

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
APRIL 18, 2020**

**PARKING TICKET FINES INCREASE
UNPAID PARKING TICKETS
AND
VEHICLE REGISTRATION SUSPENSION**

As of January 1 of 2020, parking ticket fines were increased from \$15 to \$25. The exceptions to these are violations of parking against the flow of traffic which is \$30 and Handicap parking violations which are now \$150. The Handicap fine is the minimum required by the State of Wisconsin. As has been the case in the past, all fines double after nonpayment after four business days.

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”
APRIL 25, 2020

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 2, 2020**

BLOCKING SIDEWALKS AND DRIVEWAYS

All city of Marshfield property owners are reminded that it is their responsibility to keep sidewalks next to their properties free of obstructions to allow for free movement of pedestrian traffic. This includes vehicles and other personal property, as well as low hanging branches, protruding shrubs and limbs, and uneven sidewalks.

For vehicles and other personal property blocking sidewalks and driveways, please call 715-387-4394 to report the violation to the Marshfield Police Department.

For low-hanging branches, protruding shrubs and limbs as well as uneven sidewalks, you can call the Marshfield Public Works Department at 715-387-8424.

Let's keep our sidewalks safe and hazard free.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
MAY 9, 2020

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.

In 2019, 134 law enforcement officers and 28 K9s were killed in the line of duty and more than 58,000 were 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 Thursday, May 14, 2020. 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 16, 2020

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 23, 2020

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”
MAY 30, 2020

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 6, 2020

DOGS IN VEHICLES
SUMMER SHELTER FOR DOGS
BARKING DOGS

Your pet can suffer from brain damage or death if it is 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 13, 2020

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”
JUNE 20, 2020

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 14th Street)
- Oak Avenue from 14th Street to Upham Street
- Peach Avenue from 9th 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 6th 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

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JUNE 27, 2020

FIREWORKS

Fourth of July celebrations with family outings and fireworks could end in serious injury or death if illegal fireworks are used.

The following fireworks are legal for sale, possession, and use without a permit:

- Sparklers (no larger than 36 inches in length)
- Smoke bombs
- Toy snakes
- Stationary cones and fountains
- Noisemakers
- Caps
- Novelty devices which spin or move on the ground
- Confetti poppers (less than a 1/4 grain of explosive mixture)

Fireworks that are considered illegal without a permit include:

- Bottle rockets
- Roman candles
- Mortars
- Firecrackers
- Any device which explodes or leaves the ground

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.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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JULY 4, 2020**

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 a typical complaint. 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 11, 2020

PARENTS’ RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THEIR CHILDREN

As a parent it is your responsibility to protect your child. Violations that frequently take place involving the parents’ responsibility in the welfare of their children are as follows:

Truancy

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. A fine may be issued to the parent for contributing to truancy.

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 ages 16 and 17 must be home prior to 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and midnight on Friday and Saturday.

Violations of the curfew ordinance can result in fines to both the parents and children.

Sexual Assault of a Child--Failure to Act

A person who is responsible for the welfare of a child may be charged with a felony if that person has knowledge that another person intends to, is having, or has sexually abused a minor (under the age of 18). As a parent, guardian, or caretaker, you are expected to take action to protect the child, and failure to do so may result in you being prosecuted for failure to act. Always remember you are responsible for keeping your child/children safe.