

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
JUNE 25, 2016

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, construction crews and equipment in the city of Marshfield and throughout the state of Wisconsin. Because of this, we urge motorists to use alternate routes of travel and to allow yourself more time to arrive at your destination.

We would like to remind drivers that fines double in construction zones and that you should be aware of changing conditions in these zones.

It is also 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 can be issued a ticket for this, and will be held responsible for any damage that may occur while operating in the road-closed area.

For work zone/road condition reports throughout the state of Wisconsin, you can call 1-800-ROADWIS (762-3947) or you can access their internet at www.dot.state.wi.us/travel/road/workzones.

TEXTING TIP LINE

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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.

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JULY 2, 2016

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 Police Department at (715)384-3113.

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JULY 9, 2016

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.

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JULY 23, 2016**

**UNPAID PARKING TICKETS
AND
VEHICLE REGISTRATION SUSPENSION**

In the event that you have an unpaid parking ticket, Wisconsin State Statute 345.28 allows the City of Marshfield to request the department of transportation (DOT) to suspend the registration of the vehicle involved and refuse registration of any vehicle owned by you. The department of transportation will send you a letter notifying you of the registration suspension, and the agency you need to contact to pay the fine. There is also an additional administrative fee of \$10 incurred by the vehicle owner, which must be paid along with the parking ticket(s) before the suspension can be lifted.

The Marshfield Police Department will send out notifications of unpaid parking tickets to the registered owner of the vehicle. If the parking ticket(s) is not paid within the timeframe noted in the letters, the DOT is then notified that they are to suspend the registration of the involved vehicle and owner.

We strongly encourage you to pay your parking tickets in a timely manner. This will save you the \$10 administrative fee, as well as the anxiety of going through the process of getting the registration suspension lifted.

Parking tickets will not go away just because they are being ignored, they just become more expensive and more work to resolve.

If you have any questions about parking tickets, please contact the police department ordinance enforcement division at 715-384-0814.

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MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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JULY 30, 2016

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.

Procedure for lost dogs: If no one from the police department has contacted you within a day or two about finding your dog, we suggest you stop at the police department and view our photo log of impounded dogs to see if your pet has been captured.

Procedure for lost cats: Cats are taken to the Marshfield Area Pet Shelter (MAPS). Please contact ordinance control at 387-4394 to see if your cat 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.

Before your pet can be returned to you by a police or ordinance officer, you will be responsible to pay all impound fees. 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.

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MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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AUGUST 6, 2016

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. The animal will then be put in quarantine as required by state law.

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

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MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
AUGUST 13, 2016

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, our youth 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.

If concerning messages or photographs are found, there should 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.

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AUGUST 20, 2016

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

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			

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 be fined. Your driver’s license will be assessed demerit points if you are found guilty.

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.

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AUGUST 27, 2016**

SAFELY LOADING/UNLOADING YOUR CHILDREN IN SCHOOL ZONES

If your child’s school has a drop-off zone to unload your children, please use it. Do not leave your vehicle other than to assist your children in opening the door or exiting from the vehicle.

- **Please 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.

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SEPTEMBER 3, 2016

BOW HUNTING IN MARSHFIELD CITY LIMITS

The State of Wisconsin passed into law Act 71 which curtailed the restrictions imposed by many local governments on hunting with a bow or crossbow. Archers can now 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.

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SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

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.

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**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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SEPTEMBER 17, 2016**

MANDATED INSURANCE LAW

Wisconsin statutes mandate that all vehicles carry liability insurance. Minimal liability coverage limits are \$15,000 for property damage; \$50,000 for injury or death of one person; and \$100,000 for the injury or death of more than one person.

Failure to carry insurance may result in a citation that has a forfeiture of \$124 in Marshfield Municipal Court and \$200.50 for Wood County Circuit Court.

Drivers and owners of motor vehicle are required to show proof of insurance at traffic stops and accidents if requested by law enforcement. Failure to be able to immediately show proof of insurance may result in a forfeiture of \$10.

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MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

HOMECOMING

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:

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MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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OCTOBER 1, 2016

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

Dating violence or abuse affects one in three teens. Dating violence is defined as controlling, abusive, and aggressive behavior in a relationship.

Dating violence is not just physical. Examples of controlling behavior are:

- Not letting you hang out with your friends.
- Obsessive calling or texting.
- Telling you what or what not to wear.
- Trying to keep you away from your family.
- Extreme possessiveness.
- Electronic harassment.

Verbal and emotional abuse/blackmail may include:

- Name calling.
- Jealous behavior.
- Degrading comments.
- Threatening to hurt you, your family, and himself or herself if you don't do what he or she wants.

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. Talk with your parents, a counselor, or someone you can trust for help. If you know someone that is in an abusive relationship, talk to the person or tell someone.

Remember no one is justified in attacking or harassing you. Don't put up with abuse, you deserve better.

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OCTOBER 8, 2016

PROPER TURNS

There are several things to remember while making turns:

- For both right and left turns, the appropriate signal must be activated no less than 100 feet from the turn.
- Right turns and the approach for the turn need to be made as close to the right-hand side (outside lane) of the road as possible. If this is not possible due to vehicle size, then the turn must be made with due regard for all other traffic.
- Left turns need to be made in the lane furthest to the left (to the right of the center lane) and as far to the left as possible. The turn should be completed so as to enter the lane farthest to the left.

Only you can avoid a citation and even worse an accident by always making a proper turn.

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OCTOBER 15, 2016

HOUSE NUMBERS

It is 3 o'clock in the morning, dark and raining, emergency personnel or a police car is going to an address within Marshfield, but the house does not have a number on it or it cannot be seen from the road and precious seconds are lost. House numbers are crucial for the ambulance, fire, and police.

Marshfield has a city ordinance that states all houses are required to have numbers that “shall be black on white or other contrasting color combinations that can easily be read from the street”. The numbers must be at least 2.5 inches in height. Written, script, or Roman numerals are not acceptable.

You can aid emergency responders to arrive at your home more quickly by properly posting your house number. A family member's life may be in the balance.

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MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
OCTOBER 22, 2016

ALL-NIGHT PARKING

Overnight parking on city streets or in any city-owned parking lot during the months of November through March 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 in designated areas only 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.

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.

This ordinance was created for ease of street maintenance, snowplowing and emergency response vehicles.

TEXTING TIP LINE

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MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
OCTOBER 29, 2016

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 Monday, October 31, 2016.

The Kids Kandy Patrol program this year will involve 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 V&H Heavy Truck and the Marshfield Professional Police Association for 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.

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MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
NOVEMBER 5, 2016

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 must be protected by a dry, draft-free dog house 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 rags 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 collects between the dog’s toes, it should be removed.
- 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.

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**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
NOVEMBER 12, 2016**

**SAFE SHOPPING TIPS
AND
RETAIL THEFT**

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.

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.

Retail theft increases over the Christmas holiday shopping season. Stores add extra security personnel and are monitoring areas by surveillance cameras. Save yourself time, money, and embarrassment—don’t shoplift.

The Marshfield Police Department wishes all of you a very safe and happy holiday season.

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MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
NOVEMBER 19, 2016

THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
STEPPED UP DRUNKEN DRIVING ENFORCEMENT

During the days surrounding the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays as well as throughout the year, the Marshfield Police Department strives to prevent motorists from killing and injuring themselves and others on our roadways. Although we try to increase voluntary compliance with traffic laws—not to write more tickets or make more arrests—we will take enforcement action if voluntary compliance fails. Our goal is to reduce preventable traffic deaths to zero in Wisconsin because even one preventable traffic fatality is one too many.

If you go out to celebrate, the Marshfield Police Department recommends the following tips:

- Plan a safe way home before your celebrations begin.
- If you plan to get a ride home with someone else, designate a sober driver before any drinking begins.
- If you're impaired, use a taxi or call a sober friend or family member so you are sure to get home safely.
- If you happen to see a driver who appears to be impaired on the road, don't hesitate to contact your local law enforcement or call 911.
- If you know someone who is about to drive while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

The Marshfield Police Department strongly urges the public to help keep the streets safe this busy holiday season and every day by drinking responsibly and designating a sober driver before heading to the local pub.

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