

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**FEBRUARY 3, 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.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**FEBRUARY 10, 2018**

**ON-LINE ACCESS CHANGE FOR CRASH REPORTS**

The Marshfield Police Department continues to make available your ability to obtain accurate and affordable traffic crash reports. We have implemented the Carfax product as of January 1, 2018.

Citizens who do not wish to pay the convenience fee through the internet can still come to the police station and pay the normal report fee, if they prefer, during our normal office hours of Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**We no longer service mailed requests for accident reports at the Marshfield Police Department.**

As of January 1, 2018 please go to: Crashdocs.org at <https://secure.crashdocs.org/>

All 2017 and earlier crashes can still be obtained by going to Docview/BuyCrash.com.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT  
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”  
FEBRUARY 17, 2018**

**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  
FEBRUARY 24, 2018**

**REVISED PARKING ORDINANCE**

On January 23, 2018, the Marshfield Common Council passed the following changes to the street parking ordinance.

Section 8-79(1)(a) is hereby amended to read as follows:

*1. Street Parking Prohibited:*

(a) *May 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>.* When signs have been erected at, or reasonably near, the corporate limits of the city, as provided by 349.13 Wis. Stats., informing motorists that parking limitations exist, motor vehicles will be allowed to park unless otherwise signed.

(b) *November 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>.* All regulations as stated in 8-79 (1) listed above shall apply with the following exceptions:

No person shall park any vehicle on any street in the city between the hours of 2:30 AM and 6:00 AM except emergency vehicles and physicians on an emergency call, and except as permitted pursuant to Section 8.08 of this Code.

(c) Trailers, boats, vehicles, or any vehicle accessory or attachment which is not self-propelled shall not be parked overnight (2:30 AM to 6:00 AM) on any city streets or municipal parking lot. Trailers, boats, vehicle accessories and/or attachments affixed to a motor vehicle, shall be subject to the restrictions within this section and limited to one forty-eight hour time period after which time, the trailer, vehicle, accessory or attachment must be removed.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**MARCH 3, 2018**

**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 10, 2018**

**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 17, 2018**

**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 Hall Plaza, located at 630 South Central Avenue and go to the City Treasurer’s office located on the fifth floor. 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, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The cost is as follows:

Dog: Neutered/spayed = \$8	Dog: Unneutered/unspayed = \$16
Cat: Neutered/spayed = \$6	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 24, 2018**

**P3 TIPS**

Wood County Crime Stoppers introduces P3, the next generation in crime fighting in Wood County. Beginning in April 2018, Wood County Crime Stoppers will be transitioning from Text a Tip to a new platform called P3.

Citizens can download P3 for free to any smart phone or device. P3 allows real time information to get to law enforcement right away so that we can act on your tip more quickly and efficiently. Users can also upload photos of suspects and videos of crimes.

Just search for P3 Tips in the App store or Google Play, enter a code that you choose, sign in and then select your location. Once a tipster submits the information, the App will give a TIP ID and a Password for logging into the tip at any time. If your tip is chosen to receive a reward, the tipster then chooses a ‘PIN #’ that is used along with the TIP ID when collecting their cash reward.

Tipsters can still call the Wood County Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-877-325- STOP if they wish to speak to an operator. P3 Tips, however, allows citizens to submit the information quickly and privately, and their identity is never compromised.

The great thing about P3 Tips is now everybody can be a crime fighter.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**MARCH 31, 2018**

**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
  - 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. So if you know someone that needs help, please call. You can place the call as an anonymous caller or you can text anonymously a message to the “Texting Tip Line”. Just dial **274637** (CRIMES) and begin your text message with the key word **WCCS**.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**APRIL 7, 2018**

**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).
- 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.
- 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.

**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.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**APRIL 14, 2018**

**PET WASTE**  
**PETS IN CITY PARKS**  
**JUNK AND GARBAGE**

Pet Waste

Most pets need exercise such as a brisk walk around the neighborhood. For safety reasons when walking your pet, it must be under your control while held on a leash.

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.

If you let your animal defecate on property other than your own, and it is not immediately picked up, the result may be a fine of \$124 for the first offense, and \$187 for a second offense.

Pets in City Parks

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

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

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

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

In public areas where pets are permitted, they shall at all times be effectively restrained or under the owner’s control as provided in section 10-34 of the city ordinance code. 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”**  
**APRIL 21, 2018**

**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. Hosting underage parties can result in fines of \$691 (first offense) up to \$6,361.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT  
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”  
APRIL 28, 2018**

**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: GPS units, MP3 players, radar detectors, expensive stereo equipment, cell phones, lap tops, power tools, spare change, 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 5, 2018**

**GRILL SAFETY**

With the coming of warm, sunny summer afternoons, also comes a multitude of activities to include grilling out. Don't allow a serious injury to occur as a result of poor safety practices while using charcoal or gas grills. 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.

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.

Enjoy your summer grill outs, but remember to use common sense to keep the outing safe.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**MAY 12, 2018**

**POLICE MEMORIAL WEEK**

In 1963 President John Kennedy proclaimed May 15<sup>th</sup> 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 tentatively scheduled for May 15, 2018. All members of the community are welcome to attend the service and the brief reception which follows at Beell Stadium.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT  
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”  
MAY 19, 2018**

**KEEP GRADUATION PARTIES SAFE:  
UNDERAGE ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION  
AND SOCIAL HOSTING ORDINANCE**

As all area high schools and families prepare for graduation, it is important that both students and family members act responsibly. Persons 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.

Social Hosting Ordinance

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

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 26, 2018**

**ROLLER BLADING, SKATEBOARDING, AND BICYCLE SAFETY**  
**AND**  
**BICYCLE LICENSING**

**Operation of roller blades, roller skates, and skateboards on private property without permission is prohibited!**

Skating on the street must be done as far to the right side of the roadway as possible. Operation may be during day and nighttime hours (at night wearing reflective clothing and a white light to the front) and must be in compliance with state traffic laws. Skating/boarding is permitted on all city streets except the following:

- State Highway 13/Veterans Parkway
- Highway 97 from State Highway 13 to northern city limits
- County Highway Y (Adler Road/Becker Road)
- County Highway H (East 29 Street and West 14<sup>th</sup> Street)
- Oak Avenue from 14<sup>th</sup> Street to Upham Street
- Peach Avenue from 9<sup>th</sup> Street to the northern city limits in Marathon County
- McMillan Street from North Peach to State Highway 13/Veterans Parkway
- Upham Street from Highway 97 to St. Joseph Avenue

Inline skates, roller skates, and skateboards are prohibited on the sidewalk and roadway on Central Avenue between Cleveland Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Street, including the sidewalks from Central Avenue to the alleys.

Every year thousands of bicyclists are injured or killed while riding because of common errors. The following is a list of rules to live by:

- Come to a complete stop at stop signs
- Look and listen before entering traffic
- Yield to vehicles in driveways when riding on sidewalks
- Look over your shoulder before changing lanes
- Wear light or reflective clothing at night
- Have a working headlight with a red reflector on the back of bike
- Wear a bicycle helmet

All motorists, please remember Wisconsin law states that when overtaking a bicycle proceeding in the same direction, you shall exercise due care. It is important to recall that bicyclists may have obstacles to go around, causing sudden movements to which you, as a driver, will have to react. Also, bicycles do not offer their riders the physical protection that a car does. Any mishap could cause serious injury to a bike operator.

During the course of the year, the police department recovers numerous abandoned and stolen bicycles. If the bicycle is registered, owners can be located and bicycles returned. For this reason, Marshfield city

ordinance requires the licensing of bicycles. Bike licenses are free and registration forms can be obtained at the police department Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Basic bike information includes:

- Make
- Serial number
- Frame color and size
- Number of speeds

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**JUNE 2, 2018**

**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 9, 2018**

**PERSONAL SAFETY AND HOME SECURITY**

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

- Avoid walking alone after dark.
- When walking, wear reflective vests or clothing and remember your “Rules of the Road.”
- When traveling, always tell someone your plans and check in with them periodically.
- If you are going on vacation, you can talk with your neighbors to help keep an eye on things. Leave lights on timers, and if it is an extended time away, have your mail and paper held.
- Never pick up hitchhikers!
- Keep your vehicle doors locked at all times to protect your valuables and help deter criminals from getting your personal information—even if you are leaving your vehicle for a short period of time. Do you have a garage door opener in your car? If you do and do not lock your car, your home is not secure.
- Keep your doors and windows locked at your home or apartment, including your garage service entry, even when you are home.
- If you should find your home or apartment door “entered”—do not go inside as a burglar may still be in the residence. Move to a safe location, call 911, and stay on the line with the dispatcher until the police arrive.
- If you believe someone has entered your home while you are there, leave if at all possible. If you cannot leave, go to a room where you have a phone, lock the door and call 911. Stay on the line with the dispatcher until the police arrive.
- If you are elderly or live alone, Lifeline or LifeAlert are options that should be considered in case you need emergent assistance and are unable to reach a telephone. For more information about Lifeline or LifeAlert, call 211.
- Project Lifesaver is a non-profit program that provides safety, security, and rescue support services for adults or children who wander due to Alzheimer’s, autism, or other related “at risk” individuals with cognitive disorders. More information about Project Lifesaver can be found at [www.projectlifesaver.org](http://www.projectlifesaver.org) or call the Marshfield Fire and Rescue Department at (715)486-2094.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**“POLICE PLAIN TALK”**  
**JUNE 16, 2018**

**PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**  
**AND RIGHT OF WAY**  
**WHITE CANE TRAFFIC LAW**

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

- (1) 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.
- (2) 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.
- (3) 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”**  
**JUNE 23, 2018**

**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 30, 2018**

**FIREWORKS AND OUTDOOR CAMP FIRES**

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 384-3113 (Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) if you have any questions.

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](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.

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.