



TOSA WATCH

Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

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July - September 2026

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TOSA WATCH - Wauwatosa's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter is sponsored by:

**The Wauwatosa Police Department-Community Engagement Team
1700 North 116th Street
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53226
Telephone: (414) 471-8430
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TOSA WATCH provides useful information for citizens who participate in the Wauwatosa Block Watch Program. Reader comments and contributions are welcome.

Tosa's Night Out 2026

Tosa's Night Out 2026 will be here before you know it. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, August 5, 2026 from 4p-8p. Our annual event will again take place at Hart Park, 7300 W. Chestnut Street. Tosa's Night Out will be side-by-side with the Tosa Tonight concert series for your listening pleasure! Tosa Tonight concert series will feature "Bermuda Search Party" with Guests "Gabriel Harris Band." Come early and stay long, enjoy all the fun!!

Tosa's Night Out is a free event where everyone is welcome. This year, t-shirts will only be available for purchase on the day of the event; there is no pre-registration option. Shirts will be \$10.00 per person. Tote bags will be available for \$10.00 each, while supplies last. Flashlights and other sponsored checkpoint items will also be handed out during the "Flashlight Walk Against Crime" walk route. The walk begins promptly at 8:00 PM at Hart Park on the day of the event. Tosa's Night Out is designed to celebrate and solidify community partnerships that exist in Wauwatosa which help keep our citizens, businesses, and visitors safe and informed. There will be displays from local vendors, Flight for Life Helicopter, Motorcycle Officer demonstrations, Special Response Team and other specialized units of your Police Department. There will also be a fire department experience, health and wellness exhibit's and consumer protection information. Food and refreshments will also be available at family friendly prices.

The 2026 commemorative design created by our friends at Doyle Creative. (Featured on the right.) The **Tosa's Night Out 2026** design features a crescent moon and flowing circular patterns that symbolize light, connection, and the community's shared effort to illuminate the way toward a safer, stronger, and more welcoming future.

We hope to see you there!



Tosa Green Summit 2026

The Tosa Green Summit returns again this year for recycling and exhibits on Saturday,

**September 19 and
Saturday, September 26**

**Saturday, September 19,
9a to 12p:**

Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers

Shred-It Event

(Donations accepted for

Wauwatosa Crime Stoppers)

Wauwatosa Health Department

Medicine Collection

Textiles, Bikes, Scrap Metal
collection will take place at the
City Hall Parking Lot, 7725 W.
North Avenue.

(Tooth Brushes, Toothpaste tubes
and donations accepted for
Tosa Cares)

Exhibits and speakers will be in
the Lower Civic Center from **10a
to 1p**. Follow the Tosa Green
Summit for further details.

**Saturday, September 26,
9a to 12p:**

Recycling collections for MMSD

Household Hazardous Waste

(Milwaukee County Residents

Only) at the Wauwatosa Public

Words Yard. Public Works is

located at 11100 W. Walnut Road,
please enter at Watertown Plank
Road and 113th Street. The Drop
Off Center will also be open that
day for Wauwatosa residents.

Like Tosa Green Summit on
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/TosaGreenSummit>



Vehicle Theft has Changed

Wauwatosa is generally a safe and quiet community to live, work, and raise a family. Like every city across America, however, we still experience crime. While violent crime remains relatively uncommon, we do see our share of property crimes, including vehicle thefts.

What's interesting is how vehicle theft has evolved over the years. Not long ago, thieves commonly broke open steering columns and connected ignition wires to start a vehicle. More recently, many people heard about the use of USB cables or thumb drives to steal certain vehicle models. Criminals continue to adapt, and today's technology has created new opportunities for vehicle theft.

With the widespread use of key fobs and push-button start systems, thieves have developed methods that are quick, quiet, and often go unnoticed. In some cases, they use specialized electronic equipment to program a new key to a vehicle after gaining access. In other cases, they use a relay device that captures and extends the signal from a key fob inside a home, making the vehicle believe the authorized key is nearby. The entire process can take only moments.

Unfortunately, this equipment is readily available and can cost as little as several hundred dollars. Once criminals have the necessary tools and a blank key fob, they may be able to steal a vehicle in a matter of minutes. Stolen vehicles are often used to commit additional crimes, including reckless driving, vehicle pursuits, crashes, and other serious criminal offenses.

Many people don't realize that key fobs are constantly communicating with their vehicles. This convenience allows you to unlock your doors and start your vehicle without removing the key from your pocket or purse. However, criminals using relay devices attempt to capture that same signal and extend its range, making the vehicle believe the legitimate key is nearby.

The good news is there are several simple steps you can take to better protect your vehicle.

One of the easiest and most effective options is storing your key fob in a Faraday pouch or Faraday box when it is not in use. These products block the wireless signal from your key fob, preventing criminals from capturing or relaying it. They are widely available online and at many retail stores at a reasonable cost.

You may also want to consider using a steering wheel lock. Although it may seem old-fashioned, it provides a highly visible deterrent and makes it much more difficult for a thief to drive away with your vehicle.

Finally, ask your dealership whether your vehicle has additional anti-theft features or software updates available. Some manufacturers offer enhanced security measures or protective devices that help prevent unauthorized access to the vehicle's electronic systems.

While no security measure can guarantee your vehicle won't be stolen, taking a few preventative steps can significantly reduce your risk.

We hope these tips help keep your vehicle exactly where it belongs—with you.

Please, Please, Please

When you're out and about, whether it be at the grocery store or the mall, pumping gas, driving your car or just walking the dog. Please be aware of your surroundings, pay attention to people, cars and anything that may look suspicious.

It only takes a moment for an incident to occur and for one to become the victim of a crime.

Put your phone away. Once you've gotten to where you need to be, there will be plenty of time to discuss whatever it is that is so important.



**WAUWATOSA
CRIME
STOPPERS**

**771-TOSA or
Text Keyword
"Tosa" to "Crimes"**

Cash Reward up to \$1,000

Wauwatosa Police Department

James MacGillis – Chief of Police

Community Engagement Team

Captain Shane Wrucke

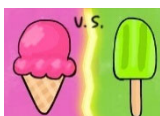
Sergeant Tom Orlowski

Sergeant Jordan Yandre

Specialist II Dexter Schleis

Specialist I Ashley Trawicki

*Community Support Specialist –
Laura Laurishke*



Community Questions

This publication is for those who live in Wauwatosa, but anyone can benefit from information included in the Tosa Watch newsletter.

Our recipients have been asked to let us know if there is anything they'd like to see addressed or commented on in the community of Wauwatosa. Here are two such requests.

First, why do neighbors/individuals cross the street instead of greeting each other? (This can be with or without animals in their presence.)

Good question, that doesn't have an easy answer. But there could be many reasons why one would cross to the other side of the street without greeting one another. Such as, social anxiety issues, mental health issues, health problems where contact with germs could jeopardize an immune system. We'd like to think that regular neighbors on your block would be willing and receptive to meeting one another, and yes, we do recommend that neighbors meet one another to know who belongs in the neighborhood and who doesn't. This would make it easy to help prevent crimes so one can make a call to police if something doesn't seem quite right.

You all live on your individual blocks and know who lives there with you or not, and if you don't, get out there and find out. Prevention isn't just a Wauwatosa Police Department responsibility, it's a community wide effort that benefits when all are involved and take part to make our community safer as a whole. Be a part of the solution, be our eyes and ears, and if you need us, call us, we're always here and happy to stop by to see what's going on. Non-emergency number for the Wauwatosa Police Department is 414-471-8430 or for an emergency/actively taking place call 9-1-1.

Second concern is that yard art/decorations and patio furniture are being taken. Can you make others aware?

Of course, we can. Unfortunately, this isn't anything new to Wauwatosa, while we don't think it's okay to take things from others, it does happen. This type of crime runs very close to packages being taken from porches, except now the subjects know what they're getting. We are glad that you've all reported your crimes and we need you to continue to do so.

The Wauwatosa Police Department can give a couple of tips to help in prevention of property theft. It may not be the easiest solution, but if the art and or furniture can be moved overnight to a safe location, maybe a garage or shed, that may help. If it is at all possible to use a cable and lock to secure your valuables to a fixed object, that can help. And lastly, invest in a camera system to catch images of those coming onto your property and removing items, those images can often be tied to multiple thefts and bigger consequences. No one wants to have to take the extra steps to enjoy beauty on their own property, unfortunately, there are some individuals that don't understand that home owners work hard for what they have and to take those things is wrong.

We appreciate you reaching out to inquire, your time and your commitment to this community, we hope this will shed a little light and help others. If we can answer other questions, please submit them to Laura Laurishke at llaurishke@wauwatosa.gov or by calling 414-471-8430 ext. 5111.

Block Party 2026

For those of you who have already utilized the new online Block Party permit system, we hope your experience was a good one. In case you are unaware, this is now the only way to request a Block Party Permit. You go to the City of Wauwatosa webpage, www.wauwatosa.net, in the search bar, type "Block Party", go to the end of that page and click on "Block Party". You will need to register as a user or login to your account, it's that easy. Once the application is complete, it will come to the Wauwatosa Police Department for approval.

If barricades are requested, an invoice will be sent to you for payments for the barricade request. Once the barricade fee has been paid in full, you will receive the approved Block Party Permit

Banners are still available but there is no longer a fee to use them. If the banners are not dropped back off in a reasonable timeframe, a charge will be added to your tax bill at the end of the year for payment. Banners must be picked up the Friday before your event by 3:00P.M.

The Wauwatosa Police Department will make every attempt to visit all Block Party's that are scheduled, dependent on our activity level.

If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact Laura Laurishke at llaurishke@wauwatosa.gov or 414-471-8430 ext. 5111.



Crime Statistics

Comparative Analysis – City Wide

Category	01-01-25 thru 05-31-25	01-01-26 thru 05-31-26	Percentage of Change 2025 - 2026
Part 1 Crimes			
Homicide	0	0	0.00%
Sexual Assault	13	14	7.69%
Robbery	8	14	75.00%
Assault	49	75	53.06%
Burglary	39	25	-35.90%
Larceny-Theft	504	484	-3.97%
Motor Vehicle Theft	43	45	4.65%
Subtotal of Part 1 Crimes	656	657	0.15%
Other Select Incidents			
Fraud	94	137	45.74%
Vandalism	47	32	-31.91%
Narcotic Law Violations	22	41	86.36%
Drunken Driving	44	27	-38.64%
Disorderly Conduct	812	834	2.71%
Fatal MVA	0	1	-%
Personal Injury MVA	45	46	2.22%
Property Damage MVA	425	461	8.47%
Total of All Calls	14,665	14,671	0.04%

Note: The above are incidents that are reported and investigated by the Police Department. Actual crime classifications usually change when the complaints are finally analyzed and dispositions are determined. This may result in different numbers reported to the NIBRS incident-based reporting system at the end of the year.

To view Crime Mapping from the Wauwatosa Police Department, go to www.wauwatosa.net, search "crime mapping", then click on "Crime Reports (Crime Mapping Program)" and lastly click on "View Crime Map". You can click on data points to get call class information. If you still have questions, feel free to contact Laura Laurishke at 414-471-8430 or at llaurishke@wauwatosa.gov.