

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
APRIL 9, 2016

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.

TEXTING TIP LINE

The Marshfield Police Department, Wood County Crime Stoppers, and the Marshfield Area Coalition for Youth have created the “Texting Tip Line”. The texting tip line gives children and adults the ability to text in tips of possible alcohol, drug, and criminal violations while remaining completely anonymous.

Just dial **274637** (CRIMES) and begin your text message with the key word **WCCS**. There is the potential of receiving a reward if the information proves credible and results in a successful investigation or arrest.

Wood County Crime Stoppers and the Marshfield Police Department have also created their own Facebook pages. Please “Like” Marshfield Police Department and Wood County Crime Stoppers to get the latest news and to assist law enforcement in identifying suspects of various crimes.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
APRIL 16, 2016

PROM
CURFEW AND UNDERAGE DRINKING

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.

TEXTING TIP LINE

The Marshfield Police Department, Wood County Crime Stoppers, and the Marshfield Area Coalition for Youth have created the “Texting Tip Line”. The texting tip line gives children and adults the ability to text in tips of possible alcohol, drug, and criminal violations while remaining completely anonymous.

Just dial **274637** (CRIMES) and begin your text message with the key word **WCCS**. There is the potential of receiving a reward if the information proves credible and results in a successful investigation or arrest.

Wood County Crime Stoppers and the Marshfield Police Department have also created their own Facebook pages. Please “Like” Marshfield Police Department and Wood County Crime Stoppers to get the latest news and to assist law enforcement in identifying suspects of various crimes.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
APRIL 23, 2016

PET WASTE 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.

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.

TEXTING TIP LINE

The Marshfield Police Department, Wood County Crime Stoppers, and the Marshfield Area Coalition for Youth have created the “Texting Tip Line”. The texting tip line gives children and adults the ability to text in tips of possible alcohol, drug, and criminal violations while remaining completely anonymous.

Just dial **274637** (CRIMES) and begin your text message with the key word **WCCS**. There is the potential of receiving a reward if the information proves credible and results in a successful investigation or arrest.

Wood County Crime Stoppers and the Marshfield Police Department have also created their own Facebook pages. Please “Like” Marshfield Police Department and Wood County Crime Stoppers to get the latest news and to assist law enforcement in identifying suspects of various crimes.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
APRIL 30, 2016

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

TEXTING TIP LINE

The Marshfield Police Department, Wood County Crime Stoppers, and the Marshfield Area Coalition for Youth have created the “Texting Tip Line”. The texting tip line gives children and adults the ability to text in tips of possible alcohol, drug, and criminal violations while remaining completely anonymous.

Just dial **274637** (CRIMES) and begin your text message with the key word **WCCS**. There is the potential of receiving a reward if the information proves credible and results in a successful investigation or arrest.

Wood County Crime Stoppers and the Marshfield Police Department have also created their own Facebook pages. Please “Like” Marshfield Police Department and Wood County Crime Stoppers to get the latest news and to assist law enforcement in identifying suspects of various crimes.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
MAY 7, 2016

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.

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 on Sunday, May 15, 2016 at Beell Stadium at 6:30 p.m. All members of the community are welcome to attend the service and the brief reception which follows.

TEXTING TIP LINE

The Marshfield Police Department, Wood County Crime Stoppers, and the Marshfield Area Coalition for Youth have created the “Texting Tip Line”. The texting tip line gives children and adults the ability to text in tips of possible alcohol, drug, and criminal violations while remaining completely anonymous.

Just dial **274637** (CRIMES) and begin your text message with the key word **WCCS**. There is the potential of receiving a reward if the information proves credible and results in a successful investigation or arrest.

Wood County Crime Stoppers and the Marshfield Police Department have also created their own Facebook pages. Please “Like” Marshfield Police Department and Wood County Crime Stoppers to get the latest news and to assist law enforcement in identifying suspects of various crimes.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
MAY 14, 2016

DISTRACTED DRIVING

On November 1, 2012 the State of Wisconsin banned cell phone use to include any electronic device for all drivers with an instructional permit or a probationary license.

Any persons using a cellular telephone that is not equipped with a hands free device while operating a motor vehicle within the city limits of Marshfield may be stopped and cited for the violation. Use is defined as dialing, answering, talking, listening, texting, or other manipulations of any controls of a mobile or cellular phone. The fine for violating this ordinance is \$79.90.

The State of Wisconsin also passed a texting while driving ban. Even with this ban, distracted while driving is still causing avoidable fatalities and injuries. On average, it takes 4.6 seconds to read a text message on your cell phone. If you are driving 55 miles per hour, you would be driving the entire length of a football field blindfolded.

We can all do our part by turning off the cell phone while driving, placing the phone on silent and putting it in the glove box out of reach.

TEXTING TIP LINE

The Marshfield Police Department, Wood County Crime Stoppers, and the Marshfield Area Coalition for Youth have created the “Texting Tip Line”. The texting tip line gives children and adults the ability to text in tips of alcohol, drug, and criminal violations while remaining completely anonymous and being eligible for a cash reward.

Just dial **274637** (CRIMES) and begin your text message with the key word **WCCS**. There is the potential of receiving a reward if the information provided is credible and results in a successful investigation or arrest.

Wood County Crime Stoppers and the Marshfield Police Department have also created their own Facebook pages. Please “Like” Marshfield Police Department and Wood County Crime Stoppers to get the latest news and to assist law enforcement in identifying suspects of various crimes.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
MAY 21, 2016**

**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 below the age of 21 are not allowed to consume alcoholic beverages outside the presence of their parents or legal guardians. Adults should be aware that providing alcohol to a minor and underage person is against the law.

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.

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.

TEXTING TIP LINE

The Marshfield Police Department, Wood County Crime Stoppers, and the Marshfield Area Coalition for Youth have created the “Texting Tip Line”. The texting tip line gives children and adults the ability to text in tips of possible alcohol, drug, and criminal violations while remaining completely anonymous.

Just dial **274637** (CRIMES) and begin your text message with the key word **WCCS**. There is the potential of receiving a reward if the information proves credible and results in a successful investigation or arrest.

Wood County Crime Stoppers and the Marshfield Police Department have also created their own Facebook pages. Please “Like” Marshfield Police Department and Wood County Crime Stoppers to get the latest news and to assist law enforcement in identifying suspects of various crimes.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
MAY 28, 2016

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.

TEXTING TIP LINE

The Marshfield Police Department, Wood County Crime Stoppers, and the Marshfield Area Coalition for Youth have created the “Texting Tip Line”. The texting tip line gives children and adults the ability to text in tips of possible alcohol, drug, and criminal violations while remaining completely anonymous.

Just dial **274637** (CRIMES) and begin your text message with the key word **WCCS**. There is the potential of receiving a reward if the information proves credible and results in a successful investigation or arrest. Wood County Crimes Stoppers has also created a page through Facebook. Please “Like” Crime Stoppers and refer back to get the latest news and to assist law enforcement in identifying suspects of various crimes.

Wood County Crime Stoppers and the Marshfield Police Department have also created their own Facebook pages. Please “Like” Marshfield Police Department and Wood County Crime Stoppers to get the latest news and to assist law enforcement in identifying suspects of various crimes.

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
JUNE 4, 2016**

**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.

TEXTING TIP LINE

The Marshfield Police Department, Wood County Crime Stoppers, and the Marshfield Area Coalition for Youth have created the “Texting Tip Line”. The texting tip line gives children and adults the ability to text in tips of possible alcohol, drug, and criminal violations while remaining completely anonymous.

Just dial **274637** (CRIMES) and begin your text message with the key word **WCCS**. There is the potential of receiving a reward if the information proves credible and results in a successful investigation or arrest.

Wood County Crime Stoppers and the Marshfield Police Department have also created their own Facebook pages. Please “Like” Marshfield Police Department and Wood County Crime Stoppers to get the latest news and to assist law enforcement in identifying suspects of various crimes.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
JUNE 11, 2016

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, please do your part in keeping your 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, you 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.

As we share our highways and streets with people walking, running or bicycling, we all must be cautious, patient, and courteous so we all can stay safe.

As a pedestrian, you have many rights...don't make them your last.

TEXTING TIP LINE

The Marshfield Police Department, Wood County Crime Stoppers, and the Marshfield Area Coalition for Youth have created the “Texting Tip Line”. The texting tip line gives children and adults the ability to text in tips of alcohol, drug, and criminal violations while remaining completely anonymous and being eligible for a cash reward.

Just dial **274637** (CRIMES) and begin your text message with the key word **WCCS**. There is the potential of receiving a reward if the information provided is credible and results in a successful investigation or arrest.

Wood County Crime Stoppers and the Marshfield Police Department have also created their own Facebook pages. Please “Like” Marshfield Police Department and Wood County Crime Stoppers to get the latest news and to assist law enforcement in identifying suspects of various crimes.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
JUNE 18, 2016

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 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.

TEXTING TIP LINE

The Marshfield Police Department, Wood County Crime Stoppers, and the Marshfield Area Coalition for Youth have created the “Texting Tip Line”. The texting tip line gives children and adults the ability to text in tips of possible alcohol, drug, and criminal violations while remaining completely anonymous.

Just dial **274637** (CRIMES) and begin your text message with the key word **WCCS**. There is the potential of receiving a reward if the information proves credible and results in a successful investigation or arrest

Wood County Crime Stoppers and the Marshfield Police Department have also created their own Facebook pages. Please “Like” Marshfield Police Department and Wood County Crime Stoppers to get the latest news and to assist law enforcement in identifying suspects of various crimes.