

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
FEBRUARY 22, 2020

PROCEDURE FOR STRAY AND LOST PETS

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 your pet.

If your cat or dog has gone missing, please contact ordinance control at 715-387-4394 to see if your pet has been picked up and taken to Marshfield Area Pet Shelter (MAPS). You can also check the MAPS Facebook page or their website www.marshfieldpetsHELTER.org to see if your pet is there.

If your pet has been incarcerated at MAPS, and before your pet can be returned to you, you must contact the police department to make arrangements to get your pet. This will include paying all impound fees that have been incurred since the date your pet has been at MAPS. If you are unable to pay the fees, a contract can be written agreeing to pay the fees. After this, a police or ordinance officer shall accompany you to MAPS to retrieve your pet and reunite the animal with you.

If you find a cat or dog running at large, DO NOT take it to MAPS on your own. Call the police department to have an officer pick it up. An officer will then be dispatched to your location to pick up the lost pet and take it to MAPS where it will be placed in a kennel and given food and water until such time an owner can be located. **If, after 7 days an owner cannot be located, the animal will be placed up for adoption.**

Taking a cat or dog to MAPS and dropping it off without speaking to a staff member at MAPS and then leaving could result in abandonment charges being filed against the person dropping off the animal.

Our officers and the MAPS staff are trained to scan all pets for a microchip. If your pet has a microchip and it allows for the safe scanning for the chip, the information received from it, i.e. your name, phone number, and address, will be used to contact you about your pet being in police custody. This microchip does not prevent the animal from going to MAPS but rather serves as a tool to reunite your pet with you sooner.

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.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
FEBRUARY 29, 2020

FAKE VACATION/RENTAL PROPERTY DEALS
AND OTHER ONLINE CLASSIFIED AD RISKS

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

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

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

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

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

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

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
MARCH 7, 2020

INTERNET SAFETY AND CYBER BULLYING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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MARCH 14, 2020**

**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
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MARCH 21, 2020

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
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MARCH 28, 2020

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
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APRIL 4, 2020

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 comfortable 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, 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 to register.

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APRIL 11, 2020

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, 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.