



**Point of interest:**

The Middleton Police Department now has a mobile phone app. You can read department news, search crime reports, access forms and submit a tip, all from your smartphone.

To get the MIPD Mobile app Go to:  
[www.middletonpd.com](http://www.middletonpd.com)

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# SAFE MIDDLETON

**A Community Policing and Crime Prevention Newsletter  
 from the Middleton Police Department**

## SAFETY TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

For many people, the holiday season is always an exciting and happy time of year, with brightly decorated houses and shoppers humming familiar songs. Unfortunately, not everyone is as joyful as 10 lords-a-leaping, and every year some people end up on the naughty list. To help you avoid being a victim of The Grinch this year, the Middleton Police Department offers these crime prevention tips:

- When you are away from home, be sure that gifts cannot be easily seen from the outside and that the exterior of your home is well lit. If you are expecting packages to be delivered, use the tracking tool provided on the delivery company's webpage (nearly all of them have one) and make arrangements for a friend or neighbor to accept the package in your absence. Packages left on doorsteps make easy targets for thieves.

- Always be aware while out shopping, and keep a careful eye on your packages, purse, and other belongings. Lock your purchases in the trunk of your car, or keep them out of view from others. Be sure to park in well-lit areas and avoid leaving the store and walking alone to your car, if at all possible. If you are alone in a parking lot, use your cell phone to call someone to chat with until you safely reach your car.
- If you are travelling to visit family over the holidays, make arrangements to stop your mail and paper delivery, and have someone shovel your driveway and sidewalk. Use a timer for interior and exterior lights, and turn off or turn down the ringer on your home phone (just be sure to turn it back up when you come home!).

## A REMINDER ABOUT SEASONAL PARKING

To help facilitate snow removal and street maintenance during the winter months, Middleton's alternate side parking ordinance is in effect each year from November 15 to March 15. Under the ordinance, you park on the even numbered side of the street on even numbered calendar days and likewise, park on the odd numbered side of the street on odd numbered days. The ordinance is enforced between 1:00 AM and 7:00 AM, so you should anticipate the midnight date change when parking your

vehicle for the night. If the addresses on your street are all even or all odd numbered, the alternate side parking regulations still applies and, in effect, there is no on street parking every other night. However, if signs prohibit parking on one side of the street, alternate parking is not enforced on that street. Please let overnight guests know about the seasonal parking regulations, and **remember that the ordinance is enforced with, or without, snow.**

## Middleton Police Dept.

7341 Donna Drive  
Middleton, WI 53562

Emergency—Dial 911

Non-Emergency 824-7300

Administration 824-7305

Tipster 833-9991

Court 824-7370

Records 824-7360

[WWW.middletonpd.com](http://WWW.middletonpd.com)

*“Making a Difference”*



## BURGLARIES CONTINUE TO PLAGUE AREA

During the month of November the police department saw an increase of residential burglaries throughout the city. According to Investigative Services Supervisor Sgt. Troy Hellenbrand, a number of homes were entered and valuable items were taken, and some of these burglaries could have been easily prevented. Sgt. Hellenbrand reports that in some of these cases the victims left their residence unsecured for a number of hours allowing the perpetrator to enter the residence with ease and to remove valuable items.

Along with following important crime prevention tips, such as securing and locking all doors and windows before leaving home, please help your neighbors and the police department by calling to report any suspicious activity that you observe.

Many times the police department, while conducting an investigation of a burglary, learns that a neighbor or the victim observed some activity which was suspicious but didn't want to bother the police department by calling to report it. We would rather be notified of a suspicious incident and be able to investigate it on a timely basis regardless of the outcome, then investigate a major crime or incident and find out later that it could have been prevented. While patrol officers are making extra efforts to be in neighborhoods at all hours of the night and day, we also have other responsibilities and calls for service that require attention. We need the assistance of our community partners, those residing and working in our city, to make Middleton a safe community for all.

*From all of our officers, staff, and employees, to everyone in the Middleton Community,*

*We wish you a Safe and Happy Holiday Season !*

## NEW LAW PROHIBITS TEEN CELL PHONE USE WHILE DRIVING

Distracted driving causes many traffic accidents in Middleton each year, resulting in damage and injuries. Texting while driving is already prohibited in Wisconsin for all motorists, and a new law bans **all** cell phone use while driving for all less-experienced drivers. On November 1st, a new state law that prohibits drivers with an instruction permit or probationary license—which includes many teenagers—from "using a cellular or other wireless telephone except to report an emergency" while driving, took effect.

According to one national study, 43 percent of 16 and 17-year-olds said they have talked on a cell phone while driving, and 40 percent of teens up to age 17 said they have been in a car when the driver used a cell phone in a way that put themselves or others in danger. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that 11 percent of all drivers under the age of 20 involved in fatal crashes were distracted at the time of the crash. This age group has the largest proportion of drivers who were distracted.

Although targeted at younger drivers, the new

prohibition against cell phone use affects drivers with an instruction permit or probationary license—regardless of age. It is not solely a ban on cell phone use by teen drivers. As of September 2012, a total of 32 states and the District of Columbia ban all cell phone use by novice drivers, according to the Governors Highway Safety Association.

Fortunately, many cell phone companies are now adding features to their phones to help reduce distracted driving for all cell phone users. Many newer phones now have automated features which can be user customized and activated while driving. For example, some phones offer an automated text message reply to alert others that you are driving and cannot respond to their text at the moment. Other phones offer a "Driving Mode" option which limits or disables certain features of the phone when activated manually, or even automatically when the phone detects that you are in a moving vehicle. Check with your cell phone provider too see if they offer any phones with these features.