

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

Domestic abuse, or “battering” is a pattern of abuse by one partner against the other, for the purpose of maintaining power and control. Domestic abuse often includes (but NOT ALWAYS) physical abuse. Forms of domestic abuse can include:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Verbal abuse
- Threats and intimidation
- Isolation or restriction from friends, family, and other support systems
- Destruction of property
- Financial exploitation
- Jealousy and possessiveness
- Stalking or monitoring of behavior

Physical battering: The abuser’s attacks or aggressive behavior can range from bruising to murder. It often begins with what is excused as trivial contacts which escalate into more frequent and serious attacks (this can include the abuse of household pets).

Sexual abuse: Physical attack by the abuser is often accompanied by, or culminates in, sexual abuse where the victim is forced to have sexual intercourse with their abuser, or to engage in unwanted sexual activity.

Psychological battering: The abuser’s psychological or mental abuse can include constant verbal abuse, harassment, excessive possessiveness, fault-finding, isolating the victim from friends and family, deprivation of physical and economic resources, threats to leave, divorce, commit suicide or institutionalize the victim, and destruction of personal property.

Battering escalates: It often begins with behaviors like threats, name calling, abuse in your presence (such as punching a fist through a wall) to create fear or intimidation, and/or damage to objects or pets. It may escalate to restraining, punching, pushing, kicking, slapping, pinching, tripping, biting, throwing, or grabbing. Finally, it may become life-threatening with serious behaviors such as strangulation, breaking bones, or the use of deadly weapons. (Remember, ANY household item can be used as a dangerous weapon!)

Adult domestic violence is one of the most serious public health and criminal justice issue facing women today. Most victims of domestic violence are women, and the U.S. Department of Justice indicates that women are twice as likely to be murdered by their domestic partners as men. However, the number of males becoming victims of domestic violence is increasing.

Every woman is at risk for becoming a victim of domestic violence. Domestic violence has no regard for socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, religion, employment status, physical ability, age, education, marital status, or sexual orientation. In fact, being FEMALE is the only significant risk factor for being a victim of domestic violence.

Abuse is NOT caused by stress, anger, or alcohol or other drug involvement. Many people find it difficult to understand why people batter their partners. This may be why, when we hear excuses like, “he had a bad day”, “she lost her temper”, or “he was drunk and out of control” we often accept them as viable reasons why the attack occurred. But battering has more to do with the batterer’s attitudes, beliefs, and relationships to others than it has to do with these common excuses. Many men believe they have the right to control their spouses, and to enforce their will on those around them, particularly females. Many men believe that it is the man’s duty to control his wife, regardless of the methods used. Some men even believe that women “need” to be “disciplined”. These beliefs and attitudes, coupled with society’s tolerance of domestic violence, make it one of the most difficult problems for our society to overcome.

Children in families where there is domestic violence suffer negative consequences even if they are not the targets of the abuse. Children who witness their mothers being abused by their fathers (or vice versa) often exhibit health problems, sleeping difficulties, acting-out behaviors, and feelings of guilt, anger, fear and powerlessness. In addition, research suggests that boys who witness their mothers being abused often grow up to be abusers themselves, thereby continuing the cycle of domestic violence.

What you as a victim can do: Understand that being a victim of abuse is not your fault, and the longer you stay in the abusive relationship, the more violent it will become. Remember, no one is justified in abusing you and you do not have to put up with the abuse, because you deserve better. So talk with your friends, parents, a counselor, or someone you can trust for help.

You can also contact the Marshfield Personal Development Orenda Center located at 505 E. Depot Street which is a community resource that provides victims of domestic violence with

- Developing a safety plan
- Locating emergency shelter
- Obtaining a restraining order
- Navigating through legal issues
- Finding other services in the community

Their hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm and their telephone number is 715-384-2971; or after business hours contact Crisis Intervention at 715-384-5555.

Domestic Violence is a crime and an adult can be arrested, charged, and convicted!

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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OCTOBER 5, 2019

NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM). Because the internet touches almost all aspects of everyone’s daily life, NCSAM is designed to engage and educate public and private sector partners through events and initiatives to raise awareness about the importance of cyber security, provide us with the tools and resources needed to stay safe online, and increase the resiliency of the nation in the event of a cyber incident.

Observed every October, National Cybersecurity Awareness Month is a collaborative effort between government and industry to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity and to ensure that all Americans have the resources they need to be safer and more secure online.

This year, NCSAM 2019 emphasizes personal accountability and stresses the importance of taking proactive steps to enhance cybersecurity at home and in the work place. This year’s overarching message is “Own IT. Secure IT. Protect IT”. The message focuses on key areas including citizen privacy, consumer devices, and e-commerce security.

We encourage everyone to go to the Homeland Security website at <https://www.dhs.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month> to learn more about National Cyber Security Awareness Month and how to protect yourself and your computer. On this site you can check out the NCSAM 2019 Toolkit which is a comprehensive guide that makes it easy for you and your organization, regardless of size or industry, to engage and promote the core theme and critical messages leading up to and throughout October. Use the guide and the resources available to promote positive, lasting cybersecurity habits.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
OCTOBER 12, 2019

ALL-NIGHT PARKING

Overnight parking on city streets or in any city-owned parking lot during the months of November through April is not permitted between the hours of 2:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. There may be certain exceptions and permission will be granted at the discretion of the shift commander by calling Wood County Dispatch at 715-387-4394. However, no vehicles are permitted on city streets during a declared snow emergency.

For city-owned parking lots, a permit may be purchased at the police department to enable parking between these hours only in designated areas of specified city lots. The permit for all-night parking in a city-owned lot does NOT allow the holder of the permit to park the vehicle on the street during the night. You can purchase a parking permit at the Marshfield Police Department during their normal business hours of 7:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

Parking regulations as stated above apply unless a street is otherwise signed or a snow emergency has been declared pursuant to Section 13-35(3) of the city’s municipal code.

Courtesy warnings will be issued through the end of October as a reminder of this ordinance.

This ordinance was created for ease of street maintenance, snowplowing and emergency response vehicles.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
OCTOBER 19, 2019

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 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
- 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.*

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
OCTOBER 26, 2019

HALLOWEEN TRICK-OR-TREAT SAFETY TIPS
AND
KIDS KANDY PATROL

We are pleased to announce that the annual Marshfield Police Department's Kids Kandy Patrol program will again take place during Marshfield's Trick-or-Treat hours of 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 31, 2019.

The Kids Kandy Patrol program involves patrol cars and a fire department vehicle or ambulance visiting various neighborhoods throughout the city of Marshfield for the purpose of providing Halloween candy to children in a safe environment. The squad cars and fire department vehicle will stop on the side of the streets where there are children participating in trick-or-treat activities, and the emergency lights will be turned on. The officer/firefighter will exit the vehicle and hand candy out at that time.

We would like to recognize and thank the Marshfield Professional Police Association for again providing a generous donation of candy for this event.

The following are some important safety tips for children to follow when trick or treating.

- Never go out alone.
- Always stay in a familiar neighborhood with a group that includes an adult.
- Never take a ride from a stranger or enter a stranger's house.
- Always examine the treats before eating them.
- Always dress in light-colored costumes.
- Carry a flashlight so drivers can see you more easily.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
NOVEMBER 2, 2019

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

Dating violence or abuse affects one in three teens. Dating violence is defined as controlling, abusive, or aggressive behavior in a relationship.

Dating violence is not just physical. Examples of controlling behavior are:

- Not letting you hang out with your friends.
- Obsessive calling or texting.
- Telling you what or what not to wear.
- Trying to keep you away from your family.
- Extreme possessiveness.
- Electronic harassment.

Verbal and emotional abuse/blackmail may include:

- Name calling.
- Jealous behavior.
- Degrading comments.
- Threatening to hurt you, your family, and himself or herself if you don't do what he or she wants.

Understand that being a victim of abuse is not your fault, and the longer you stay in the abusive relationship, the more violent it may become. Talk with your parents, a counselor, or someone you can trust for help. If you know someone that is in an abusive relationship, talk to the person or tell someone.

Remember no one is justified in attacking or harassing you. Don't put up with abuse, you deserve better.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
NOVEMBER 9, 2019

SAFE SHOPPING TIPS
AND
RETAIL THEFT

As the busiest shopping period of the year has started, you can protect yourself from the hazards related to Christmas shopping.

- Ensure that packages are out of view inside your **locked** vehicle, preferably in the trunk area.
- Protect your purse or wallet by keeping it close to your body and checking frequently for its presence.
- Do not leave unattended packages or valuables in your shopping cart.
- Notify store personnel if you see activity that is suspicious.
- Be aware of people around you. Camera phones are an easy way to photograph your credit card and pin numbers.
- Do not leave your children unattended.

Retail theft, commonly known as shoplifting, affects all of us with higher retail costs. Retail theft includes the taking of merchandise without paying for it and/or altering, transferring or removing a price tag to reflect less than the merchant’s stated price.

In addition to criminal charges and fines, the store can sue the person in civil court for the value of the merchandise, damages up to three times the value of the merchandise, and all costs involved in the apprehension and conviction to include attorney fees. The merchant also has the right to restrict you from entering their store permanently.

Retail theft increases over the Christmas holiday shopping season. Stores add extra security personnel and are monitoring areas with surveillance cameras. Save yourself time, money, and embarrassment—don’t shoplift.

The Marshfield Police Department wishes all of you a very safe and happy holiday season.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
NOVEMBER 16, 2019

ANIMAL SHELTERING

To help your pets remain happy and healthy during these colder months, you should not assume that a cat or dog's "fur coat" is sufficient protection. Dogs and cats should never be left outside for long periods of time without proper shelter and supervision.

If your dog is an outdoor dog:

- It needs protection by a dry, draft-free dog shelter that is large enough to allow the dog to sit or lie down comfortably, but small enough to hold its body heat.
- The floor should be raised off the ground a few inches and covered with cedar shavings or straw. (Rugs or rags should not be used because they hold moisture.)
- The house should be turned to face away from the wind, and the doorway should be covered with heavy burlap or a rug.
- If snow or salt collects between the dog's toes, it should be removed to prevent injury.
- Always make sure your dog is given fresh drinkable water daily, as your pet will burn valuable body heat if it has to eat snow and ice because it is thirsty.

If you see or suspect animal abuse/neglect, please contact the dispatch center at 387-4394.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
NOVEMBER 23, 2019

PROTECT YOUR ONLINE PURCHASES FROM ‘PORCH PIRATES’

It is the most wonderful time of the year and online shopping has become extremely popular due to ease and convenience...until your package gets stolen from your front porch!

During this holiday season, don't fall victim to Porch Pirates...they “RRRRRR” out there and waiting to steal your package! Below are a few tips to ensure your package gets to you safely:

- Obtain a tracking number and schedule delivery on a day you will be home if you can. This way you can see real time the status of your delivery.
- Choose the option that requires a signature for the delivery. This will ensure the package won't be left at your door without you there to sign and bring it safely inside.
- Provide special instructions for where you want your package left. Maybe a back door or inside a side garage door is best.
- Have your packages delivered to a trustworthy neighbor or your place of work (if allowed).

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
NOVEMBER 30, 2019

AUTOMOBILE WINTER SURVIVAL KIT

Winter travel, especially by vehicle, is serious business. You should always carry a survival kit. Your kit can be as extensive as you want, but you should include those items which would allow you to survive 12-24 hours without the benefit of the vehicle heater. A recommended list might include:

- One sleeping bag or two or more blankets for every person in the automobile.
- Three-pound coffee tin, which can be used to melt snow. **NOTE:** *Many of the items on this list can be stored in the can.*
- Matches and candles (a blanket over your head, body heat, and the heat from a single candle can prevent freezing).
- Flashlight and extra batteries—good for signaling help.
- Winter clothing to include cap, mittens, heavy socks, boots, gloves, coveralls, etc.
- First aid kit, including any special medications for you and your travelers.
- Bottled water will probably freeze, so allow expansion room in the container.
- Bright piece of cloth to tie to antenna.
- High protein/carbohydrate nonperishable items such as granola bars, high energy bars, peanut butter, etc.
- Kitty litter, sand, or ashes for vehicle traction.
- Travel shovel.
- Jumper cables.
 - Cell phone.
 - Tow rope.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
DECEMBER 8, 2018

SUICIDE PREVENTION AND WELFARE CHECKS

The Marshfield Police Department prides itself on serving the Marshfield community. One of the ways we are frequently called upon to do this is through welfare checks. Around the holidays, our calls for welfare checks often increase as individuals are experiencing additional stressors in their lives. A welfare check is a response by law enforcement to check on the safety and well-being of an individual after a concern is presented to our agency or dispatch who may be in some type of crisis. Often times, welfare checks specifically involve a concern for an individual's mental well-being.

Officers serve as first responders to welfare checks and their goal is to maintain the safety of everyone involved and to gather all of the appropriate information. The officers talk with the individual in crisis and their family or friends. Officers then consult with mental health providers and hospital emergency services to determine the best course of action to help the individual experiencing a mental health crisis be safe and connect to any resources and services from which they may benefit.

On occasion, mental health crises involve individuals who are expressing suicidal thoughts and plans and you can be a vital part of getting these individuals assistance. The best way to prevent a suicide is to recognize the warning signs and know how to respond when you recognize them. If you believe that someone you know is suicidal, you can help by simply showing that you care and activating the process to help get them relief.

Common suicide risk factors include:

- Mental illness
- Alcoholism or drug abuse
- Previous suicide attempts
- Family history of suicide
- Terminal illness or chronic pain
- Recent loss or stressful life event
- Social isolation and loneliness
- History of trauma or abuse
- Victim of bullying

Suicide prevention tips:

- Speak up if you are worried
- Respond quickly in a crisis
- Offer help and support

If you or someone you care about is contemplating suicide, there are many resources out there to get you help. Here are some options:

In an emergency dial 911

- Wood County Crisis Intervention 715-384-5555 or 715-421-2345
- United Way's First Call dial 211
- The 24-hour National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK.
- www.preventsuicidewi.org
- Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 press 1
- <https://activeheroes.org/get-help/>

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
DECEMBER 14, 2019**

RESPONSIBLE DRINKING

During the holidays, if you choose to drink, be responsible. Two out of five people will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives. If you have had too much to drink, coffee or cold showers won't sober you up. Only TIME can do that. To protect yourself and others, control your drinking by using the following tips:

- Eat to slow alcohol's effects. Avoid carbonated drinks—they speed up the effects.
- Alternate alcohol with non-alcoholic drinks.
- Alcohol is alcohol, no matter what form. A 12-ounce beer has as much alcohol as a 5-ounce glass of wine (12% alcohol) or a 1-1/2 ounce shot of hard liquor (80 proof).
- If you drink, don't drive.
- Have a sober designated driver.
- Use a taxi by calling Running Inc. at 715-384-0500.

Use common sense when drinking. An evening's celebration is not worth the risk of injury or a costly drunken driving arrest.

Have a happy and safe holiday season.

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DECEMBER 21, 2019

511: ROAD REPORT/TRAVEL CONDITIONS

Dialing 511 using your landline and cell phone provides you with free real-time road report and travel conditions. You can also access the 511 internet site at: www.511wi.gov/. *By registering online with 511, you can receive personalized road condition reports.*

Below is a listing of other free three-digit resource numbers offered that you may want to keep posted next to your phone or on your cell phone directory.

- 211 United Way's Information Resource & Referral
- 411 Telephone – Directory Assistance
- 511 Road Report/Travel Conditions
- 711 Wisconsin Relay Text Telephone (deaf to speech)
- 811 Digger's Hotline
- 911 Emergency – Police, Fire & EMS

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DECEMBER 28, 2019

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

Carbon monoxide is a byproduct of the incomplete combustion that is present whenever fuel is burned. It is produced by common home appliances, such as gas or oil furnaces, clothes dryers, ranges, ovens, water heaters, poorly vented or unvented space heaters, fireplaces, charcoal grills and wood-burning stoves. Fumes from vehicles also contain carbon monoxide and can enter a home through the walls or doorways if a car is left running in an attached garage.

To protect yourself and your family from carbon monoxide poisoning, it is recommended you install at least one carbon monoxide detector with an audible alarm near the sleeping area. A detector on each level and in each bedroom provides extra protection. Choose a self-powered extra sensitive unit that responds to lower levels of carbon monoxide and protects even during a power outage.

In addition to installing carbon monoxide detectors, have a qualified professional check all fuel-burning appliances, furnaces, venting and chimney systems at least once a year or as recommended by the manufacturer.