

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
JANUARY 2, 2021

PASSING SNOWPLOWS AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES

The majority of crashes involving snowplows and vehicles happen when a snowplow is rear ended or hit while being passed. Snow plows have wing plow blades that can extend anywhere between two (2) and ten (10) feet beyond the width of the truck. This wing plow blade is often not seen because of the snow cloud being kicked up by the snowplow, and it can often weigh as much as a compact car.

You should also know that it is illegal (state statute 346.915) to follow a snowplow closer than 200 feet upon any highway having the posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour if the snowplow is engaged in snow and ice removal. This does not apply when overtaking and passing a snowplow. But if the operator of any vehicle upon a highway having a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour, follows the snowplow more closely than 200 feet for one mile or more, or follows more closely than 200 feet when the snowplow is moving at the maximum speed limit of the roadway, this is convincing and legal evidence that the operator of such following vehicle is violating this law.

There are three safety rules that are worth following:

- Give snowplows plenty of room to work. They are big and hard to see around.
- Don't pass a working snowplow—they can throw up a cloud of snow that could cause a whiteout and disorient you.
- Also, it is tough for snowplow drivers to see you. Don't crowd the plow. Make sure when behind a plow that you can see the driver's mirrors so he can see you. Remember, it is the law that you stay at least 200 feet behind a working snowplow.

One of the major hazards emergency workers and road crews face is being struck by passing motorists while the workers are performing their duties, and their emergency vehicle/machinery is parked with its flashing lights activated.

Wisconsin law states that the operator of any vehicle which approaches an emergency vehicle, such as a police squad, ambulance, fire truck, tow truck, or road machinery must do one of the following:

- Move into another lane if the roadway has at least two lanes, or
- Reduce speed until completely past the vehicle or machinery if there is only one lane or if it is unsafe to change lanes.

You can keep emergency workers and road crews safe by reducing speed and allowing as much room as possible as you pass.

For a state-wide road report call 511 or check the internet site <http://www.511wi.gov/web/>

**MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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JANUARY 9, 2021**

**ADULT SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD RECOGNITION WEEK:
JANUARY 18 -22, 2021**

Each day, dedicated adult crossing guards in our city show up at their assigned crossings to assist students in their journeys to or from school. The City of Marshfield honors our adult crossing guards for their commitment to child pedestrian safety during School Crossing Guard Recognition Week. Adult school crossing guards play a critical role in keeping students safe as they walk to and from school each day. According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, approximately 1,000 children between the ages 5 and 9 are killed each year in pedestrian accidents. Adult school crossing guards place the children’s safety above their own by ensuring all traffic is stopped before students enter the roadway while facing speeding motorists, cell phone users and others disregarding traffic signals.

As part of the week-long celebration parents, students, teachers and school administrative staff are encouraged to give thank-you cards, or simply say “THANK YOU” to school crossing guards who live by the motto “Safety is First with Us Every Day.”

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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JANUARY 16, 2021

TAX-RELATED IDENTITY THEFT

Tax-related identity theft occurs when someone uses a stolen Social Security number to file a tax return to claim a fraudulent refund. A taxpayer's SSN can be stolen through a data breach, a computer hack or a lost wallet. Although identity theft affects a small percentage of tax returns, it can have a major impact on victims by delaying their refunds.

Here are some tips to protect you from becoming a victim and steps to take if you think someone may have filed a tax return using your name and Social Security number:

Tips to protect you from becoming a victim of identity theft:

- File early.
- Don't carry your Social Security card or any documents that include your Social Security number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).
- Don't give a business your SSN or ITIN just because they ask. Give it only when required.
- Protect your financial information.
- Check your credit report often. There is a website available for you to access your report at www.annualcreditreport.com. For free credit reports, rotate checking the following credit report sites once every four months: Experian, Transunion and Equifax.
- Review your Social Security Administration earnings statement annually.
- Secure personal information in your home.
- Protect your personal computers by using firewalls and anti-spam/virus software, updating security patches and changing passwords for internet accounts.
- Don't give personal information over the phone, through the mail or on the internet unless you have initiated the contact or you are sure you know who you are dealing with. Also when on the internet, use websites that start with **https** which means the site is secure.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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JANUARY 23, 2021

PET LICENSING

City ordinance requires the licensing of all cats and dogs inside the city limits of Marshfield on a yearly basis. The license requirement is for your safety to ensure that your pets (older than five months of age) have had their rabies shots to immunize them against this deadly and preventable disease. The license is also used for the safe return of your pets if they are lost.

Pet Licensing Procedure

Dogs and cats residing in the city must be licensed by March 31 of each year after they have reached the age of five months. The cost is \$8 for spayed or neutered dogs and \$6 for spayed or neutered cats. The cost is \$16 for unspayed or unneutered dogs and \$12 for unspayed or unneutered cats. Owners who license their pets after March 31 will have to pay a late fee of \$5 per animal licensed. Failure to license your pet may result in a fine of \$124.

Licenses can also be obtained at the city treasurer’s office Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The treasurer’s office is in the new City Hall building located at 207 West 6th Street.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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JANUARY 30, 2021

ONLINE CLASSIFIED AD RISKS

Online classified advertisements on websites like Craigslist, Etsy or eBay Classifieds are a double-edged sword. On one hand they offer a convenient means of setting up transactions like buying or selling goods, posting or finding jobs, and listing or seeking rental properties. But on the other hand, the open nature of these sites that appeals to their users also appeals to scammers. If you are looking online for a rental property and find an unreal deal, be very, very cautious.

Imposter scams are the primary way con artists use these sites to victimize the public. Fraudsters regularly post fake ads for rentals, employment opportunities and products for sale. According to Craigslist’s safety page, most of these rip-offs share a number of common characteristics:

- You are interacting by email or text with someone who is not in your area;
- The transaction begins with a vague initial inquiry, and the back and forth communications are riddled with spelling and grammatical errors;
- You are asked to make a payment by wire transfer, prepaid debit or gift cards, PayPal or another service that provides instant transactions that leave little trace; and
- The other party either refuses to meet or claims to be unable to meet face-to-face to complete the transaction.

Some tips to remember when dealing with another party through an online classified ad:

- If you are making a purchase or selling an item, deal locally and meet face-to-face with the other party in a public place. The Marshfield Police Department has an internet exchange zone located on First Street in front of the building, and some other police departments offer their station lobbies or parking lots as “safe zones” to use for the transactions (call your local police department to inquire before establishing it as the meeting point).
- Always be suspicious of over-the-top claims and too-good-to-be-true prices.
- Never wire funds to strangers or provide the code and PIN from a prepaid debit or gift card.
- Never rent a property sight unseen or provide information for a background check for a rental or a job until you have met a potential landlord or employer in person.
- If someone sends you a check and asks you to cash it and return a portion or send a portion to another person, it is a scam.

For additional information or to file a complaint, visit the Consumer Protection Bureau at <http://datcp.wi.gov>, send an e-mail to datcphotline@wisconsin.gov or call the Consumer Information Hotline toll-free at 1-800-422-7129. You can also connect with Consumer Hotline on Facebook at www.facebook.com/wiconsumer.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
FEBRUARY 6, 2021

PERSONAL SAFETY AND HOME SECURITY

Below are some basic personal safety and home security tips to keep in mind when at home or traveling.

- Avoid walking alone after dark.
- When walking, wear reflective vests or clothing and remember your “Rules of the Road.”
- When traveling, always tell someone your plans and check in with them periodically.
- If you are going on vacation, you can talk with your neighbors to help keep an eye on things. Leave lights on timers, and if it is an extended time away, have your mail and paper held.
- Never pick up hitchhikers!
- Keep your vehicle doors locked at all times to protect your valuables and help deter criminals from getting your personal information—even if you are leaving your vehicle for a short period of time. Do you have a garage door opener in your car? If you do and do not lock your car, your home is not secure.
- Keep your doors and windows locked at your home or apartment, including your garage service entry, even when you are home.
- If you should find your home or apartment door “entered”—do not go inside as a burglar may still be in the residence. Move to a safe location, call 911, and stay on the line with the dispatcher until the police arrive.
- If you believe someone has entered your home while you are there, leave if at all possible. If you cannot leave, go to a room where you have a phone, lock the door and call 911. Stay on the line with the dispatcher until the police arrive.
- If you are elderly or live alone, Lifeline or LifeAlert are options that should be considered in case you need emergent assistance and are unable to reach a telephone. For more information about Lifeline or LifeAlert, call 211.
- Project Lifesaver is a non-profit program that provides safety, security, and rescue support services for adults or children who wander due to Alzheimer’s, autism, or other related “at risk” individuals with cognitive disorders. More information about Project Lifesaver can be found at www.projectlifesaver.org or call the Marshfield Fire and Rescue Department at (715)486-2094.
- Install a home security system such as doorbell cameras.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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FEBRUARY 13, 2021

P3 TIPS

In April 2018, Wood County Crime Stoppers introduced P3, the next generation in crime fighting in Wood County. “Tap the App”, the next generation in crime fighting.

Citizens can download P3 for free to any smart phone or device. P3 allows real time information to get to law enforcement right away so that we can act on your tip more quickly and efficiently. Users can also upload photos of suspects and videos of crimes.

Just search for P3 Tips in the App store or Google Play, enter a code that you choose, sign in and then select your location. Once a tipster submits the information, the App will give a TIP ID and a Password for logging into the tip at any time. If your tip is chosen to receive a reward, the tipster then chooses a ‘PIN #’ that is used along with the TIP ID when collecting their cash reward.

Tipsters can still call the Wood County Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-877-325- STOP if they wish to speak to an operator. P3 Tips, however, allows citizens to submit the information quickly and privately, and their identity is never compromised.

The great thing about P3 Tips is now everybody can be a crime fighter.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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FEBRUARY 20, 2021

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” with no obstructions such as shrubs blocking or covering it. 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.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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FEBRUARY 27, 2021

PEDESTRIAN AND JOGGER SAFETY

The winter months present additional hazards to pedestrians and joggers that are not apparent during other times of the year. Due to the snow cover, light colored clothing is not enough to keep you safe. In addition, the condition of or lack of sidewalks make foot travel on the roadway more appealing. Wearing flashing lights visible from front and back is strongly encouraged along with brightly colored and/or reflective clothing.

If you have chosen to travel the roadway, keep in mind that most roads are narrower due to snow banks, and vision may be impaired by operators of vehicles approaching from your left or right. You must always use the left side of the road, allowing you to see the closest oncoming traffic. It is for your safety, and it is the law!

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

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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MARCH 6, 2021

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

Dating violence or abuse affects one in three teens. Dating violence is defined as controlling, abusive, or 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 may 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.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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MARCH 13, 2021

ST. PATRICK’S DAY HOLIDAY PERIOD
STEPPED UP IMPAIRED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT

On the days surrounding St. Patrick’s Day and 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 St. Patrick’s Day and every day by drinking responsibly and designating a sober driver before heading to the local pub.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
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MARCH 20, 2021

WILDLIFE BABIES IN THE CITY
“If you truly care, leave it there”

Life in the city can be a bustling adventure for people; imagine what life in the city must be like for wildlife. Every year, especially in the spring, new wildlife appears in the form of trees, leaves, flowers, birds that have migrated back, and newborn animals, particularly newborn fawns.

Every spring deer give birth to one to three fawns. They can be as small as three pounds when they are first born. They are weak, cannot walk well and do not have a scent for the first few days. They are born with spots and those spots along with the lack of a scent help the fawn to hide from predators. The fawns will seek cover after they are birthed. Does will leave their fawns for the better portion of a day to seek out food. The does WILL come back for their fawns; they have NOT been abandoned. If you come across a fawn, leave it alone. Do NOT touch the fawn or bring children by to see it as this creates stress in the fawn and will put it in danger. If a fawn is in obvious danger, such as being in the middle of the road or is injured, leave it there and call the Wood County Dispatch Center at 715-387-4394 and an Ordinance Control Officer will respond. Do NOT pick the fawn up or put it in a box and bring it to the police department.

It is natural to want to help baby animals. But that instinct to help may in fact harm the animal or break up a wildlife family. Baby wildlife may be harmed by human food so do not feed them. They should not be considered pets as they may carry harmful diseases and parasites which can spread to you or your pets. “The best gift you can give baby wildlife is to leave it alone, allow it to live as a wild animal and to be cared for by the one who knows best, its mother.”

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MARCH 27, 2021

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

The month of April has been designated as Child Abuse Prevention Month. This is a time to remind the public that everyone has a responsibility to report potential child abuse or any other type of child victimization. Each year law enforcement agencies investigate many reports of suspected child abuse and neglect.

If you know of a child that needs help, please call the following numbers:

- If the report is an emergency, please call 911.
- If there is a suspected abuse and it is not an emergency, please contact your local human services department or law enforcement agency.
 - Wood County Human Services Department – 715-421-8600
 - Marathon County Human Services Department – 715-261-7500
 - You can also call the Wood County Dispatch Center at 715-387-4394
- If the suspected abuse is in another jurisdiction, please contact that jurisdiction’s law enforcement agency or department of human services.

Children can’t get help if the incidents are not reported. So if you know someone that needs help, please call.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
APRIL 3, 2021

WISCONSIN LAW FOR PRIVATE PARTY SALE OF VEHICLE

Per the Wisconsin Department of Transportation:

Beginning January 1, 2016, law (342.41 Identity of buyer) went into effect requiring a person who sells a motor vehicle to another person, including transferring a junk vehicle by bill of sale, to submit notification to the department that a sale has occurred. This law does not apply for transfer to or from dealers or other non-individuals, such as companies, charities and government agencies; this requirement is **ONLY** for sales from one individual to another individual.

Within 30 days of a sale the seller needs to report to WisDOT the:

- Vehicle identification number (VIN) of the vehicle
- Identity of the individual buyer
- Sale price
- Date of sale

Submitting seller notification online

To submit seller notification online you need:

- To be an owner of the vehicle (must be an individual, not a business)
- Your Wisconsin driver’s license or identification card number (or full name)
- The last four digits of your social security number (or full SSN)
- Your date of birth
- The vehicle identification number (VIN) for the vehicle

Once completed, you will have the option to print, email, or save confirmation of your notification.

Mailed seller notification

If you are unable to successfully complete the seller notification online you will be prompted to complete Seller Notification form MV2870 and mail the notification to the department or submit the form at a DMV Service Center.

Selling a vehicle correctly

Seller notification does not replace other responsibilities of a vehicle seller. Refer to Selling a Vehicle and Instructions for Selling a Vehicle form MV2928. Form MV2928 includes a bill of sale for your convenience; it is not a required form. You may keep a copy with your records and make a copy for the buyer as documentation of the sale.

This information and links to all the forms listed can be found at:

<http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/online-srvcs/other-servs/seller-notify.aspx>

Statute 342.41 states:

342.41 Identity of buyer.

(1) Notwithstanding s. 342.15, after December 31, 2015, no individual may sell a motor vehicle to another individual, including transferring a junk vehicle by bill of sale, unless within 30 days of the sale the seller reports to the department the identification number of the vehicle and the identity of the individual buyer.

(2) The department shall accept electronically information related to the sale of the motor vehicle, including all of the information required to be reported under sub. (1). History: 2015 a. 60.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
APRIL 10, 2021

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 comfort-able 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.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
APRIL 17, 2021

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021

The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day addresses a crucial public safety and public health issue. According to the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, **6 million Americans misused controlled prescription drugs**. The study shows that a majority of abused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet.

In collaboration, federal, state and local agencies are working together with the public to provide an opportunity for all Americans to help prevent drug addiction and overdose deaths while protecting our environment from the effects of improper disposal of medications by providing a safe, convenient, and responsible way to dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs.

Bring:

- Prescriptions (controlled and non-controlled) remove personal information from bottles
- Over-the-counter medications
- Creams*
- Inhalers
- Non-aerosol sprays*
- Liquids*
- Ointments
- Patches
- Pet medications
- Vials

Do Not Bring:

- Aerosol cans
- Bio-hazardous materials (anything containing a bodily fluid or blood)
- Household hazardous waste (paint, pesticides, oil, gas)
- Illegal drugs
- Needles/sharps**
- Mercury thermometers
- Personal care products (shampoo, soaps, lotions, sunscreens, etc.)

**Must be in original packaging; any without the original packaging will not be accepted.*

***Sharps disposals located at Aspirus Riverview Hospital main entrance, Marshfield Clinic Health System emergency room entrance, and Marshfield Police Department main lobby.*

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
APRIL 24, 2021

PET WASTE
PETS IN CITY PARKS
JUNK AND GARBAGE

Pet Waste

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.

Pets in City Parks

As per our city ordinance 10.38(2) No person, except persons with assistance animals as provided in Wisconsin State Statute 174.056., shall allow dogs or other animals to enter any:

- public building
- picnic grounds
- playgrounds
- athletic facilities or
- the zoo within the city park

This does not apply, however, to personal assistance animals or animals escorted by a police officer or ordinance control officer as provided under Wisconsin State Statute 174.056.

In public areas where pets are permitted, they shall at all times be effectively restrained or under the owner’s control as provided in section 10-34 of the city ordinance code. *If you let your animal defecate on property other than your own, per city ordinance it is must be picked up immediately or it may result in a fine of \$124 for the first offense, and \$187 for a second offense.*

Nonresidents who are patrons of the city-owned camping facilities may have pets, provided they are within the camping section, leashed or in enclosures.

All city park hours are open 6:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. year round.

Junk and 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.

MARSHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
“POLICE PLAIN TALK”
MAY 1, 2021

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, 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.