

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
JUNE 20, 2015

ARCHERY PERMITS AND HUNTER SAFETY LAWS

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 has been 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.

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 or its website (www.dnr.wi.gov), the police department, or any place where hunting licenses are sold.

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JUNE 27, 2015

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.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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JULY 4, 2015

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORTS ON-LINE

The Marshfield Police Department has entered into an agreement with DOCVIEW, LLC to place traffic accident reports on-line. We selected Docview.us.com Accident Report System to serve as our traffic accident insurance and citizen request provider based on its technology.

This is an internet based application developed to help law enforcement agencies and insurance companies manage and retrieve traffic accident reports in a more efficient manner. You are now able to rapidly find and view an accident report usually within 24 hours of it being scanned by the police department. A major benefit is no more waiting in line or mailing report request forms. These reports can be accessed over the internet 24 hours a day.

To access the site you can go to www.docview.us.com. The reports are converted to a PDF format making them easy to view, save, print, and email. The reports cannot be modified, thereby maintaining report integrity. This service can also save you the hassles of driving to the police department and standing in line. However, if you prefer, you may still stop at our department to pick up a report.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
JULY 11, 2015

SEATBELT AND CHILD RESTRAINTS

Everyone needs to be properly restrained when riding in a vehicle, no matter how big, small, or how old you are. Because you can also be injured if others in your vehicle are not buckled up, it is important that you demonstrate proper seatbelt usage for your family and yourself.

Current child restraint and seatbelt safety laws require:

- Kids must be in a car seat until they reach 4 years of age, and in a booster seat until they reach 8 years of age, unless they weigh more than 80 pounds or are taller than 4 feet 9 inches.

- A child less than 1 year of age or less than 20 pounds must be in a rear-facing position and in the back seat if the vehicle is so equipped.
- A child 1 year of age and up to 4 years of age or less than 40 pounds must be in a forward-facing child seat, also in the back seat if so equipped.
- Children age 4 until they reach age 8 between 40 to 80 pounds and are no more than 4 feet 9 inches must be in a booster seat.

Questions about the booster seats can be addressed at www.BoosterSeat.gov or by calling WINS (Wisconsin Information Network) toll free at 1-866-511-9467.

The driver has the ultimate responsibility for the passengers in their vehicle. The fines are certainly much higher for violations dealing with children under age 8, but a driver can still be issued a ticket for allowing anyone in their vehicle to be unbuckled regardless of their age.

Remember, the safest place for a child under 12 years of age is in the back seat, particularly in cars equipped with passenger air bags.

Be an example, buckle up and help save lives by increasing seatbelt and child safety seat use in our community.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
JULY 18, 2015

BLOCKING SIDEWALKS AND DRIVEWAYS

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

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

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

Let's keep our sidewalks safe and hazard free.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
JULY 25, 2015

GRAFFITI – CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

A Wisconsin State Statute on graffiti states it is unlawful for anyone to write with paint, ink, or another substance on the property of another without their consent. Etching into the property of another without their consent is also a violation. This statute under most circumstances is a class A misdemeanor which could result in a fine not to exceed \$10,000 or imprisonment not to exceed 9 months.

The Marshfield Police Department requests you respect the property of others.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAN TALK”
AUGUST 1, 2015

SELLING A VEHICLE

When selling a vehicle on your own to a private party, it is important to remember the following:

- **License plates must be removed from all passenger cars, light trucks, and motorcycles upon transferring the title.**
The plates are registered in the seller’s name; and, therefore, they belong only to the seller.
- **The signed and dated title must go to the buyer at the same time they take possession of the vehicle.** If you, the seller, maintain the title until the buyer has paid you the full amount for the vehicle, you will be responsible for any and all parking tickets and other events, such as accidents involving the vehicle, because it is still registered in your name.
- **Keep a record with the name and address of the party you are selling to.**
It is important that you verify the information provided to you by the buyer. On occasion the buyer will not register the vehicle, and any parking tickets or other events involving the vehicle will be directed to the seller, because the vehicle is still registered in your name. With the name and address of the buyer, you can show this as proof that the vehicle was sold to another party, and they are responsible for it.
- **All vehicles must be insured.**

By following the above four rules, you the seller will be able to avoid any confusion and inconvenience that may be incurred following the sale of a vehicle to a private party.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAN TALK”
AUGUST 8, 2015

RESTRICTIONS OF THE PROBATIONARY LICENSE
GRADUATED DRIVER’S LICENSE (GDL)

Drivers under the age of 18 have the following restrictions during the first nine months after obtaining a probationary license:

From 5:00 a.m. to midnight, you can drive alone and go anywhere. Any number of immediate family members can ride along as well as the following people:

- ONE person who holds a valid, regular license with at least two years of licensed driving experience and who is
 - a qualified instructor or spouse 19 years of age or older OR
 - a person 21 years of age or older
- ONE other person.

From midnight to 5:00 a.m., you can drive alone IF driving directly between home, school, and/or work. The same people listed immediately above can ride along, too.

If driving anywhere else, one of the following people must be seated in the front passenger seat:

- A parent or legal guardian
- ONE person with a valid, regular license with two years of licensed driving experience and who is
 - a qualified instructor or spouse 19 or older, OR
 - a person 21 years of age or older.
- In addition, any number of the driver’s immediately family members and one other person may ride along.

Restrictions will be extended six months if
You are convicted of a moving traffic violation, OR
You violate any of the restrictions, OR
Your license is suspended or revoked for any reason.

In addition no person who holds a probationary license or instruction permit may drive any motor vehicle while using a cellular or other wireless telephone, expect to report an emergency.

GDL hours and passenger restrictions no longer apply once you turn 18. However, you will still be operating under a probationary license so points assessed for traffic convictions will double for every violation after your first.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
AUGUST 15, 2015

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.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
AUGUST 22, 2015

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

Schools are 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.

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.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
AUGUST 29, 2015

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
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SEPTEMBER 5, 2015

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.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
SEPTEMBER 12, 2015

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.