below.

Every person who bow hunts within the City of Marshfield corporate limits shall satisfy all of the following requirements:

- Individuals will possess a current valid archery deer hunting license or small game license issued by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources;

- Secure the permission of the owner of the land where the hunt is to occur;
- Hunt in a location no less than 100 yards from any “building” without the express consent of any and all owners of said “buildings” within that distance. “Building” shall mean a permanent structure used for human occupancy and includes a manufactured home, as defined in s.101.91(2), Wis. Stats.;
- Hunt from an elevated position which directs the arrow toward the ground immediately upon release;
- Hunt only with a bow and arrow or a crossbow and arrow; and
- Hunters must comply with all state and local laws, rules and regulations and the directions set forth in the deer management plan of the Department of Natural Resources.

Hunting on city owned property is permitted with the following restrictions:

- Any cutting of trees, brush, lanes, or trails is prohibited;
- The conducting of deer drives (on foot or motorized) is prohibited;
- Permanent free standing or tree stands are prohibited;
- Permanent ladders, or nailed on or screw-in steps affixed to any tree are prohibited;
- Portable tree stands and ladders must be removed daily;
- Hunting in any city park or on school grounds is strictly prohibited; and
- Hunters who harvest deer or large animals are to clean up all entrails.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
AUGUST 17, 2019

SCHOOL ZONES
SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS
SCHOOL BUS SAFETY
AND
SCHOOL BUS LOADING ZONES

School Zones

Schools will soon open, and it is time to think safety! During this time of year, more students are walking or riding their bikes to and from school. Motorists must be aware that the law requires their speed be reduced to 15 miles per hour in “school zones”, and during the time children or crossing guards are present. By reducing their speed and being alert, drivers allow themselves time to react to the unpredictable movement of children. Adults are responsible for making sound driving decisions, as children do not have the knowledge, experience, or ability to do so.

Fines for speeding in school zones range as follows:

- \$111.40 (1-10 miles per hour over the limit)
- \$124 (11-15 miles per hour over)
- \$161.80 (16-19 miles per hour over)
- \$187 (20 plus miles per hour over)

School Crossing Guards

As you are about to enter a school zone, you are required to slow your vehicle and proceed with caution. Traffic must stop when an adult school crossing guard is holding up a stop sign. These are legal stop signs. Each crossing guard has been instructed to obtain the license number of vehicles failing to stop. This information is relayed to the police department, and a traffic citation may be issued.

Adult crossing guard locations within the city are at the following intersections:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Doege/Peach | 8th/Peach | 17 th /Peach | 17 th /Palmetto |
| St. Joseph/Upham | 14 th /Schmidt | Walnut/Upham | Becker/Peach |
| 11 th /Adams | Oak/Upham | 11 th /Lincoln | |

School Bus Safety

A stopped school bus with flashing red lights means a motorist must stop at least 20 feet from the bus, whether you are approaching from the rear or the front of the bus. In addition to the red lights, a stop sign may be extended from the bus, which means children are in the process of boarding or exiting. A motorist may proceed only when the bus driver begins driving or turns off the flashing red lights.

If you pass a stopped school bus with activated flashing red lights, your violation will be video recorded, and you will be fined. Your driver’s license will be assessed demerit points if you are found guilty.

School Bus Loading Zones

Parents/drivers are reminded that you cannot pick up or drop your children off in designated school bus zones when children are boarding or exiting the buses. Please drop off and/or pick your children up at the locations mandated by the individual schools.

Remember, the safety of our children is of utmost importance, and it is your responsibility to be alert and keep them safe.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
AUGUST 24, 2019**

SAFELY LOADING/UNLOADING YOUR CHILDREN IN SCHOOL ZONES

If your school has a drop-off zone to unload your children, please use it and follow these guidelines:

- **Do not leave your vehicle other than to assist your children in opening the door or exiting from the vehicle.**
- **Do not drop off your children from the street-side door of your vehicle or allow them to walk between parked vehicles.**

If you are walking your child to school, do not cross in the middle of the street, but walk to the nearest safe intersection or crosswalk and follow the directions of the crossing guards.

Motorists, please remember the law requires you to reduce your speed to 15 miles per hour in “school zones”, and during the time children or crossing guards are present.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
AUGUST 31, 2019

TRUANCY AND CURFEW

Truancy

Any student enrolled in school is prohibited from being truant. “Truant” is defined as a pupil who is absent from school without an acceptable excuse for part or all of the day. This includes being on school property, but failing to attend scheduled classes or activities.

A student who is deemed truant may be subject to the following:

- A court order to attend school.
- A forfeiture and/or community service.
- Mandatory court appearance with parents.

A student who is habitually truant may be subject to one or more of the following:

- Suspension of driver’s license.
- A court order to attend school.
- A court order to attend counseling, which is paid for by the parents.
- A court order to attend a teen court program or special education program.
- A forfeiture and/or community service.
- Referral to human services.

Parent responsibility:

Any parent, guardian, or other adult who knowingly allows a child to be absent from school without an acceptable excuse, is in violation of the truancy ordinance. This may result in a mandatory court appearance and forfeitures for the responsible parent.

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 ages 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 are:

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

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
SEPTEMBER 7, 2019

PROHIBITED FIREARM POSSESSION

Wisconsin Statute 941.29 prohibits possession of a firearm if a person has been:

- Convicted of a felony in this state.
- Convicted of a crime elsewhere that would be a felony if committed in this state.
- Convicted of any misdemeanor crime of domestic violence.
- Adjudicated delinquent for an act committed on or after April 21, 1994, that if committed by an adult in this state would be a felony.
- Found not guilty of a felony in this state by reason of mental disease or defect.
- Found not guilty of or not responsible for a crime elsewhere that would be a felony in this state by reason of insanity or mental disease, defect or illness.
- Committed for treatment under s.51.20(13)(a) and ordered not to possess a firearm under s. 51.20(13)(cv).
- Enjoined under an injunction issued under s. 813.12 or 813.122 or under a tribal injunction, as defined in s. 813.12 91) (e), issued by a court established by any federally recognized Wisconsin Indian tribe or band, except the Menominee Indian tribe of Wisconsin, that includes notice to the respondent that he or she is subject to the requirements and penalties under s. 941.29 and that has been filed under s. 806.247 (3).
- Ordered not to possess a firearm under the harassment restraining order statute 813.125 (4m)
- Illegal or unlawful aliens.
- Persons who have renounced United States citizenship.
- Persons dishonorably discharged from the armed forces.
- Persons adjudicated as mental defective or committed to any mental institution.
- Unlawful users of or addicted to controlled substances or having drug convictions within the last year at a misdemeanor or non-criminal level.
- A fugitive from justice.
- On October 1, 1996, the Federal Gun Control Act of 1968 was amended to prohibit firearm possession by persons convicted of misdemeanor domestic abuse (the "Lautenberg Amendment").

Firearms in Vehicles

- A person may transport a handgun in a vehicle, and the handgun may be loaded.
- A person may transport a long gun in a vehicle, but the long gun cannot be loaded.
- To transport a concealed handgun in a vehicle, a person must have a Wisconsin or out-of-state CCW (carry concealed weapon) license.

‘Concealed’ is construed as:

1. Weapon is inside the vehicle and is within the person’s reach.
2. Person is aware of the weapon.
3. Weapon is concealed, or is hidden from ordinary view.

**When traveling out of state with a weapon in your vehicle, it is prudent to check with that State’s laws as the ‘Safe Passage’ can be interpreted differently than in Wisconsin.*

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
SEPTEMBER 14, 2019

HOMECOMING

As we prepare for homecoming events, it is important that children are encouraged by their parents to act in a responsible manner. Unless you are en route to or from school-sanctioned homecoming activities, you are required to comply with the Friday and Saturday night curfew enforced in the City of Marshfield.

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 ages 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 are:

- If they are accompanied by one of their parents.
- If they are engaged in necessary errands as directed by 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.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
SEPTEMBER 21, 2019**

**NATIONAL RAIL SAFETY WEEK
SEPTEMBER 22-28, 2019**

In partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the National Rail Safety Education Organization, the week of September 22-28, 2019 has been recognized as National Rail Safety Week. The goal is to raise awareness of the need for rail safety education and empower the general public to keep themselves safe near highway-rail grade crossings and railroad rights of way. Rail safety tips and facts are as follows:

Any time is train time: Many drivers pay little or no attention at highway-rail crossings they drive across day after day because they never see a train there. They don't realize that freight trains do not run on set schedules and can be anywhere at any time going in any direction. **ALWAYS EXPECT A TRAIN** at all crossings, especially those you are most familiar with.

Trains can't stop quickly: The average freight train consists of 100 cars and weigh anywhere from 12 million to 20 million pounds and takes over a mile to stop in emergency braking. That's the length of at least 18 football fields traveled before coming to a complete stop. Always yield the right of way to the train because the engineer cannot yield to you.

Trains can't swerve: When locomotive engineers see a vehicle or person on the tracks in the path of their train, they can't swerve out of the way because there is no steering wheel—the train simply follows the tracks. Engineers can only sound the warning horn and apply the emergency brakes. A train in emergency braking will stop, but not in time to avoid this collision.

Don't ignore the warnings: Some crossings are equipped with automatic warning devices such as flashing lights and bells and gates that activate when a train is approaching. These are active warning devices. Many other crossings only have passive warning signs to alert you of a possible hazard ahead. These include the “advance warning sign” (circular, yellow in color, with a black “X” and black letters “R-R”) and the “pavement marking” (large “X” and “R-R” painted on the surface of the road). Over half of all collisions occur at crossings equipped with the automatic signals because some drivers choose to drive around the gates or through the flashing red lights, thinking they can beat the train.

Beware of the optical illusion: Because of the huge size of a locomotive (17 feet high and 10 feet wide), it appears to be traveling much slower than we think when viewed from a slight angle at the crossing—the combination of the size and angle create this illusion. The railroad tracks also add to the illusion. The parallel lines of the rails converge toward the horizon and fool our minds into thinking the train is farther away than it actually is. It is virtually impossible to accurately judge the speed of a train when these combinations of illusions are present. The train will be at the crossing before we expect it.

Stalled on the tracks: If your vehicle is ever stalled or trapped on the tracks and a train is approaching, get yourself and all other passengers out fast! Don't try to take any other items with you because it may be a fatal mistake! Remember one very important thing when running way from the vehicle—run away from the tracks at an angle in the direction of the approaching train. When the train strikes the vehicle it will send flying metal and glass ahead of and outward from the locomotive. Many people have been seriously injured and even killed because they ran the wrong direction!

Be aware that as you approach every railroad crossing, a blue sign with white letters and a telephone number will be on display. It may be small but it could save your life in a moment's notice. The blue sign gives drivers who are stuck on the tracks a 1-800 number to call and a Department of Transportation number. Instead of calling 911 and having to wait for them to contact a conductor to stop an oncoming train, the 1-800 number puts you in direct contact with a railroad operator where you are stuck and the railroad will do everything possible to stop any train before it gets to the crossing.

Railroad tracks are PRIVATE PROPERTY: Many people think railroad tracks are public property. They use the tracks to gain access to recreation areas or they may even use the tracks as a recreation area. For some unexplained reason, others think they have a right to use railroad property. The fact is, railroad tracks are private property and only persons authorized by the railroads can be on that property. If caught trespassing, the offender may be issued a citation for trespassing in the amount of \$187.

