

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
JULY 18, 2020

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. 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”
JULY 25, 2020**

**CAR-KILLED DEER:
CONTACT THE DNR**

To take possession of a car-killed deer, call the Department of Natural Resources non-emergency dispatch line: **608-267-7691**.

This line is staffed daily 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

After hours, leave a voice message with the following information:

- Your first and last name (please spell out)
- Your call back number with area code
- Deer location (road name, township, county)
- Identify deer as buck, doe or fawn.

By leaving a voice message, you are authorized by the DNR to take possession of the car-killed carcass. You are required to take the **WHOLE** carcass: **NOT** just the head or other desired parts.

A DNR dispatcher will call you the next morning for additional information. If you do not receive a call back by noon the following day, please call again to verify your voice mail was received.

For general DNR information, call 888-936-746 or go to the DNR website <https://gowild.wi.gov/wildlife/harvest/carkill>.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
AUGUST 1, 2020

LOST PETS AND REPORTING DOG BITES

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

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

Procedure for lost pets

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

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

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

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

Reporting dog bites

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

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

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

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

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

Archery Permits

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

Permit requirements:

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

Hunter Safety Laws

A few basic hunter safety laws to remember:

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

Bow Hunting in Marshfield City Limits

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

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

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

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

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

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

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
AUGUST 15, 2020

PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING FOUND PETS
AND
RETRIEVING LOST PETS

Procedure for reporting found pets

If you find a pet, call the Wood County Dispatch Center at 715-387-4394. The dispatch center will then dispatch an officer to pick up the animal and take it to the Marshfield Area Pet Shelter (MAPS). DO NOT take the found animal to MAPS yourself and just leave it there. By having an officer take control of the animal, it will ensure the animal’s safety as well as your own, and the animal can then be checked for a microchip leading to the owner getting the animal back in a timely manner.

Procedure for 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 the pet.

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

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

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

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

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

LATCHKEY KIDS

Before making the decision to leave your child home alone, you need to decide if your child is capable of handling non-emergency and emergency situations and that you and your child are comfortable with this decision. It is important for children to feel secure, especially when they are home alone. If your child is prepared to handle whatever situation may arise, both of you will feel more confident.

Here are some guidelines to help keep your child safe.

- Doors should be kept locked.
- Your child should not answer the door unless you've approved a visitor to your home.
- If your child is to answer the phone, make sure they never give out personal information or say they are alone.
- Instruct your child about which appliances they may use and make sure they know how to operate them.
- Have your child periodically call and check in with you or a designated person.
- Always keep important phone numbers next to the phone. These should include emergency numbers, work numbers, and the numbers of relatives, trusted friends, or neighbors. Instruct your child to call 911 when they do not feel safe.

Have and review a safety plan for severe weather, fire, and other emergency type situations.

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

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

School Zones

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

Fines for speeding in school zones range as follows:

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

School Crossing Guards

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

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

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

School Bus Safety

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

If you pass a stopped school bus with activated flashing red lights, your violation will be video recorded, and you will receive a fine in the amount of \$250. Your driver’s license will be assessed demerit points if you are found guilty.

School Bus Loading Zones

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

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

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
SEPTEMBER 5, 2020**

SAFELY LOADING/UNLOADING YOUR CHILDREN IN SCHOOL ZONES

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

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

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

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

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
SEPTEMBER 12, 2020

TRUANCY AND CURFEW

Truancy

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

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

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

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

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

Parent responsibility:

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

Curfew

Marshfield’s curfew ordinance is as follows:

- Children age 12 and under must be home prior to 9:00 p.m. every day of the week.
- Persons ages 13 through 15, must be home prior to 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.
- Persons 16 and 17 years of age must be home prior to 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and midnight on Friday and Saturday.

The only exceptions are:

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

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
"POLICE PLAIN TALK"
SEPTEMBER 19, 2020**

**HOMECOMING
UNDERAGE ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION**

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

Marshfield's curfew ordinance is as follows:

- Children age 12 and under must be home prior to 9:00 p.m. every day of the week.
- Persons ages 13 through 15, must be home prior to 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.
- Persons 16 and 17 years of age must be home prior to 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and midnight on Friday and Saturday.

The only exceptions are:

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

Underage Alcohol Consumption

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.

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.

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.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
SEPTEMBER 26, 2020

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
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
OCTOBER 3, 2020

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 10, 2020

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY
AND RIGHT OF WAY
WHITE CANE TRAFFIC LAW

Pedestrian Safety and Right of Way

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

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

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

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

White Cane Traffic Law

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

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

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

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
OCTOBER 17, 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
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
OCTOBER 24, 2020

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 Saturday, October 31, 2020.

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”
OCTOBER 31, 2020

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 or call the Marshfield Fire and Rescue Department at (715)486-2094.
- Install a home security system such as doorbell cameras.

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

SEXTING

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

Talking to your children and teens:

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

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

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

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
NOVEMBER 14, 2020

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 mats 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 21, 2020

RETAIL THEFT
SAFE SHOPPING TIPS
PROTECT YOUR ONLINE PURCHASES FROM ‘PORCH PIRATES’

Retail Theft

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.

Safe Shopping Tips

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.

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 28, 2020

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”
DECEMBER 5, 2020**

**SNOW EMERGENCY
SIDEWALKS CLEAR OF SNOW AND ICE
CITY SAND BOXES**

Snow emergency: A “snow emergency” exists whenever there is an accumulation of snow of three or more inches during a 24-hour period, and such accumulation interferes with the ability of vehicles to travel safely in the City of Marshfield. A snow emergency continues in effect for 48 hours after the snowfall has ended and until the snow has been removed from the streets or until the emergency is cancelled by the director of public works.

During this time, parking on city streets and lots is prohibited, with the exception of the following locations but only after they have been plowed:

- Central Avenue from Harrison Street to 16th Street.
- Maple Avenue from Arnold Street to 6th Street.
- Chestnut Avenue from Arnold Street to 7th Street.
- 1st, 4th, 5th, and 6th Streets from Chestnut Avenue to Maple Avenue.
- 7th Street from Chestnut Avenue to Central Avenue.
- 2nd and 3rd Streets from Chestnut Avenue to Cedar Avenue.

Violations can result in a parking ticket and the towing of your vehicle. This ordinance allows our street maintenance crews to remove the snow safely and efficiently.

Removal of snow and ice from sidewalks: City ordinance states that it is the responsibility of owners of property abutting or containing public sidewalks to keep these sidewalks free from snow and ice accumulations at all times. The owner is responsible for removing or having removed all accumulations of snow and ice from the entire paved width and length of the sidewalks within 48 hours after snow or ice has fallen or accumulated thereon. In the case of drifting snow or of ice accumulating due to melting and refreezing, the owner shall keep all sidewalks sprinkled with sand or salt.

If the owner fails to comply, the city’s street superintendent may arrange for prompt removal or treatment of the ice and/or snow accumulations and may repeat removal or treatment procedures as often as necessary to maintain such sidewalks in a safe and usable condition. Any costs and expenses for removal or treatment shall be charged to the property owner.

City sand boxes: For your safety, the Marshfield street department provides sand, at no charge, to people residing within the city limits. These sand boxes are located at the following intersections:

14th/Schmidt
Upham/Walnut
St. Joseph/Upham
Becker/Peach

5th/Columbus
11th/Adams
7th/Chestnut
8th/Peach

17th/Palmetto
Doege/Peach
17th/Felker

Please use the sand economically by taking only the needed amount. A five-quart ice cream pail is recommended to transport the sand to your driveway and sidewalks.

A reminder that when taking sand, you need to park your vehicle in a legal and safe parking area. (Sand is no longer available for pick up at the street department.)