



School Speed Zones

Can you spare 12 seconds? That's the additional time it takes to drive through a school zone at 15 miles per hour instead of 25. Twelve seconds - the difference could save a life.

A 15 mph speed limit in school areas is important, especially for young children, because:

- Young children tend to think cars can stop instantly.
- Children believe that if they can see your car, you can see them.
- Children under 10 do not accurately judge vehicle speed or distance.
- Vehicle-pedestrian accidents involving children tend to result in serious injury, even death.

Every year, hundreds of children travel to and from schools in our school district. Their safety is a high priority for school staff, our local police officers, and most importantly, their parents. As a motorist, you have a responsibility to obey posted limits and drive in a safe and courteous manner.

School speed zones are in effect when children are present, before school, after school, or anytime children are around. Signs are clearly posted on all streets around our schools. A traffic citation for violating the school speed zone limit between 1-10 miles over 15 mph is

\$168.60, plus three points. The normal residential street speed of 25 mph is not acceptable during school hours. Every driver can help protect our children by slowing down.

Red Flags

Have you ever driven around a corner and observed a person walking across the street holding a red flag over their head and wondered, "What is he/she doing?"

These red flags have been placed at intersections throughout the village. They are part of a traffic safety program designed to help drivers see a pedestrian early enough to yield.

Wisconsin State Law states that pedestrians have the right of way at an intersection. This means that any person using the marked *or* unmarked crosswalks at an intersection must be given proper access to get across the roadway safely.

Intersections with flags have been placed in "high traffic hazard" areas, where there is heavy vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

The flags can be used by a walker or bike rider, and should be held as high in the air as possible. The flag should then be placed back into the holder on the other side of the road.

Our local police officers do their best to patrol the streets, especially during

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school hours. However, it is everyone's responsibility to care for our children. Please, slow down, yield to pedestrians, and use the red flags. If you see a child who is in need of help crossing, please help. They rely on us to protect them. "Being in a hurry," or "not paying attention," is not an excuse. Think of each child as your own -- How would you want other drivers to drive around YOUR child?

We are a community who takes care of each other, so let's be extra watchful and extra careful with our children so we can prevent a tragedy.

If you have any questions or comments about traffic safety in our school zones, please contact the school resource officers Dianna O'Neill at oneilld@vi.deforest.qi.us/608-842-6079 or Joe VanVoorhis at voorhisj@vi.deforest.wi.us/608-842-6608.

“Lives....some things matter more than words” is the theme for this year’s United Way Campaign. That’s right, its that time of the year again!



The DeForest Area School District kicked off their United Way campaign on Friday, September 30 and will end the campaign on Tuesday, October 18. Jim Kohlmetz, Director of Pupil Services, is the district's campaign coordinator this year. According to Kohlmetz, "Our district goals will be to increase our total dollar giving amount and to increase the percentage of district staff participation."

United Way agencies in Dane County continue to be an ever present force in providing for the many needs of its residents. Last year alone, DeForest area residents used over 3,000 units of help/service from Dane County United Way agencies (see list of agencies at right).

The district's United Way Committee is made up of representatives from each school building. Thank you to the following staff for their help this year:

- Mike Weisensel, Windsor Elementary School
- Pete Steil, Yahara Elementary School
- Pam Dudley, Eagle Point Elementary School
- Tim Hopping, Morrisonville Elementary School
- Barb Anderson, Holum Education Center and Administrative Center
- Chris Micklos, DeForest Area Middle School
- Judi Walsh, DeForest Area High School

“Lives....some things matter more than words.”

DeForest area residents benefit from contributions

Most people may be surprised at the number of Dane County agencies used by DeForest area residents. According to data obtained from United Way of Dane County, **3,039** instances of services were provided to DeForest area residents specifically through these agencies:

- Access to Independence
- American Red Cross, Badger Chapter
- ARC of Dane County
- Atwood Community Center
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane Co.
- Briarpatch
- Catholic Charities, Diocese of Madison
- Centers for Prevention & Intervention
- Centro Hispano of Dane County
- Children's Service Society of WI
- Community Action Coalition for South Central WI
- Community Adolescent Program
- Community Coordinated Child Care (4Cs) in Dane Co.
- Cornucopia
- Dane County Parent Council (Headstart)
- DeForest Area Community & Senior Center
- Domestic Abuse Intervention Services
- East Madison Community Center
- East Madison/Monona Coalition of the Aging
- Elder Care of Dane County
- Energy Services
- Epilepsy Foundation - South Central WI
- Exchange Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse
- Family Enhancement
- Family Service
- Family Support & Resource Center
- Friends of Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center
- Girl Scouts of the Blackhawk Council
- Habitat for Humanity of Dane County
- Home Health United/Visiting Nurse Service
- HospiceCare
- Independent Living
- Jewish Social Services of Madison
- Lutheran Social Services of WI & Upper Michigan
- Madison Area Literacy Council
- Madison Area Rehabilitation Centers
- Madison-area Urban Ministry
- Movin' Out
- NAMI of Dane County
- Neighborhood House
- North/Eastside Senior Coalition
- Operation Fresh Start
- Parental Stress Center
- Project HUGS
- Respite Center
- The Salvation Army
- Urban League of Greater Madison
- VIP of Dane County
- West Madison Senior Coalition
- YMCA of Dane County
- YWCA of Madison

(TAG) Talented & gifted opportunities for students and parents

A list of academic opportunities is available for students and parents. If you would like to learn more about TAG opportunities within the district, please contact Peter O’Neil, Director of Instruction, at 842-6531 or email him at jponeil@deforest.k12.wi.us. Contact Dianne Weigle at 842-6532 for informational brochures on these activities.

New list of opportunities can be downloaded from the district website at:
www.deforest.k12.wi.us - "For Parents"

RSVP's 5k Run/Walk

October 8

Location: Badger Prairie Park, Verona

Attend this event as part of the Madison Area Fitness Series.

For further information and registration, contact Mick at 663-1319 or info@rsvpdane.org



Treinen Farm Corn Maze (WEEKENDS)

October through November 14

Saturday 11:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m., Sunday 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

This year's maze is in the cat and the fiddle, with friends the cow, the moon, the little dog and the very challenging dish and spoon labyrinth. Enjoy a unique experience—find your way through our 10-acre cornfield maze with over 3 miles of twists, turns and dead ends. Challenge yourself, your friends and family members to solve the maze and find all the clues in this mind-boggling living puzzle. There's a special prize for those persistent enough to find ALL the secret locations in the maze. In October, you can also take a horse drawn wagon ride through the beautiful Wisconsin countryside to the pumpkin patch.

Location: Treinen Farm, W12420 HWY 60, Lodi, WI
Call 608.592.3481 for more information.

Dr. Jan Davison Speaks in Madison

October 11

Location: MMSD Doyle Administration Building
545 West Dayton Street

The Madison Talented and Gifted (TAG) Parent Group has invited Jan Davidson, President and Co-Founder of the Davidson Institute for Talent Development and author of "Genius Denied: How to Stop Wasting Our Brightest Young Minds", to share her thoughts on the dangers of wasting our brightest minds. During her talk, Davidson hopes to illustrate the critical need for gifted children to have the opportunity to learn in school.

The event is free and open to the public. For questions about Jan's visit, write to tagparents@tagparents.org or call WCATY at 271-1617.

Wisconsin Book Festival

October 14 - 16

The Wisconsin Book Festival, an initiative of the Wisconsin Humanities Council, is an annual, free, public festival in the state's capital city. The Festival is not a "book expo;" rather, it is a series of dynamic interactive programs that celebrate the written word, writers, reading, and books. Drawing total annual attendance around 10,000, Festival events are designed to reach diverse audiences of all ages. The 2005 Wisconsin Book Festival in Madison will take place October 14-16, in and around downtown Madison.

For more information, <http://www.wisconsinbookfestival.org/>

DeForest Area Public Library Activities

Exploratory - drop-in activities for families - FREE!

Every Monday & Thursday evening

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Location: Children's Room at the Library

Weekly list of themes available

Second Saturday Story Time - FREE!

10:00 a.m. to noon

Location: Children's Room at the Library

Stay as long or as short as you like! Programming:

October 8 - Autumn Fest

Create fall decorations, stuff a scarecrow, eat pumpkin seeds, and much more!

November 12 - I Love Peanut Butter

What can you do with a peanut?

Vote for your favorite peanut butter.

Play some games and make some crafts

December 10 - Santa is coming!

Come visit with Santa, make a holiday project, eat a special treat!

Teen Halloween Party - FREE!

Saturday, October 29, 2 - 4pm

Location: Community Room

Monthly Morning Movie - FREE!

Saturday, October 22 10 am

Saturday, November 26 10 am

Wednesday, December 28 10 am

Location: Community Room at the Library.

**Movie descriptions are/will be available on the library website at www.deforest.lib.wi.us. Titles are posted at the library or you can call the library to get the titles at 846-5482. Due to site license agreement, movie titles cannot be advertised outside of the library.



More opportunities!

Check out the Families and Literacy Committee calendar of monthly ideas at:

September: http://www.wsra.org/FamLit_calendar/FamLit.Sept.html

October: http://www.wsra.org/FamLit_calendar/FamLit.Oct.html

FREE*Community Concert!*

**"Classix"
The Army
Ground
Forces
Band**

**Wednesday, October 26
7:00 pm**

Performing Arts Center
DeForest Area High School
815 Jefferson Street, DeForest
For more information:
(608) 846-2600 or info@deforestarts.com.

Sponsored by



The *District Dialogue* is a newsletter for residents of the DeForest Area School District. It is given to building principals to add to their individual school newsletters and is distributed to organizations throughout our community. *District Dialogue* represents another step in our commitment to improve communication with parents and the community at large.

Superintendent of Schools

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If you would like to be added to the mailing list or if you have questions or comments, please contact the Office of School/Community Relations
(608) 842-6581

On the Web:

www.deforest.k12.wi.us

Email:

districtdialogue@deforest.k12.wi.us

School Closing/Delay Hotline:

(608) 842-6668

The DeForest Area School District does not discriminate against pupils on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap in its education programs or activities.

District Dialogue

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& **M**iddle **M**atters

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